

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 10 Feb '14

Rea Cord

Director

Cupid says, "Even animals need a True Love; someone to love them forever and always take care of them." So what better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than giving a homeless shelter pet a loving home! This Friday, Saturday and Sunday (14-16 Feb) is the National Adoption Weekend sponsored by PetSmart®, Purina® Pro Plan®, Tidy Cats® at our shelter and the area PetSmart stores! We will be at both the Montgomery & Prattville PetSmarts on Friday from 2–5 pm; Saturday from 11 am-4 pm and Sunday from 1–4 pm. We will also be open at the shelter as well all three days so make plans to come for a visit and even if this isn't the right time to adopt, our pets always love visitors! And we can always use volunteers to help us at these events so if you can spare a couple of hours please contact Charline Pope at 334-202-1381 or email her at popecharlie58@yahoo.com .

Saturday's Wetumpka Herald noted a recent County Commission meeting where the subject of our county adopting the state containment law for dogs was brought up (this is not the first time either). This state level law (Section 3-1-5) for the unincorporated areas of a county requires that dogs be confined on an owner's property unless the dog(s) is accompanying its owner. But this 1913 law was written so that it was left up to each county to adopt. As one of the fastest growing counties in Alabama we are simply not the rural county we once were and our shelter strongly supports Elmore County adopting this law for many varied reasons.

While we certainly love dogs we feel that individual property rights and safety should take priority over dogs being allowed to roam at large. How many readers have swerved to miss a loose dog, or worse had an accident as a result of a loose dog in a road? There have been far too many instances of people, innocent pets & livestock being injured or killed by uncontrolled dogs coming onto their private property. What is most frustrating for those tax-paying citizens is that without this containment law, law enforcement can do nothing to help and the injured party can only seek redress through civil court action. What about your right to simply enjoy your own property without the fear of a strange dog coming into your yard where your children, dog(s), chickens, ducks or cat(s) are playing? For those who may be scared of dogs in general, is it right that they cannot enjoy time outside for fear of loose dogs approaching them even if the dog means no harm? And how about cleaning up after a dog that is not even yours?

We find it ironic that those who profess to love their dog but don't believe in keeping it safely at home then don't connect the dots when that dog disappears, or is hit by a car. or is shot. or poisoned. Pets that remain on an owner's property are generally safer and live longer lives since they are not subject to the myriad of dangers they can run into when roaming loose.

And this law would have absolutely no impact on any game hunting with dogs as there are already a myriad of laws covering their activities under the state wildlife & hunting laws.

So, this article is all well and good but useless if YOU don't pick up the phone and call your Elmore County Commissioner to ask them to adopt this containment law for dogs! Please either go to www.elmoreco.org to find your individual Commissioner and call or email him/her, or call the County Commission office at 334-567-1156, politely tell them your name and address so they can let your particular Commissioner know your stance. Those opposed to this will most certainly contact them when they read this, so if you are tired of loose dogs on your property you have to get involved and be heard. Please also be on the lookout for the Commission to hold a public meeting on this issue and show up to be heard – that is how change happens. It is time for Elmore County to adopt this law that has long been adopted by many neighboring counties. If you have further questions please call our shelter at 334-567-3377 and ask for Rea Cord, Executive Director.