

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 10 Mar '14

Rea Cord

Executive Director

Many thanks to the Wetumpka High School Key Club for helping us out Saturday at our PetSmart adoption site and at the shelter! What a great group of students and with their help we had 15 adoptions!

This coming Saturday, 15 March, from 10 am-2 pm at the Wetumpka Wal-Mart, Cain's Chapel United Methodist Church (Deatsville) is hosting a Supply Drive for our shelter. They will have lists of items we need but if you would like to plan ahead just check out our Basic Needs List on our website at [http://www.elmorehumane.org/basic\\_needs\\_list.htm](http://www.elmorehumane.org/basic_needs_list.htm). We greatly appreciate that they are thinking of God's creatures like this as every supply donated helps us use our limited funds for direct animal needs.

Speaking of money, we do hope everyone keeps voting for us in the Shelter Challenge so we can win \$1000 for our pets. Right now we have five dogs in need of heartworm treatment and winning contests like this ensure we can continue to help even more deserving pets who need that 'extra' before they can be adopted. Just go to [www.shelterchallenge.com](http://www.shelterchallenge.com) to 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. 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!

One other very special way to help our shelter is to volunteer as a foster home for animals in need. We will caution, however, that this isn't a task for everyone as it is a lot of responsibility, takes time and can be quite demanding. But the rewards are also immense for those who are able to help us care for pets in need until they are ready to find their forever homes.

What are our foster needs? We do not generally need fosters for healthy and adoptable pets as they need to stay in our shelter where a potential family might see them. This means most fosters are caring for special needs pets – dogs undergoing heartworm treatment, pets recovering from an acute injury, mother dogs and cats with litters, litters without mothers, and babies in need of bottle feeding.

Fostering doesn't necessarily require experience but there are restrictions in regards to how the fostered pet has to be kept, interaction with other pets & children, procedures in the event of a medical emergency, etc. Dogs undergoing heartworm treatment require keeping that dog's activity level restricted for a minimum of 30 days and watching for any signs of distress. Mother's with litters are generally not happy having other animals around their babies so that means they need their own safe and secure space while the puppies or kittens grow. Puppies and kittens that can eat on their own need room to play and will make lots of messes requiring constant clean-up. And bottle feeding a litter is not for the faint-hearted as it can require feeding sessions as little as every two hours, round-the-clock.

Fostering can be extremely rewarding but also emotionally challenging when it is time for the fostered pets to be adopted. All foster parents get attached to their foster's but also find great rewards in knowing they helped them to a bright future. For many pets in shelters, having foster homes are truly life-saving for that pet, and others, as their kennel/cat space can be used by others while they are away in foster.

To learn more about being a pet foster please check out our Foster Manual on our website at <http://www.elmorehumane.org/fostering.htm>. We do have a foster application so if you are interested give us a call at 334-567-3377 or send an email to [hselco@bellouth.net](mailto:hselco@bellouth.net).