

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 13 Nov '17
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If you are like many of us, you are amazed we are in the middle of November already. And Thanksgiving is right around the corner so if you are a pet owner & have any travel plans for the holiday, we certainly hope you have already made arrangements for your pet's care. If you want to board your pet and haven't made your reservation, best get on the phone immediately as most kennels and veterinarians are likely booking up for the holiday. We bring this up as we take far too many reports after holidays of missing pets because the pet "got out" while someone else was supposed to be caring for it. In many instances the owner was never even told and only found out upon their return (nothing wrong with calling your pet sitter (or neighbor) just to check in on when they were last there and how your pet is doing). So when you are entrusting your pet's care to someone else, please make sure they not only care about your pet, but that they are reliable and can reach you in the event of an emergency.

What can you do to help keep your pet safe at home with a pet sitter? Leave printed instructions for your pet's care and emergency contact info for you or someone else if you will be out of contact. Ensure your pet sitter knows how to contact your Veterinarian for an emergency and that you have worked out any potential emergency veterinary payment issues with your pet sitter or your Vet. Giving some written instructions as to lifesaving extent and credit card limits to your Veterinarian can also help immensely in the event time is critical and you cannot be reached. Having identification on your pets is absolute via a rabies tag, custom ID Tag (we can make those at our shelter in a few minutes) or microchip. Oh – have a good photo of your pet(s) on your phone – those are invaluable if you are looking for a lost pet!

Make sure exterior gates are LOCKED to reduce the likelihood of someone accidentally leaving a gate open or entering your property for no good reason. Better for your pet sitter to have a bit of inconvenience going through the house or garage than not securely closing a gate. And do some 'pet proofing' of your house and yard for those things that may get a bored pet into trouble. Better to put some things UP than to come home to destruction and a possibly sick pet.

Of course, make sure you have plenty of pet food on hand and put extra, large water containers full of water inside and outside your house 'just in case.' If your pet is on any medications, make sure to have enough on hand so they don't run out in the middle of your vacation. And plan for 'beyond' your scheduled holiday as never know when a flight delay, or car trouble, or illness might change your 'getting home' plans.

Now in the event your pet escapes while you are gone, impress on your pet sitter the importance of reporting the missing pet immediately! If here in Elmore County call us at 334-567-3377, email us at hselco@bellsouth.net and post pics of your lost pet to "[Lost & Found PETS in Elmore County Alabama](#)" and any number of Lost & Found Pet Facebook pages for our tri-county area. Make sure to post a phone number in your post as it is very frustrating to have a lost or found pet and get no response to your Facebook post. Many a lost pet has been brought to our shelter the same day it got out, yet the owner waited days or more to ever contact us. Nothing we love doing more than reuniting lost pets with their owners.

Taking extra care to find a reliable pet sitter and seeing to the details noted above will not only help keep your pet safe at home while you are gone, but will help you relax a bit more since you won't be worried about your beloved pet(s).