

Ready to start voting again? We are eligible to win in the Shelter Challenge that starts TODAY and with your help need to leap out in first place and stay there. Help us win \$1000 for our pets by going to www.shelterchallenge.com where you can vote each day from work, home, school, smart phone, etc. Once there the easiest way to find us is to type in our zip of 36092 or Wetumpka, AL to find us. Some web browsers do not work with this site, so if you have problems, please first try a different browser to access the site. Thanks everyone for taking literally just a minute of your time every day to help us win big for our animals!

Here is our 2013 wrap-up: we took in 4581 pets (335 LESS than 2012). Of these we received 2604 Dogs (1415 under six months old/1189 over six months old) & 1943 Cats (1365 under six months old/578 over six months old). This is why we preach spay/neuter so much as 'under six month old' pets accounted for 60% of our intake! We saved 1650 pets via adoption/transfer to rescues and returning them to worried owners which was more than in 2012 so that was great! The takeaway to these numbers is if that stopping 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 2014 and hope the public listens so that intake will continue to decline - that will be success in our world!

Mother Nature is giving us a real winter wakeup call and we implore pet owners all over to please bring your pets inside and for those that must stay outside please make sure they have shelter and protection from the cold, wind and rain. Cold air is also very dry (just think of your chapped lips) and livestock and pets need more water than you think in the winter.

If the water for your outside pets/livestock is frozen that is easy to fix. Just go to your local feed store, pet store or on-line where you can get in-tank water heaters/heated water buckets pretty inexpensively. They do need to be plugged in (can run a long outdoor extension cord if need be) work great and are quite safe. This can save your muscles from hauling water and your pets/livestock will have clear fresh water no matter how low the temps go.

Your pets not only need shelter from wind & precipitation they need to be able to stay warm as well. A dog house (meaning sides, top and a floor) needs to be located so the wind doesn't blast straight into it and also sized for the dog so that the dog's body heat can build inside to keep your pet even warmer. DRY bedding is essential so please check the bedding often to make sure it isn't wet, or even missing. How would you like to sleep on a wet blanket, or moldy pile of hay, or a hard piece of plastic with no cushion?

Please also take your pet's age and health into account as young, healthy animals can handle inclement weather a lot better than older animals. An older horse might need to be blanketed in cold weather and an older dog with arthritis may need much thicker bedding to cushion aching joints and tired muscles. More frequent brushing to remove dead hair & dirt will also help your pet stay warm as a clean coat will provide better insulation against the weather.

We have over 300 pets in our care and every one of them is sleeping on a blanket or comforter because of the wonderful generosity of so many pet loving people – thank you all so very much! We will need a continuous influx of 'bedding' as some dogs destroy their beds and some just reach a point of no return so thank you ahead to all who bring us their old comforters and blankets to help our pets. And the doors are lowered and the heat is cranking during this cold snap to keep them all as comfortable as possible while in our care because we care!