



**HUMANE**  
Society of Louisiana



**Defenders Circle**

**Dear Friend of Animals:**

**March 2023**

Spring is here, and our work to fight pet overpopulation across Louisiana is even more important. This month, we particularly thank you for supporting our spay/neuter programs which help us save lives.

**Louisiana's Pet Overpopulation Crisis - What we're doing to help!**



Precious pups and kittens seem too adorable to be a problem, but with local shelters at capacity and fewer options for homeless little ones, the crisis of pet overpopulation continues to claim the lives of animals statewide. With your help, the *Humane Society of Louisiana* focuses on solutions, large and small, to prevent the unwanted births. We continue to spearhead the one state board tasked with fighting companion animal homelessness, the *Louisiana Pet Overpopulation Advisory Council*. Service on the Council is voluntary and requires a dedication of time to the cause; a Humane Society of Louisiana representative has served as Council Chair since the body's inception. HSLA founder, Jeff Dorson, has spent countless hours directing the Board in its efforts to raise

and distribute funds for spay/neuter to shelters, vets and charities across Louisiana. The Board receives funding through the sale of 'Animal Friendly' license plates (see below) but will be seeking other revenue streams to expand their efforts. In recent years, HSLA has also neutered close to 2000 animals annually through various programs, and we've supported other small groups and shelters with funding equipment, humane cat traps and more. Our online SPAY-LA resource guide directs countless people to services around the state, and we respond to hundreds of requests for information and assistance each year. We are excited to be working with a volunteer veterinarian to help make another low cost spay/neuter option available in the Greater New Orleans area, and we'll be announcing the details soon.

Louisiana residents can purchase an 'Animal Friendly' license plate at any Office of Motor Vehicles or online. The \$50.00 surcharge will be given to the *Pet Overpopulation Advisory Council* ([louisianapetoverpopulation.org](http://louisianapetoverpopulation.org)) which will, in turn, distribute the funds to low-cost spay/neuter programs each October.



This month, supporters made possible the trapping and sterilizing of more than a dozen cats in the small town of Vinton, Louisiana. Special thanks to our friends at *LA-Paw Animal Rescue*, and their tireless leader, Dana Frye, for spearheading this effort.



**Wildlife Rescue 911 - Orphaned Baby Opossums Rescued**



Some of our volunteers make a huge difference by transporting injured and orphaned wild creatures to licensed wildlife rehabilitators. Just recently, a car struck and hit a mother opossum, leaving 10 helpless newborns in her pouch. (Many people don't know that opossums are the only marsupials in North America. They make life better for all of us by eating cockroaches, Lyme-disease carrying ticks and other unwanted pests.) We took the little ones from their deceased mama and placed them in a box with several blankets to keep them warm. They were delivered to our great friend, Leah Glass Andressen, founder of *Silent Voices Raccoon and Wildlife Rehabilitation*. Super volunteer, Leyla Adcox, also rescued a beautiful blue heron this month. Interested in becoming a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or volunteer transporter? Just contact our office for details.

