



July 2021

Dear Friend of Animals,

We're preparing and bracing for potential hurricanes, as we head into the most dangerous part of storm season. At the same time, we're tirelessly working to rescue defenseless animals and put animal abusers behind bars. Thank you for making it all possible.

HUMANE SOCIETY KICKS OFF NEW ANTI-DOG FIGHTING INITIATIVE: FOCUS ON TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Humane Society of Louisiana has been working to combat dog fighting in our state for decades. We have passed legislation to strengthen our state's anti-dogfighting efforts, and our team has repeatedly stepped up to defend animal victims and see perpetrators brought to justice. At extraordinary personal risk, our founder and Executive Director, Jeff Dorson, once spent more than a year undercover, infiltrating criminal dog fighting rings and gaining needed intelligence about this viciously cruel activity, which is so prevalent in Louisiana. In the intervening years, working with law enforcement, Jeff's efforts have contributed to many arrests and animal seizures. As our state's top humane investigator of this crime, Jeff regularly works with law enforcement officers behind the scenes. This month, anti-dog fighting efforts were a major focus for our group. To help law enforcement agencies, humane organizations, and private rescuers identify and take down dogfighting rings, we hosted a professional animal fighting investigations workshop in Hammond. The event was closed to the general public to ensure no dog fighters or sympathizers would attend. More than 60 representatives representing more than 20 law enforcement agencies participated. Keynote speakers included two experienced detectives, three federal agents from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and an assistant federal prosecutor. The workshop covered the state and federal laws that prohibit this activity and reviewed proven strategies for apprehending suspected dogfighters. In an exciting development, HSLA plans to hire a top dog fighting expert, a recently retired detective from the Louisiana State Police, who will lead similar workshops on taking down dog fighters for law enforcement personnel around the state.



We were happy to be able to provide emergency veterinary care and surgery for little Cheeto this month. The kitten was rescued in Lafayette with a terribly injured eye. Because it sadly could not be saved, the veterinarian had to remove it. The sweet little kitty is doing just fine with one good eye. Also, because we love orange kitties, we were able to neuter 'Puppy' (below) for a family in need. This little cutie loves her 'real puppy' sister, Star.



Win Great Prizes and Support the Humane Society in August!

Every August, Gulf Coast Bank hosts a summer online auction for charities in the Greater New Orleans area. This year, many great prizes have been donated in support of our group, from hotel stays to a spa day. Please go online and bid to support us at gulfbank.com and help us reach our \$5000 goal. Want to donate for next year's event? Please get in touch and we'll make sure to follow up with you.

HSLA Shuts Down Live Animal Market in Algiers: Crisis for Animals in NOLA as Funding, Services Cut



It's illegal to sell live animals at markets in New Orleans, but that didn't stop one Westbank flea market for admitting a vendor who did just that. We were flooded with complaints one weekend about the Algiers Flea Market, where witnesses saw birds, dogs and puppies being offered for sale in crowded, dirty cages in the extreme heat. An HSLA volunteer case worker went to the site and approached management about the illegal animal sales. Luckily, the owners banned the vendor from future markets. For due diligence purposes, our worker returned to the flea market the next week, where she found a man selling 8 puppies in the parking lot.

She confronted him about the illegality of his actions, and to avoid possible legal repercussions, he surrendered all of the puppies, who were housed in a filthy, overcrowded cage on the back of a truck, to our care. Although we kept in touch with the NOPD and LASPCA on this issue, it was simply not possible to move forward with charges. The difficulty of getting appropriate enforcement action in New Orleans at this time is a serious issue. Animal control services have been significantly cut, and our office is now overwhelmed with unresolved complaints from Orleans parish.

Although animal control and service cuts in NOLA are not uncommon, we are now being inundated with more complaints from the Crescent City than we've received since the early 90s. At that time, a rag tag team of our volunteers provided a grassroots animal control response for the city. Funding and services were completely cut at that time, and calls from law enforcement poured into our homes at all hours of the night. Teams of volunteers headed out to respond to animals hit by cars, caught in drains, swept into drainage canals and more. We even filed a law suit, seeking to restore funding for animal control. We just can't go back to those days. Even with limited resources, the city needs a better plan. We are in ongoing communication with local elected officials and LA-SPCA representatives, in an effort to help resolve this situation, as we work to help frustrated residents and animals in need. The good news? The market stalls where animals were recently being sold, as if in some third world country, were empty this weekend, and the precious pups are headed to loving homes.



We were recently notified that a friendly pig was roaming the streets of Albany, near Hammond. Some concerned residents, who wanted to help the poor animal find a home, called a state agency and were instructed to "shoot the pig" if they didn't want him on their property. It's tragic that many of our state officials think the only way to deal with an animal is to kill it, before ever even considering nonviolent options. The homeless little piggie became a local celebrity, after his photo appeared in the town newspaper, and readers contacted us, rightly concerned about his fate. We reached out to a colleague, Shari Champagne, who runs an animal sanctuary, and she agreed to provide a permanent home. We agreed to cover the vet bills and sterilization. Luckily, local rescuers were able to successfully trap him and load him into a transport van. The increasing number of requests we're getting about pigs in need underscores the importance of finishing our new pig housing area at our *Enoch J. Donaldson Animal Sanctuary* in Mount Hermon.



Remember Sadie, who was terribly burned over 75% of her body this winter? Her wounds have virtually all healed, and we thought you'd like to see this photo of her enjoying life.