



HUMANE
Society of Louisiana


Defenders Circle

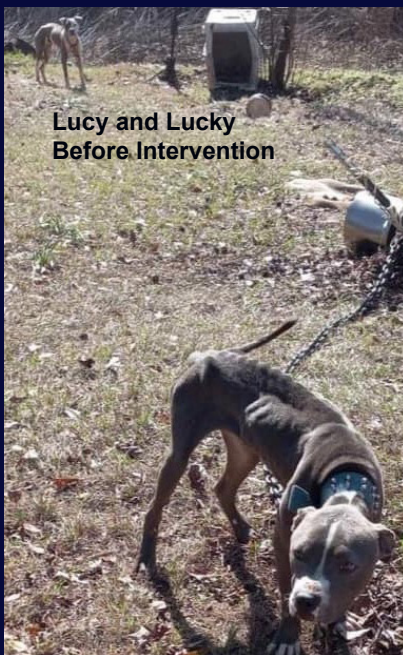
Dear Friend of Animals,

January 2023

We hope 2023 is off to a great start for you and yours...we've been working hard to make it the best year possible for animals in our state. Look for more updates over the next several weeks, which will bring you up to date on the important work we've already been doing to help those in need.

Louisiana Animal Defenders and Rescuers Facing Challenges

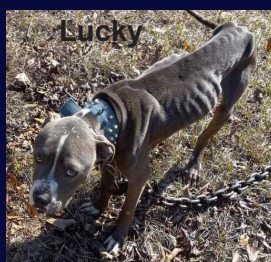
Last year brought unique and difficult challenges for animals, as shelters, rescues and animal protection charities everywhere struggled to adapt to the post-pandemic environment. After increased adoptions and empty shelters characterized the Covid lockdown era, much of that progress was sadly undone, as record numbers of cats and dogs were relinquished and abandoned in 2022. Sadly, pet owners have been surrendering animals for a variety of reasons, ranging from shortages of pet-friendly housing to the high costs of inflation. Some overwhelmed rescue groups were even forced to close their doors in this tough environment, while others had no choice but to cut services at a time of critical need. At the same time, shelters, nonprofits and veterinary offices have found it difficult to keep staff and to provide services. Scheduling veterinary appointments even became more difficult. Recently, it has not been uncommon for us to have to drive many hours round trip to veterinary appointments, increasing our already-high fuel costs. Cruelty and neglect cases and requests for help of every kind have risen across the board, just as our established adoption transport partners decrease their animal intake. We've heard many colleagues say that 2022 was one of the hardest years for animal protection work on record, and that's certainly been our experience. It's difficult to tell how circumstances will change in 2023, but we are hopeful, and we'll keep working hard to make a difference in these tough times. Of course, we are particularly grateful for your support, as we work to keep our critically needed programs in operation!



**Lucy and Lucky
Before Intervention**

Lucy and Lucky Rescued from Heartbreaking Neglect

Several weeks ago, a concerned citizen reported that two starving dogs were chained up on an empty lot; this neglect was taking place in Florien, a small town in Sabine parish. Officer Summer Carter answered the call and immediately reached out to the Sabine Animal Shelter for assistance. The poor dogs looked like walking skeletons. With the dogs in their possession, Lisa Butler, the director of the shelter, contacted our agency, asking if we could help raise funds for their care. As is often the case with small, rural shelters, they have no budget for treating animals with medical emergencies. We agreed to help, and the two dogs received immediate attention. They are shown below, after gaining some weight, having a joyful, kiss-filled reunion with Officer Carter. The more our group grows and thrives, we can direct more resources into small communities, where the need is so great.



Lucky



Lucy

