

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 30 Mar '15
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Executive Director

Huge thanks to Cub Scout Troop 429 who partnered with the Predator's Motorcycle Association to hold a very successful Supply Drive for us at the Wetumpka Wal-Mart on Saturday. We greatly appreciate their hard work on behalf of our pets and also thank everyone who bought and donated much needed pet food and supplies! Thank you ALL!

The greatness of Scouting continues to benefit our shelter as Hunter Rollins is working to raise money for his Eagle Scout project to build a Gazebo for our Play Yard. We hope everyone can come out and support Hunter at his Yard Sale, this Saturday, 4 April, starting at 7am at the former National Guard Army parking lot beside the Russell Do It Center on Hwy 231 in Wetumpka. Hunter says he will have auto parts, bikes, clothes, Hot Wheel Cars still in packages, NASCAR collectibles still in packages, household items, tools, toys, dishes, pots and pans, books, shop tables and much more. Please stop by and help Hunter attain his coveted Eagle Scout honor while also helping our shelter!

Of course, 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, going down 5 degrees per week 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.'