

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 23 Jan ‘16

Rea Cord

Executive Director

Found & abandoned are two words we hear far too much in our front office. Responsible pet owners who cannot keep a pet make sincere efforts to find their pet a new home and some end up having to bring them to shelters so we can try to help them. But in this first 23 days of 2017, pets found dumped, lost or abandoned are almost double those brought by owners. For those of us who value our pets, it is unfathomable that there are people who can just take a pet out to some county road and dump them out to fend for themselves. Our dogs and cats are domesticated animals and are NOT capable of ‘living off the land’ no matter what some may think. They depend on us for their care and well-being which is why abandoning a dog or cat is not only morally wrong, but punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor as Cruelty to Animals under the Alabama Code Section 13A-11-240(b). This code states: “the word "cruel" as used in this article shall mean: Every act, omission, or neglect, including abandonment, where unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering is allowed to continue.”

In just 22 days, we have taken in 99 pets that were either lost or abandoned, and given that only 12 of these pets have been reclaimed by their owners, far too many people are using our county as a dumping ground for their pets! This also causes a problem for people who find themselves trying to avoid these pets on our roadways or who might be scared of the strange dog in their yard and is simply cruel. And while any abandonment is awful, almost all of the puppies we have taken in thus far this year were found dumped. Think of that - just taking young puppies and tossing them out on roads to contend with cars, no food, no shelter, weather and predators. Do those people truly think those puppies could survive like that! And it hurts our heart to think of those puppies that were never found and rescued by a kind person to give them a chance at life.

All of us in our area shelters would much prefer an owner surrender their pets to us that they can no longer care for rather than abandon them to a potentially terrible fate. Our shelter is open for intake (for pets owned by residents of Elmore County) six days every week, Mon-Fri 8-5 & Sat 8-3 and we do promise to do everything in our power to find loving & committed homes for as many of our pets as we possibly can.

If you have any questions about surrendering a pet or if you have found a stray or believe an animal to have been abandoned please call us at 334-567-3377 or email hselco@bellsouth.net for assistance. Our shelter is located at 255 Central Plank Road (Hwy 9) in Wetumpka – take Hwy 231 North, turn right onto Hwy 9 and we are the very first thing on the left.

Make sure to stop by the shelter for our ‘Getting Down with the Dawgs’ DRAWDOWN ticket(s) coming up fast on February 18th and your chance to win \$10,000! Don’t delay getting your ticket(s) as we have sold out of tickets before the event the past two years. Your \$100 ticket gives you a 1 in 300 opportunity to win \$10,000 (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, chance for door prizes, cash bar and so much more.

‘Getting Down with the Dawgs’ Drawdown will be at the Entertainment Center, Wind Creek Wetumpka, 100 River Oaks Dr, Wetumpka, AL, Saturday, 18 February 2017! Doors will open at 5:00 pm, cash bar opens around 5:30 pm, dinner catered by Wind Creek 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, buy one as a gift, or purchase one in the name of a special organization you support! For any questions contact us at 334-567-3377 or email hselco@bellsouth.net.