



October 2024

Dear Animal Defender,

We've been working hard on multiple fronts this month to save and defend animals. From disaster relief and rescue, to cruelty investigations and education, your kindness makes all we do possible! Our deep appreciation goes out to our dear friend Judy Newman, for her very special gift this month!

Supporting Domestic Violence Survivors and Their Pets

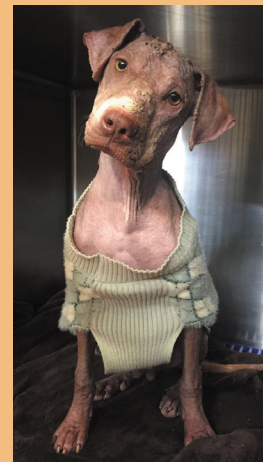


Each year, we receive calls from domestic violence survivors seeking help for themselves and their pets. Unfortunately, pet-friendly shelters remain scarce, even though studies show that over 70% of pet-owning survivors report that their abusers harmed, killed or threatened their animals as a form of control. In Louisiana, where domestic violence rates are among the nation's highest, the need for safe options that include pets is particularly urgent. One recent case involved a New Orleans woman who went to great

lengths to protect her beloved cats, Ambrose and Sirius, while fleeing a dangerous situation. Unable to find a shelter that would accept pets, she lived in her car with them for over a month. Hearing of her struggles, our members stepped up to help, providing essentials and covering the cost of a pet-friendly hotel where she and her cats could rest. We've since helped her find temporary foster care for Ambrose and Sirius while she transitions to a new job. Another survivor contacted us after a brutal assault by her boyfriend, who stabbed her and stole her cash and debit card. Though seriously injured, her first concern upon leaving the hospital was for her dog, who'd been left in her hotel room. With nowhere else to go, she was turned away from a local shelter due to her pet. Desperate, she reached out to us, and we moved her and her dog to a safe, pet-friendly location. Thanks to our donors, we covered her food, dog supplies and lodging until her family could help. We plan to do more in the future to address the connection between domestic violence and animal cruelty. No one should have to choose between their own safety and the well-being of their beloved companions.



Elliot's Journey to Recovery. Little Elliot was found starving and suffering from numerous ailments in the backwoods of Jefferson Davis Parish. A local mail carrier rescued him, and after weeks of care at a Lafayette veterinary clinic, this sweet dog is now healing. He's thriving in foster care with *Defenders Circle* member Melanie Fawer. Thank you, Melanie, for helping this little guy recover!





Livingston Parish Fair: Ending Cruel Animal Giveaways

We were deeply saddened to learn that rabbits and other small animals were given away as prizes at the Livingston Parish Fair this month. This outdated practice of using animals for carnival prizes often leads to abandonment, neglect and suffering. When animals like rabbits are “won” at fairs, the new owners are rarely prepared for the responsibility of long-term pet care. Many of these animals are abandoned in parks or neighborhoods, where they cannot survive. Veterinarians frequently treat rabbits for shock, dehydration, malnutrition and injuries following such events. One local resident shared: “I watched as teens won a bunny and treated it cruelly, throwing it around and shaking fish in bags. The parents didn’t care.” Another described seeing a child with a bunny in a laundry basket. The terrified bunny was carried around all afternoon without food, water or a chance to move. We’ve successfully stopped live animal giveaways in the past, and we will continue to advocate for fairs and festivals to choose kinder alternatives like stuffed animals, ensuring that no animal suffers or dies for a prize.

Molly’s Feeling Better! A Livingston Parish sheriff’s deputy contacted us on behalf of Molly (right), a sweet little pup with a fractured jaw. Her family, facing financial hardships, simply couldn’t afford her treatment. We stepped in to help, and we are pleased to report that Molly is now out of pain and healing.



Magic’s Rescue. Magic (left) was a lost soul, wandering the woods miles from the nearest town. Starving, dehydrated and suffering from numerous health issues, the exhausted pup wouldn’t have survived much longer on his own. Luckily, a group of pipe welders found him and reached out for help. We were able to get him the urgent care he needed, and he’s now on the road to recovery.



Lil Girl (left) was suffering with a severely injured eye that required removal. Her elderly owners, unable to afford the necessary procedure, reached out in desperate need. Thanks to the generosity of our Emergency Fund donors, Lil Girl received the urgent care she needed. Her family is overjoyed and immensely grateful for the support.



Leo (above) was adopted this month!



We were thrilled to partner with our friends at *Vegan Outreach* for the second annual *NOLA Vegan Chef Challenge* this September! This exciting plant-based competition encourages local restaurants to introduce new vegan menu items, with diners voting for their favorites. A special thanks to Board Member Leah Duncan, whose efforts were instrumental in making this event a success. Leah’s tireless work—spanning social media, TV, and radio—helped spread the message that New Orleans is a vibrant hub for delicious, animal-free dining. For the second consecutive year, Chef Orawin Yimchalam of *Thaihey NOLA* earned top honors as both Best Chef and Best Restaurant. *Breads on Oak* took second place and also won the Vegan Community Favorite award, while *I-talGarden* claimed third prize and Best Burger.

In other vegan news, we’re excited to host a festive **Friendsgiving** potluck, where friends and supporters can come together and share some holiday cheer. We’d love to see you on Sunday the 24th! RSVP at info@humanela.org and let us know what dish you’ll be bringing to share!

Vegan
Friendsgiving
Potluck

Bring your favorite dish to share!
Sunday, November 24 @ 5pm
618 Derbigny St Gretna, LA
Don't forget to provide a serving utensil!!

Organizing for Animals in Avoyelles. Helping caring community members to advocate for animals is central to our mission. We’re grateful to *Avoyelles Today* for helping spread the word about our recent town hall meeting, where we discussed plans to build an animal shelter and establish local animal control services. The event saw an excellent turnout, with Police Jurors Jacob Coco and Sam Pearce leading an engaging discussion on the next steps forward.



ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

www.HumaneLA.org info@humanela.org 1.888.6.HUMANE