

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 3 Apr '17
Rea Cord
Executive Director

Many, many thanks to everyone who came out Friday night for a wonderful music filled evening at [My Place Uptown at Atlanta Crossing](#) to support our shelter. And HUGE THANKS to the members of [Bama Jammers Band](#), [Outside the Inside](#), [Britt Johnson](#) and [Abby Katherine Douglas](#) for your incredible musical talent! It was a wonderful treat for the crowd and our staff to enjoy this evening of all original music which raised well over \$700 for our shelter! But don't fret if you missed out as they will be doing a second evening for us on 30 June – also at My Place so make sure to mark your calendar!

The 15th annual [Cruisin 'fer Critters](#) is coming up on Saturday, 29 April, at [DeJa Vu](#), 121 N. Burbank Drive, Montgomery, AL! Registration starts at 11 am with last bike out by 1pm. Each 'hand' is \$15 for which you get an event patch, goodie bag, food, door prize ticket and more such as live music, bike/car wash, fun live auction and just a great day of fun. Best hand wins \$250, 2nd best wins \$100 and worst hand wins \$50 (must be present to win). There is a \$5 minimum if you don't want to play a 'hand.' Sponsorships are available so please contact Joey "Shaggy" Keithahn at 334-558-1423 or Sherri Clower-Kirkley at 334-207-3773.

Heartworms are something we sadly deal with quite a bit in our shelter as pets are susceptible to heartworms all year round in Alabama. Heartworms are transferred through mosquito bites and result in actual worms living in the heart of an affected dog (or many other mammals). These worms cause damage to the heart and also many other organs so affected pets often die far too young from resultant complications such as congestive heart failure or kidney disease. All it takes is one bite from an infected mosquito for your pet to get heartworms.

The key is PREVENTING heartworms in the first place. Not only is this easy to do, it is exceedingly cheap when compared to the cost (and danger) of having to treat your dog for heartworms. Dogs newly infected with heartworms may not exhibit any symptoms which is why an annual blood test by your pet's veterinarian is necessary. Once your Veterinarian determines your dog does not have the adult heartworms, they can then prescribe a monthly prevention that you can give your pet at home. The drugs to prevent heartworms are completely different than the drug necessary to treat a dog with heartworms so it is very important to never give your pet heartworm medicine until they have been tested by your veterinarian.

The good news is heartworm prevention is safe, easy and inexpensive. There are a variety of options for preventing heartworm infection in both dogs and cats, including monthly tablets and chewables, monthly topicals and a six-month injectable product (available only for dogs), all available from your veterinarian. These products are NOT available for you to purchase at a pet supply store, your local feed store or on-line – you must get these from a licensed Veterinarian! These preventatives are extremely effective, and when administered properly will prevent heartworm infection by interrupting the life cycle so they cannot become adult heartworms. An added benefit from keeping your pet on heartworm preventative is that many of them also prevent other parasites like roundworms, whipworms and hookworms (a few also prevent tapeworms), AND some products also prevent fleas and ticks.

In the long run keeping your dog (and cat) on monthly heartworm prevention will not only keep your pet healthy it will save you a LOT of money and heartache for a very expensive, lengthy and risky adult heartworm treatment. Since we certainly have our share of mosquitos here in Alabama, Heartworm disease is prevalent so please, please, please keep your pets on monthly heartworm prevention.