



Dear Animal Defender,

Here's hoping that 2024 has wonderful things in store for you. We're gearing up for a lot of challenges this year, as we keep working hard to save lives, in the midst of the worst pet overpopulation crisis we've experienced in decades. Thank you so much for caring and being so generous! It is only with your ongoing support and generosity that we'll be able to defend and rescue animals across Louisiana in the difficult months to come.

FIGHTING FOR HOMELESS ANIMALS IN 2024



We're just a few days into the new year, and we're already gearing up for some big challenges. The legislative session will soon be underway, and we're exploring many possible avenues for gaining critically needed state funding for animals. After decades spent doing this charitable work, we're more convinced than ever that procuring government funding for shelters and related programs is the only way to address the widespread suffering of animals in our state, particularly in the impoverished rural areas. Despite their tireless efforts, our state's great rescues, shelters, TNR groups, volunteers and others simply can't do it on their own. Charities and volunteers also can't be expected to shoulder the entire burden of this expensive, difficult and lifesaving work, which benefits and provides needed services for whole communities. We'll keep you posted on our progress this year, as we work towards this critical goal of saving Louisiana's animals.

LIVINGSTON PARISH ANIMAL CONTROL CLOSER TO BECOMING A REALITY

At the local level, we're delighted to report that Parish President elect Randy Delatte is keeping his campaign promise to pursue parish animal control funding in his first 100 days. Mr. Delatte attended one of multiple community organizing meetings we held in Livingston parish last year, in an effort to show and gather community support for this important issue. Anyone who has followed us for a long time will know that greatly expanding services for animals in Livingston parish has long been a goal of ours, so we are very pleased with this development.



EVANGELINE PARISH RESCUE SETS TONE FOR AN IMPACTFUL NEW YEAR!

Our friend, Mark Kidder, a humane investigator with St. Landry parish, recently contacted us with a problem. An elderly resident of Evangeline parish - which borders St. Landry - called to ask him for help. She reported that a Mama dog with a mangled or missing front paw had taken up residence under her house with five puppies. Since Evangeline Parish doesn't provide animal control services, Mark contacted us to help develop a game plan. Because he has years of dog handling and capturing experience, we suggested that Mark ask his parish supervisor for a one-time permission to rescue the puppies as a neighborly act of goodwill. It never hurts to ask! Luckily, Mark's boss gave his blessing, so he quickly put together a great team, including St. Landry animal control officers, Byron Boles and Travis Robinson. Deputy Jenkins with the Evangeline sheriff's office also joined the group, along with an intrepid inmate, who crawled under the house to rescue the puppies. The mama dog watched the operation but couldn't be captured, so the team set a trap and successfully caught her. We agreed to pay for the canine family's boarding and vetting, and we're happy to report that the whole family is doing well. Now, that's the way to come together to help animals, when the initial response might otherwise be, "Nothing can be done."



In December we donated traps for TNR to local rescues. This photo from the TNR group Tomato Foster Club shows that they're already being put to good use!