



May 2021

Dear Friend of Animals,

It's Be Kind to Animals month, and we're busy helping animals on behalf of supporters like you. Thank you for practicing kindness to our fellow creatures every month of the year. We couldn't do this work without you!

Fighting for the Animals at the State Capitol

As we have been doing since 1987, we lobbied for animal protection legislation during the most recent session. This year, we worked with Representative Matthew Willard, (D-District 97), to introduce an important bill which would clarify the meaning of 'proper shelter' under the existing animal cruelty statutes. House Bill 223 defined the phrase 'proper shelter' as a structure having three walls, a floor and a roof, which is free from standing water and debris. All too often, dogs suffer outside in heartbreaking conditions, because of a lack of clarity in the existing law. The bill cleared the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice without opposition, but it eventually stalled on the House floor. As is often the case with animal protection bills, rural lawmakers objected. Sadly, they were strongly opposed to requiring the owners of 'yard dogs' to even buy or build doghouses as protection from the elements. As a result, the bill failed to pass. We are undeterred, however. We'll keep building alliances and bringing back this bill and other needed legislation in future years. We were also pleased to work with Representative Barbara Freiberg (R-District 70), to introduce House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 29, which recognized the contributions of Holly F. Reynolds, who turned 102 this year! Holly, a dear friend and key supporter, has devoted the last 60 years of her life to helping animals, and she is still going strong! She founded the *Capitol Area Animal Welfare Society* (CAAWS), the *Northshore Humane Society*, and the *Coalition of Louisiana Animal Advocates* (COLAA). (HCR) 29 passed without opposition and was signed by Governor John Bel Edwards. Congratulations, Holly! In an era where no one seems to agree on anything, everyone came together to honor your many years of service and your tireless dedication to Louisiana's animals.



HSLA VP and attorney at law, Cheri Deatsch (L) and Director, Jeff Dorson (R) meet with State Representative Matthew Willard in Baton Rouge this session.



We rescue dogs like Queenie from miserable conditions like these, but many rural legislators could care less about protecting dogs like her. They proved it this legislative session. We'll keep up the good fight, in the field and at the Capitol.

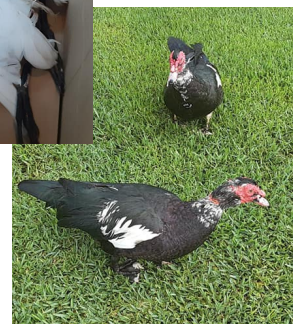
Wildlife Rescue 911

We continue to receive calls regarding injured wildlife on a regular basis. Sadly, our state does not provide any resources or personnel to retrieve or rehab wild animals in such cases, with the exception of threatened species such as eagles and dolphins. Most people assume there are agents at Wildlife and Fisheries who routinely respond to these matters, but that sadly isn't the case. We've taken up the challenge of helping whenever we can. We'll be approaching a few of our larger parishes as part of a longterm strategy to see small rehab centers established within animal control programs. (*Jefferson Protection and Animal Welfare*, much to its credit, has a modest setup for injured and orphaned wildlife at its Eastbank shelter). In the interim, we've determined that our workers and helpers can legally play a role in transporting animals to licensed wildlife rehabbers and veterinarians, even if not licensed. If you would like more information about joining or wildlife rescue team - or becoming a licensed rehabber - contact us at info@humanela.org.



Injured heron, Plaquemines parish

Muscovy ducks caught in fishing line, Jefferson parish



Louisiana Shelter Support Month is Almost Here!

Next month, for the third year running, we'll encourage Louisiana residents to get active, helping small local shelters in need, whether through adopting, fostering, volunteering or providing needed items and funds for support. Our goal is to expand this program each year and to generate needed help during the summer months, when help and donations are more scarce.



It's that time of year again! We'll once again distribute tens of thousands of dollars worth of donated puppy pads to our shelter partners to help them save precious resources.



*Special thanks to New Orleans radio and TV personality, Kaare Johnson (above, left), who once again spearheaded his **Humane May** fundraiser, helping us raise close to 10K for the animals! Kaare invites our Director, Jeff Dorson, on his show regularly to discuss animal issues. Thanks, Kaare!*



Your gifts helped us rescue and care for Journey, a super sweet Great Pyrenees, who almost lost his life in Crowley. Hit by a car, the poor guy somehow managed to drag himself under a house, where he suffered alone, with no one to help him. Finally, a rural animal control officer rescued the poor dog and brought him to a vet clinic. There, we took custody of Journey and provided needed surgery for his fractured leg. Once he is healed, we'll make sure this big, beautiful boy finds a loving home.

Duke Comes Home!



A happy Duke reunited with his family!

A beautiful yellow lab named Duke sadly got lost while his family was vacationing in Florida; the beloved dog managed to escape from his pet sitter. His distraught family immediately put the word out and asked for help on social media. Duke's Mom, Hayley Pedigo, and other family members offered a reward for his safe return, and the Humane Society pitched in to help, as well. As soon as the family could get back from Florida, they formed search parties and tirelessly distributed fliers with pictures of Duke. They never, ever gave up hope of finding their missing family member. Against long odds, three young women, who live three miles away from the Pedigo home, heard Duke's story. They recalled seeing a lonely dog who resembled him, walking in the woods. The girls walked out to the area where the dog was last seen and thought they saw a dog in the distance. They called Duke's Mom, Hayley, as they followed behind the shadowy figure. She advised them to crouch down, call Duke and allow him to approach them. Sure enough, this worked! The exhausted dog came to them and they held him until Hayley arrived, tearful and exhausted from the ordeal. Duke was covered with cuts, scratches and insect bites, and his underbelly had been rubbed raw. Still, Duke was alive and overjoyed to be back with his family!! The moral of the story is to leave no stone unturned if an animal companion ever happens to go missing. Miraculous reunions can and do happen, and they would do no less for us.