



## Dear Friend of Animals,

*Thank you for your very kind support this month. We continue to receive a record number of calls for help, at a time when donations are lacking, in difficult economic conditions. Thank you for making it possible for us to keep working for the animals at a time of such urgent need.*

## SAVING ABUSED ANIMALS ALONG LOUISIANA'S RURAL BACK ROADS

The Humane Society must overcome special challenges when responding to cruelty cases in Louisiana's small towns and along its rural back roads. In most of these places, there are no other animal control services or public shelters. In others, a shelter may exist, but the staff only responds to calls within the city limits. To save animals in these areas, we have to get creative. It's difficult, when we are sometimes more than a day's drive away from the scene, and our resources are limited. Getting law enforcement officers to respond is the first big hurdle. Luckily, after years of animal protection work, we have many contacts around the state. If we get the police to the scene, and they agree to seize the animals, we move to the next hurdle: how do we get help to a suffering animal immediately, in the middle of nowhere? Aside from there being no shelters, there are often no veterinarians - or the nearest vet's office is hours from the scene. Sometimes, a vet will travel to the location, but those are rare instances. We must frequently engage the witness who reported the crime to get involved. They may help by bringing the animal to a vet or by fostering him or her, until we can get one of our team members to the scene. Responding officers may also go above and beyond the call duty to help. Officers have frequently taken animals to vets on our behalf. They have also taken them home at night, until help arrives. Sometimes the police will reach out to the neighbors on our behalf; they may agree to feed the animals in place, until we can make rescue arrangements. In other instances, it makes more sense for us to try and educate owners and improve living conditions for the animals. This is a good route to take in those cases where animal mistreatment is the result of lack of education or poverty, not unkindness. Every case is different, and every one is a challenge. The one constant is that we are able to respond because of your support. Thanks for helping us provide an extraordinary level of services around the state, which we simply couldn't do without you!



*Dogs used for hunting are frequent victims of neglect in rural areas. Five beagles were recently found living in squalid, heartbreaking conditions. Languishing in small chicken coops a few feet off the ground, the dogs never received adequate food or vet care, let alone any attention. The pads of their feet were sore and deformed from living on chicken wire. We were asked to help by our colleague, who spearheaded the rescue. They will require extensive veterinary care and treatment, and we are helping them to recover from their ordeal.*



*With fewer options for pets in need, the numbers of homeless cats on the streets are exploding. These are two of the kitties we were able to recently help: Lucy (L), a homeless cat with a broken leg, was found by a rescuer in St. Helena. There are no services for animals in the parish. Little Moonbeam (R) is a tame cat, apparently abandoned at a colony in New Orleans East. The caregiver took her in, and the good news is - she found a home today!*

