

Humane Society of Elmore County News
18 Mar '13

It's March MUTT Madness thanks to Mix 103.3 FM! You can vote for your favorite dog representing each county in the River Region and each county shelter also has some too cute shelter dogs up for a vote as well. Just go to www.mix103.com and then go to the 'Contests' link. Easy to vote once for your favorite and the winners will get some great prizes!

Spring is right around the corner and that brings a huge influx of young animals, many orphaned. One very special way to help our shelter is to volunteer as a foster home for animals in need. Now this isn't a task for everyone as it is a lot of responsibility and can be quite demanding. But the rewards are also immense for those who are able to bring animals in need into their homes until they are ready to find their forever homes.

Fostering is not generally for healthy and adoptable pets as they need to stay in our shelter where a potential adopter might see them. Starting about this time of year we most often need fosters who are capable of bottle feeding orphaned puppies and kittens, or who can safely house a mother dog or cat with her litter until they can be weaned, or who can take on a young litter of puppies or kittens who need time to grow before they can be placed for adoption.

But bottle feeding a litter is not for the faint-hearted as it can require feeding sessions as often as every two hours, round-the-clock. Then as the puppies or kittens grow, they become more active which also means they get into a lot more trouble and make bigger messes! Mother dogs and cats with litters mean not only babies, but an adult animal in the household and they simply cannot intermingle with family pets and must be kept safely contained at all times.

Fosters for dogs undergoing heartworm treatment are needed year round since most treatments take thirty days and other dogs could use their kennel space during that time. Right now we have four dogs in need of heartworm treatment, each in the 30-40 lb range and it is critical that their activity be limited which means they must be crated and leash walked, not allowed to run or romp with other dogs or simply get too active.

Being a pet foster has requirements and can be quite challenging so there is a screening process to become a foster family. For those who join this very special group the rewards are knowing you have not only save the lives of your foster pet(s), but that your actions may lead to a lifetime of love for that pet and the family who adopts it. To learn more about being a pet foster for our shelter please check out our Foster Manual on our website at www.elmorehumane.org/fostering.htm . If you then think this is challenge you are up for and want to try give us a call at 334-567-3377 or send an email to hselco@bellouth.net so we can then see what kind of fostering will be a best fit for you and our wonderful, loving pets in need.