

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 2 Apr '12
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Director

Spending time outside gardening in the company of your pets is a wonderful way to spend a day and to help you get started we hope you can stop by the Montgomery Garden Center this coming Saturday, 7 April. We have been invited to join in their spring celebration and will have a few of our adoptable puppies and dogs with us looking for their forever homes from approximately 11 am – 3 pm. We would love a few volunteers to help us so please contact Charline Pope at popecharlie58@yahoo.com so she can get you scheduled.

We will also be cranking up with our first Supply Drive of the season at the Millbrook WalMart this Saturday, 7 April from 9 am – 1 pm. These supply drives truly help us as the donated supplies keep our always limited funds for our animals. Our volunteers will be set up in front of the store with cards showing our needs list and the most needed items will be marked inside the store. So if you need to do some shopping on Saturday, we hope this will make it a bit easier for you to donate to help our animals. We would love some more volunteers, so if you can help please contact our Volunteer Coordinator noted above.

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

Now 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 some very specific and warm temperatures until they are fully feathered out? 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. Keeping a baby chick or duck in a shoebox for children to 'play' with is simply unacceptable, so at a minimum please make sure you care for these babies appropriately.

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.

And toddlers and these tiny babies can be a recipe for disaster for the animal since a toddler that falls while having fun with the chicken or duck or rabbit may end up crushing it instead.

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 for ten to fifteen years, and rabbits eight to twelve years, so what are your plans for these 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 easily be set aside when the child has lost interest. 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.'

"You are not responsible for the programming you picked up in childhood. However, as an adult, you are one hundred percent responsible for fixing it." Ken Keyes, Jr.