

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 10 Oct 16
Rea Cord
Executive Director

Tomorrow night, Tue, 18 Oct, our members and those interested are invited to join our Humane Society's Annual Meeting at 6 pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, 5375 Hwy 231, Wetumpka, AL 36092. We will be reviewing our accomplishments in the past year and looking ahead to 2017. Hope to see you there!

For our supporters that work for the Alabama State or Federal Government and want to donate financially, no better way than through the 2016 State and Federal Combined Campaigns. If you are a State of Alabama employee, then you can donate to us through the State Combined Campaign and our Agency Code is 106803. Federal employees (which includes active military) can donate to us through the Combined Federal Campaign and our Agency Code is 70006. These campaigns are critical to non-profits and help make donating to deserving charities easy as supporters can donate either one time or via monthly payroll deduction. We want to thank all who so generously donate to help not only our shelter, but non-profit agencies everywhere.

As we look to the fall & winter months our intake of kittens will greatly decline and this is also the perfect time to help reduce spring kitten numbers by getting any cats you care for spayed or neutered. Why do we say this? Because reducing intake will lead to reduced euthanasia since there hopefully won't be so many unwanted kittens in need of homes. And also because easily 20-25% of the cats we take in come to us as feral (wild) kittens/cats that are sadly just not adoptable. So far this year we have taken in 1618 cats, have found homes for 504 and have 173 in the shelter and foster homes. With so many cats to pick from, a cat that is not socialized to humans and safe to handle simply has no chance at adoption. After all, no one comes to a shelter to adopt a wild kitty that cannot be handled and will bite and scratch because it is has never been socialized.

For those who feed these feral cats at their home, work or elsewhere, we beg you to take the next and most responsible step and get them spayed or neutered so they don't continue to reproduce. There is no doubt that many of the feral cats in our communities also help with vermin control so the best thing is to trap it (or them), take it to your veterinarian or the spay-neuter clinic in Montgomery to be 'fixed,' bring it home and let it live there as one cat - not one, then six, then 15, then 25 – you get the picture. If the cat is already there and attuned to living off the land, then this is a very humane solution where the feral cat(s) is concerned. What is most needed is to stop the continuous reproduction of cats for which there are no homes. If you are dealing with a large number of feral cats and need advice on how to work a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program, we are happy to give you advice and pointers on how be successful at TNR and the issues you also have to consider. The Alabama Animal Alliance in Montgomery also has tremendous expertise in TNR and you can call them at 334-239-7387. Spaying and neutering not only saves lives now but also into the future so please help reduce shelter cat intake and euthanasia by being reducing the number of unwanted cats in the first place.

For shelter information go to www.elmorehumane.org, call 334-567-3377 or email hselco@bellsouth.net.