



March 2024

**Dear Animal Defender,**

Spring is in the air and that means your help is particularly appreciated this month! At this time of year, more homeless and unwanted pets are born, when pet overpopulation is already overwhelming local shelters. Thank you for your kindness and willingness to support our lifesaving work at such a time of great need.

**HELPING ANIMAL VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



It's a well established fact that domestic violence impacts pets, along with other family members targeted for abuse. One domestic abuse survivor in New Orleans recently contacted us for help, in the midst of a desperate attempt to flee from an abusive partner. The woman was rushing to catch a flight out of town with her two small dogs, when she learned that she couldn't board her flight, because she lacked official health certificates. Needing to leave town immediately, she had no time to lose, but she was at a loss as to how to provide for her dogs. She called numerous charities, asking for guidance and help. Most agencies were closed for the weekend, but her persistence paid off when she reached HSLA Executive Director, Jeff Dorson. Jeff met the grateful woman at the New Orleans airport and took

custody of the two dogs, King and Romero. He made arrangements to board the dogs at a local vet clinic, where they were both groomed. *We could really use a calm and loving foster home to help care for the frightened little pair, until their Mom can retake custody of them in Texas. If you are in the Greater New Orleans area and can lend a hand, please contact us.*

**SAD REALITY OF EASTER ANIMAL ABUSES**

It's a shame that the mistreatment of animals sometimes detracts from this joyful spring holiday. First, there is the misguided practice of giving live animals to children as Easter gifts. This outdated holiday tradition may seem innocent enough, but it results in countless animals being abandoned at shelters and in wooded areas each year. Children simply lose interest and parents become tired of providing for the little creatures. Small animals from baby chicks to bunnies fall victim to the same sad, predictable cycle each year. To help educate people and discourage the practice, we reach out to local media outlets every holiday to encourage humane alternatives. Stuffed animal toys or trips to humane petting zoos can allow children to enjoy all the cute animal symbols of spring, without putting lives at risk. Hopefully, as humane awareness continues to grow, the idea of giving live animals at Easter will no longer be a ritual of the season.

One disturbing and illegal practice we thankfully haven't encountered in some time surfaced again this year. Selling dyed baby chicks has been outlawed in Louisiana for decades, but that didn't stop a *T & T Scott Farm* in Terrebone parish from putting poor chicks in boxes and selling them like cheap, disposable toys. Luckily, we were able to get local law enforcement officials to intervene and shut down the operation.

