

Humane Society of Elmore County News - 11 Apr '16

Rea Cord

Executive Director

This week (10-16 Apr '16) is National Animal Control Officer (ACO) Appreciation Week and we certainly hope you thank your local ACO for his/her hard work whenever you do cross paths. Our county & each town has ACO's to assist citizens and animals alike and these men and women go far beyond the old days of the 'dog catcher' as they work to enforce state and local laws, help animals in need, protect the health and safety of people, and resolve issues involving animals.

Animal Control Officers often go far beyond just capturing wayward animals as they deal with dog and cat bite/attack cases, mediate disputes between neighbors over animal issues, round up loose livestock that have gotten out of pastures, investigate animal cruelty and neglect cases, work with their fellow law enforcement on other cases where animals are often innocent victims, investigate and often seize abandoned pets, etc. All areas of Elmore County have a containment or "leash law" for dogs and Wetumpka & Tallassee add to that with a "leash law" for cats. City noise ordinances and barking dogs are often at crossed paths and some towns have limits on the number of pets in city zoning ordinances. And some, but not all of our cities restrict livestock within city limits.

Our Animal Control Officers are dedicated professionals who deserve respect from the public they serve – many are Alabama Peace Officer Standards and Training (APOST) certified officers and some have attended specialized animal control training at the state and national level to learn about things like safe capture techniques, animal identification, disease issues, legal issues, investigative techniques, court proceedings, rabies control, public education, wildlife and exotics, and so much more. Animal issues often put them in harm's way from both animals and people and their call volume often means they have to triage cases to deal with the most serious, or potentially serious, the quickest.

So we just want to say thank you to each and every Animal Control Officer for all they do to help animals and people throughout Elmore County – your hard work is greatly appreciated.

This week is also National Volunteer Appreciation Week! As a non-profit organization we can truly never thank our volunteers enough as they are the very essence of our work to help animals in need. Our Tails End Thrift Store is our single largest fund raising activity and is 100% volunteer run. These volunteers work tirelessly receiving donations, working in the store and helping shoppers throughout the week and we are immensely grateful to them for their dedication and love for animals. The volunteers who help at our Saturday PetSmart adoption events are critical in helping even more of our pets find their new homes and we also hope they have some fun meeting and playing with the pups as they help out. All the volunteers who help us in the shelter, take puppies to nursing homes, man our booth at area events, vote for us on on-line contests, tell others about us and simply provide moral support are our life blood and we are a better shelter for your support.

As you can see there are many ways to you can volunteer to help our shelter! For more information on volunteering go to [www.elmorehumane.org/volunteeropp\\_.htm](http://www.elmorehumane.org/volunteeropp_.htm) . You can also stop by the shelter at 255 Central Plank Road in Wetumpka to pick up a Volunteer Form, or you can email us for a form at [hselco@bellsouth.net](mailto:hselco@bellsouth.net). Or feel free to call us at 334-567-3377 if you have any questions about becoming a volunteer!

Do you ride motorcycles (or just think they are really cool), love animals and want to support our shelter? Then make sure to join us for the Predators Riding Motorcycle Association's 13th annual "Cruisin 'fer Critters" on Sat, May 9<sup>th</sup> at Papa T's, 3420 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL! Registration starts at 11 am and each 'hand' is \$20 for which you get an event patch, goodie bag, food, door prize ticket and more such as live music, motorcycle games and just a great day of fun. Sponsorships are still available and start at \$100 this so please contact John West at 334-294-7154 or email us at the shelter at [hselco@bellsouth.net](mailto:hselco@bellsouth.net) if you would like to be a sponsor or for any questions.