

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 19 Mar '12

Rea Cord

Executive Director

It won't be official until Wednesday but we should have won \$1000 from being #1 in Alabama in The Animal Rescue Site Shelter Challenge! Thank you so much to everyone who diligently voted for us on-line each and every day since January as we can certainly put this money to good use. We aren't 100%, but think their rules have changed so we might have to wait until the 3<sup>rd</sup> round to again compete, BUT there are other ways for us to win \$1000 in this Challenge and when round #2 starts we'll let you know all the new rules and opportunities. Thank you so much to our wonderful supporters for rallying your friends, family and coworkers on our behalf!

One very special way to help our shelter (or any humane shelter for that matter) 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 family might see them. 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. 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.

There is a screening process to become a foster family, but 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 please check out our Foster Manual on our website at <http://www.elmorehumane.org/fostering.htm> . Then if you think this is challenge you want to try give us a call at 334-567-3377 or send an email to [hselco@bellouth.net](mailto:hselco@bellouth.net).

*“Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer*