

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 4 Jan '16

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Executive Director

Here is our 2015 wrap-up: we took in 4294 pets which is 389 LESS than 2014 & 622 LESS than 2013! Now as sad as 4294 is, that our intake has seen such a marked decrease is great news! Of these, 1597 were surrendered by their owners and 2697 were brought in as 'strays' by citizens and Animal Control Officers. The primary reduction in our intake was in the 'strays' so perhaps, just perhaps, Elmore County's Containment Law has had a positive impact. What is statistically significant is the ratio of puppies and kittens compared to adults: about 60% of the dogs we received were puppies under six months old; for cats we received over DOUBLE the number of kittens than adult cats. This just showcases the importance of spaying and neutering pets BEFORE they can have their first 'oops' litter. Translated – please get your dog or cat to your vet by the time they are six months old to be spayed or neutered. There is simply NO reason for most pets to have litters as every litter adds to unnecessary pet overpopulation.

Many believe that shelter intake is high in January from 'gifted' Christmas pets but that is not true. Families are still having fun with their Christmas puppies and kittens and only in rare instances do we receive those pets. But we do get a very large influx in January, especially of puppies, from all those litters that were for sale or free as Christmas pets. Since Dec 28th we have received well over 30 puppies and know that more are on their way if they are not 'sold' or given away this week. So please don't be a part of this cycle – call your Veterinarian, have your pet spayed or neutered and be a part of the solution to pet overpopulation.

We saved 1771 pets in 2015 via adoptions, transfers to rescues and returning them to worried owners which was also more than in 2014 and all previous years so that is definitely a number we will work to increase! Adoptions are wonderful but preventing unnecessary litters of puppies and kittens with nowhere to go is THE KEY to reducing euthanasia! Keeping pets safely at home and having identification on them at all times would also reduce our intake dramatically and all of these fixes are in the hands of the pet owning public. Please love your pets enough to at least do these things for them! We will strive for more 'saves' in 2016 and hope that intake will continue to decline - that will be success in our world!

February 20th is right around the corner, so make sure to stop by the shelter for your 'Getting Down with the Dawgs' DRAWDOWN ticket(s) and your chance to win \$10,000! 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, 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, 20 February 2016! Doors will open at 5:00 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.