

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 21 Mar '16
Rea Cord
Executive Director

It was a great Supply Drive at the Wetumpka Wal-Mart this past Saturday and many thanks to all of our volunteers who made it happen and to all who purchased and donated supplies AND almost \$700 to help our animals! Those supplies truly help so we can use donated funds for direct animal care – thank you so much to ALL of our supporters!

We ask everyone to keep voting for us in the Shelter Challenge so we can win \$1000 for our pets. Winning contests like this ensure we can continue to help deserving pets that need a bit 'more' before they can be adopted. Just go to 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!

Easter is this Sunday and we want to caution against getting or giving baby chickens, ducks or rabbits as pets for children for Easter. Why? Thousands of these baby animals end up dying of neglect or injury from un-prepared or uncommitted owners and that simply is not in keeping with the message of Easter.

Raising chickens, ducks or rabbits can be quite rewarding but are you prepared for the fact that baby chicks and ducklings need to be kept at 95 degrees the first week of their life, 90 the next, and so on, until they are 4-5 weeks old and fully feathered? The ideal source of heat is a red heat bulb, and you'll want a thermometer in their cage along with their own special food and fresh water at all times, bedding, shelter & space to grow.

Baby rabbits also need to be kept clean, warm and safe and as they grow will need a roomy house/ pen where they can romp and be kept safe from predators which could turn out to be your own dog or cat.

One chicken or duck can be quite lonely since they are flock animals, so are you prepared to maintain more than one? Do you know that chickens and ducks live ten to fifteen years and rabbits eight to twelve years? What are your plans for your child's duckling, chick or rabbit if you are not truly committed? And what if you make a mistake and keep a boy and girl rabbit together – it is possible for some breeds of rabbits to breed as early as 8-12 week of age meaning even more pets in need of new homes.

We think a much better idea to celebrate Easter is to purchase a stuffed toy duck, chicken or rabbit for your child since a stuffed toy can be set aside when the child tires of it with no repercussions. After all, if you are not fully prepared for what these babies need and they die in a few days, then isn't that a sad Easter memory for your child? Easter is about life, so let's celebrate that by not putting baby animals at risk as a living child's 'toy.'