

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 12 Jan '15
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Executive Director

Let's talk cats! Did you know that there are actually more pet cats than dogs in the U.S.? Sadly, all of these pet cats are matched by an almost equal number of un-owned or wild (feral) cats. Since the vast majority of these stray cats and at least 25% of owned cats are not spayed or neutered it should be no wonder that shelters are generally always filled with cats & kittens in desperate need of homes. On average cats produce one to two litters of 4-6 kittens every year with the spring 'kitten season' being something all shelters like ours simply dread. From about April through July we very often receive as many as 20-30 kittens & cats EACH DAY which is why spaying and neutering is so important to all of us in shelters!

But our intake is only a portion of the available cats and kittens in the area, and there just are not enough homes for so many unwanted cats and kittens. Even if all the 'pet' cats in our communities were 'fixed' there are still large populations of stray cats reproducing. Millions of these type cats have been killed by various means over the decades and the reality is we still have millions of feral cats and need a more humane approach to controlling their populations. What we do know is that THE single best way to get control over many feral cat populations is to conduct thought out & well-planned Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs. Successfully managed TNR colony cats continue then continue to live in our communities but not add to the population.

There are important considerations before beginning a TNR program and to help educate anyone interested in this very viable way to help feral cats, we invite you to a FREE Trap-Neuter-Return Training session on Thursday, 29 January 2015, 6-9 pm at the Elmore County Extension Office, 340 Queen Ann Road, Wetumpka, AL 36092. Dr. Rachel Tears, Ph.D., Executive Director of Alabama Animal Alliance, will teach the basics of TNR so we can all help solve the problem of over-population of cats in communities.

To register for our FREE Trap-Neuter-Return class, or for more information, contact Andrea at (334) 306-9214 or email her at alsperkins@gmail.com.

What could you (or a group you love) do with \$10,000? From now until 21 February you can work on your wish list as we have your chance to win \$10,000 at our 5th Annual "Getting Down with the Dawgs" Draw Down on Saturday, 21 February 2015! With the purchase of a \$100 ticket you will have a 1 in 300 opportunity to win \$10,000 (you do NOT have to be present to win the grand prize)! Besides a chance to win big, each ticket holder and guest will also get a delicious buffet dinner/beverages, there will be door prizes, cash bar and so much more.

This year's Drawdown will be at the Entertainment Center, Wind Creek Wetumpka, 100 River Oaks Dr, Wetumpka, AL! Doors will open at 5:00 pm, dinner begins at 6 pm and the Drawdown starts at 7 pm. Tickets are on sale at the shelter at 255 Central Plank Road, Wetumpka, AL 36092 – get your ticket(s) now or buy one as a gift! For any questions contact us at 334-567-3377 or email hselco@bellsouth.net.