



HUMANE
Society of Louisiana



February 2025

Dear Animal Defender,

Love is in the air for Valentine's Day, and February is also *Spay Neuter Awareness Month*. On behalf of Louisiana's beloved cats and dogs, we're holding our first annual **SpayLA Fund Drive** this month to help prevent the tragedy of pet overpopulation. If you happen to be in a position to share a little bit more love this month, we'd appreciate whatever you could do to help.

AT LAST! EXCITING NEWS FOR ANIMALS IN LIVINGSTON PARISH

With so many heartbreaking problems for Louisiana's animals these days, we're delighted to report some very uplifting and positive news from our state's fastest-growing parish. We've literally been working to expand, improve and support animal control services in Livingston parish for decades. (As you may recall, we coordinated a massive disaster relief effort in Livingston in 2016, since the parish had no adequate infrastructure to mobilize a response.)

Our first town meeting in Livingston - almost 30 years ago! - was disastrous. A group of angry hunters showed up to oppose any efforts to expand animal control, out of concern that they would be targeted for enforcement, because of their (often miserably treated) hunting dogs. Year after year, letters to and meetings with elected officials, and many town meetings, led to seemingly endless disappointment.

Still, local attitudes began to change over time. Parish President Randy Delatte recently pledged to construct a new animal shelter and to establish parishwide animal control services, as part of his election campaign platform. Once elected, he kept his promise! We were delighted to receive President Delatte's invitation to the groundbreaking ceremony for a new 3.5 million dollar Livingston parish shelter. The impressive new facility will be built next to the woefully inadequate existing building, tripling the animal care capacity. President Delatte plans to have 6-7 animal control officers working around the clock, responding to cruelty cases and reports of homeless dogs, when the shelter is fully operational.



The new Livingston shelter will also include a cat hospital to assist with spay/neuter and TNR initiatives, thanks to a \$50,000 donation from Air Products Foundation!



We sponsored a hernia operation for this sweet cat this month (above). Her condition was discovered by TNR superstars, Amber and Alaina, when they were busy trapping 47 community cats, as part of an ongoing project!

Lucky (right) was rescued in Lafourche this month, thanks to your support.



Our friends and colleagues at *Dog People of Livingston* also announced more exciting animal news for the parish this year. **The charity opened a bricks and mortar spay-neuter clinic in Denham Springs just last month.** The clinic now offers low cost spay/neuter surgeries without income restrictions, along with micro-chipping and vaccine services. Their facility even operates a pet food pantry for low income residents in need!

Years ago, it was hard to imagine that Livingston parish could ever be a bright spot for animal protection in our state. We couldn't be happier about all of the positive news coming out of the parish.