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**Charlotte A. Randolph, Parish President**

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1:30 P.M.  
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### **A Week to Honor Fluffy and Fido**

**Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter and the American Humane Association  
Celebrate the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Be Kind to Animals Week®, May 3-9**

The American Humane Association created Be Kind to Animals Week in 1915 to encourage compassion toward animals. 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.

Kelli Toups, Executive Assistant at the Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter, states that the animal shelter will be celebrating Be Kind to Animals Week by asking the citizens and schools of Lafourche Parish to participate in different activities to help the animals at the animal shelter. Activities perfect for classrooms include supply drives, fundraiser ideas, poster/essay contests, and projects the students can work on to make different items for the animals at the animal shelter (blankets, toys, treats, etc.). A list of activities can be picked up from the Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter.

Be Kind to Animals Week is now one of the oldest, special week-long observances in the United States. In 1952, Be Kind to Animals Week received the official endorsements of the U.S. and Canadian governments. And in honor of the week's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1990, Congress passed a resolution declaring May 6-12, 1990, "Be Kind to Animals and National Pet Week."

"Kindness toward animals is a building block of a humane and compassionate society," said Marie Belew Wheatley, president and CEO of American Humane. "We celebrate and encourage that all year long."

In honor of Be Kind to Animals Week, the Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter suggests the following ways to show appreciation for the animals around you:

- Report any suspected animal abuse or neglect
- 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

**About Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter**

The Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter is located at 934 Highway 3185. The shelter is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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.

**Adopting a friend from Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter**

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 payment for the entire spay/neuter procedure. Shelter Staff reserves the right to refuse adoption to anyone.

**About American Humane**

Be Kind to Animals Week is promoted nationally by 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 ([www.thehumanetouch.org](http://www.thehumanetouch.org)). 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. Visit [www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org) to learn more.

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