

Statement from Jeff Dorson, Executive Director Humane Society of Louisiana

Important news from the [Humane Society of Louisiana](#): the Iberia Sheriff's Office is lying to the public and has yet to investigate the death of six cats. The Humane Society of Louisiana needs your help.

Last summer, an Iberia resident saw several cats in the window of a tenant who had moved away, leaving them behind. The resident contacted the sheriff's office several times, only to be told that they could not help and that if she attempted to remove the cats, she would be arrested. The cats died a slow, agonizing death.

To add to this terrible situation, the sheriff's office is lying to the public and has yet to initiate an investigation. They maintain that the witness never contacted its office until six months after the cats died. Given the sincerity of the witness, their response defies logic.

We have provided the sheriff's office with the name of the cat's owner and pictures taken of the crime scene (the deputy who finally responded to the call in February refused to exit his vehicle or look at the pictures of the carcasses). He simply told the witness that he would write a report and added that he doubted that anything could be done. This is wrong on every level.

To fight this type of idleness and corruption, HSLA needs your help. We all need to stay focused. They will not respond to any form of communication, hoping we will simply go away. This is too important, and we must make sure that justice prevails.

We are calling this Project Accountability, and the objective is to hold the sheriff's office accountable until justice is served. Project Accountability will continue until the suspect is arrested and charged with six counts of aggravated cruelty to animals. It may take days, weeks, or even months, but we need to stay on point until this task is completed.

To seek justice for these cats and support Project Accountability, please continue to call and write the sheriff's office every day for the next 10 days. Mark it on your calendar. Make it part of your daily routine. As a reminder of your commitment, simply take another look at one of the photos of the cats and imagine how they must have suffered without food or water.

In the meantime, we plan to contact multiple state and federal agencies and ask them to review the conduct of the sheriff's office and see if they will initiate their own investigations. If need be, we'll also plan a peaceful protest across the street from the sheriff's office within the next few weeks to continue to bring additional attention to these issues.