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Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter and the American Humane Society Celebrate the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual *Be Kind to Animals Week*®, May 2-8**

#### ***“So Many Animals, So Many Ways to be Kind”***

The Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter, in partnership with the American Humane Society will celebrate the 96<sup>th</sup> annual *Be Kind to Animals Week*, Sunday, May 2 through Saturday, May 8, 2010. Lafourche Parish citizens and schools are encouraged to participate in activities to help the animals of the shelter.

Shelly Toups, Lafourche Parish Health Activities Manager, said, “We have plenty of activities, games and other ideas that everyone can enjoy and can easily be used in classrooms. There is a supply drive, fundraising ideas, a poster/essay contest and projects the students can work on to make different items for the animals at the shelter.” A full list of activities can be picked up at the Animal Shelter and is also available online at the Lafourche Parish Government website (<http://www.lafourchegov.org>).

The Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter *also* suggests the following ways to show appreciation for the animals around you:

- Report any suspected animal abuse or neglect to your local Police or Sheriff’s Department
- Commit to adopting your next pet from an animal shelter
- Donate to or volunteer at your local animal shelter
- Spay or neuter your pets and encourage friends and family to do the same
- Spend quality time with your pet
- Make sure your pet has an ID tag or microchip
- Drive cautiously through areas populated by wild animals such as deer
- Plant flowers in your yard that will attract butterflies or hummingbirds
- Speak out in your community about the importance of respecting animals
- Visit [www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org) for activities children and adults can do together

The American Humane Association created *Be Kind to Animals Week* in 1915 to encourage compassion toward animals. In 1952, *Be Kind to Animals Week* received the official endorsements of the U.S. and Canadian governments. It is now one of the oldest special week-long observances in the United States. Every year, animal shelters throughout the country hold special events during this time-honored week to raise awareness about animals in our homes and communities and to celebrate the unique bond between humans and animals.

### ***About Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter***

Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter is located at 934 Highway 3185. We are open Monday through Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm. The animals at the shelter were picked up throughout the Parish by Animal Control Officers or turned in by their owners who could no longer care for them. The shelter will hold animals picked up by Animal Control for 5 days, but animals turned in by their owners can be euthanized, adopted, or sent to a rescue group at any time after they are signed over. The shelter is a great place to find a pet. We have puppies and kittens of all sizes.

Adoptions are based primarily on application. We try to match the animals with the most suitable home. Adoption fees for dogs are \$30.00 for males and \$35.00 for females. Adoption fees for cats are \$15.00 for males and \$25.00 for females. If your application is approved, adoption papers and contracts are signed stating that you will have the animal vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian and will have the animal spayed or neutered within 30 days of adoption for an animal over 6 months of age. If the animal is a puppy or kitten you have until it is 6 months of age. The shelter is currently providing a voucher for \$50.00 of the spay/neutering procedure as long as funding is available. The shelter staff reserves the right to refuse adoption to anyone.

### ***About American Humane***

Founded in 1877, the American Humane Association is the only national organization dedicated to protecting both children and animals. Through a network of child and animal protection agencies and individuals, American Humane develops policies, legislation, curricula and training programs to protect children and animals from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The nonprofit organization, headquartered in Denver, raises awareness about The Link® between violence to people and violence to animals, as well as the benefits derived from the human-animal bond. American Humane's regional office in Los Angeles is the exclusive authority behind the "No Animals Were Harmed"® end-credit disclaimer on film and TV productions, and American Humane's office in Washington, D.C., is an advocate for child and animal protection at the federal and state levels. The American Humane Certified™ farm animal program is the nation's original independent certification and labeling program for humanely raised food. American Humane meets the strong, comprehensive standards of the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance, has been awarded the Independent Charities of America's "Best in America" Seal of Approval, and has met the stringent standards for financial efficiency and accountability required by the American Institute of Philanthropy to qualify as a Top-Rated Charity. For more information, visit <http://www.americanhumane.org>.

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\* *Direct Link to the Be Kind to Animals Week Page on the Parish Website:*

<http://www.lafourchegov.org/BKAW.aspx>