

Let's talk cats! Did you know that there are actually more pet cats than dogs in the U.S.? Cats outnumber dogs as the #1 companion animal with 33% of households having on average 2.2 cats. But all of these loved and pampered cats are matched by an almost equal number of un-owned or stray (many feral) cats. Since the vast majority of these stray cats and at least 25% of owned cats are not spayed or neutered it should be no wonder that shelters are generally always filled with cats desperately in need of homes. On average cats produce one to two litters of 4-6 kittens every year and about 20% of the cats in homes just showed up as strays.

Why all of these numbers? Because we know that kitten season is right around the corner and our shelter will soon be busting at the seams with kittens, not all of which will find homes. While we receive puppies year round, kittens tend to come in huge numbers from about April through July – often as many as 20-40 each day! Last year our shelter took in 1950 cats and kittens – 758 from owners & 1192 as 'strays. Of those 1950, 583 were adult cats and 1367 were kittens (under six months old). As you can see that we took in almost 2 ½ times the number of kittens as adults which is why spaying and neutering is so important to all of us in shelters!

But our intake is only a portion of the available cats and kittens in the area, and there just are not enough homes for so many unwanted cats and kittens. If you have an un-spayed female cat (or dog) over the age of four months old – she needs a spay appointment with your vet within the next 30 days! And if you have a male cat (or dog), he needs to be neutered since it takes two to tango. Besides preventing yet another unnecessary litter, 'fixing' your cat will reduce problems with cat fights, cat roaming and incessant yowling, spraying to mark territory, diseases and more.

Another huge challenge where cats are concerned is lack of identification and a failure of many owners to actively look for their missing cat. Sadly very few cats coming into shelters are reclaimed by their owners because most cats do not have a collar or tag or microchip, and because their owner(s) never call to report their missing kitty. Since about 70% of the cats that come to us are perfectly friendly, in all likelihood they are someone's pet, so please call us immediately at 334-567-3377, or fill in our lost/found report on our website at [www.elmorehumane.org](http://www.elmorehumane.org), or get to posting on Facebook if your cat is missing.

Want to keep your cat from becoming lost? The single best way to protect your cat from becoming lost, injured or killed is to keep it as an inside only kitty. While we know that many cats do enjoy life outside, the world can be a very unsafe place for your roaming kitty. Statistics show that the average age of an indoor only cat is around 13 years old versus 3 years for an outside kitty – telling numbers.

Our cat adoption fee for all cats under one year old is only \$50 and we just ask for a donation for those over one year old which will cover their basic immunizations & de-worming, spaying or neutering, rabies vaccination (if old enough), microchip, free visit to your participating veterinarian, up to 45 days of health insurance for injury or illness, and a goodie bag chocked full of information, treats, food and more to help you get off to a good start. While we don't have very many cats (and no kittens) right now for adoption, that will change dramatically in about a month so please stay tuned to our Facebook and website ([www.elmorehumane.org](http://www.elmorehumane.org)) or come to the shelter at 255 Central Plank Road in Wetumpka, AL: Mon-Thu 10-4, Fri 10-5 & Sat 9-3.