

Humane Society of Elmore County News
11 Mar '13

Abandon – this word is one we know far too much about at our shelter. Our dogs and cats are domesticated animals that are no longer truly capable of ‘living off the land’ no matter what some may think. They depend on us for their care and well-being which is why abandoning a dog or cat is not only morally wrong, but punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor as Cruelty to Animals under the Alabama Code Section 13A-11-240(b). This code states: “the word "cruel" as used in this article shall mean: Every act, omission, or neglect, including abandonment, where unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering, including abandonment, is caused or where unnecessary pain or suffering is allowed to continue.”

Is abandonment a significant problem in our area? YES!! Every week we deal with pets that have been dumped out on roads and other’s property, left in homes and yards after their owners have moved, left alone with no provisions for care when the owners go on extended vacation, thrown out of moving vehicles, etc. It is unfathomable to those of us who care about animal welfare that a fellow human could do something so despicable yet most who do go unpunished and others are left to do their best to care for these often unexpected pets that end up at their front door.

No matter how mad we may be at the people who dump these pets, we commend all the people who take them in, pick them up off the side of road, take the sick and injured to veterinarians, try to find the owners and do all they can to help these scared and bewildered pets who wanted so little in return for their loyalty.

These abandoned pet are a huge reason for shelter’s existence but almost 30% of our intake are pets surrendered by their owners, so there is absolutely no reason for any pet to be discarded or abandoned by their owner. We would much rather have an owner surrender a pet they can no longer keep or take care of than abandon that pet to a potentially terrible fate. To that end we are open for intake six days every week, Mon-Thu 8-4; Fri 8-5 & Sat 9-3 and we do promise to do everything in our power to find loving & committed homes for as many of our pets as we possibly can.

If you have any questions about surrendering a pet or if you have found a stray or believe an animal to have been abandoned please call us at 334-567-3377 or email hseico@bellsouth.net for assistance. And our shelter is located at 255 Central Plank Road (Hwy 9) in Wetumpka – take Hwy 231 North, turn right onto Hwy 9 and we are the very first thing on the left.