

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 14 May '12

Rea Cord

Executive Director

While we have had nice cool down the past few days, the hot days of summer are just around the corner and from a few phone calls we have already received it appears some cautions to pet owners are in order. The first thing to remind pet owners is that our dogs and cats don't sweat like we do and have to pant to try and control their body temperature but panting can only cool them down so much.

If you like taking your pet with you in your vehicle and the outside temperature is probably above about 70 degrees, then you MUST think ahead in regards to your itinerary BEFORE leaving the house. As temperatures warm up you need to make sure that you will not be stopping anywhere where your pet must stay in the car for more than just a couple of minutes as Alabama heat can seriously injure or kill a pet left in a parked car for even a short time – and yes, even with the windows slightly open! Just last week we received calls from concerned citizens about dogs in vehicles in area retail parking lots. Any time we get a call we immediately call the animal control officer and/or police to investigate as leaving a dog in a hot car is potentially not only life threatening to the dog, but also a possible animal cruelty violation. If you leave your vehicle running with the air-conditioning on for your pet, just make sure that you don't do that for too long as mechanical failures could occur so that the A/C is no longer cooling and the results could be devastating.

For those that travel with their dog in the back of a pickup truck, how about putting your hand on the truck bed and you will feel that it is much too hot to be safe for your dog and can cause bad burns to the pads of your dog's feet. Put your dog in the cab of the truck with you so it too can enjoy the air conditioning and your company.

If you have outside dogs with dog houses, those houses must be under adequate shade else wise they will turn into mini-ovens unsuitable for protecting your dog from the elements. And if you think an unshaded dog house is adequate shelter for your pet, just crawl in one as the temps get back in the 90's and see for yourself how 'comfy' it is. Better yet, stick a thermometer inside and you will see why your dog avoids it like a fire ant bed. Of course, our wish is for dogs and cats to join in the fun inside your home so they can enjoy the air conditioning or fans with their human family.

It was another great Supply Drive at the Wetumpka Wal-Mart this past Saturday and many thanks to all of our volunteers and to all who purchased and donated supplies to help our animals! Our next Supply Drive will be on Saturday, 2 June at the Tallassee WalMart so if you can volunteer anytime between 9 am – 1 pm please contact Charline at 334-202-1381 or [popecharlie58@yahoo.com](mailto:popecharlie58@yahoo.com).

The Elmore Antique Tractor Show and Pull is coming up this Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10 am on Politic Road in Elmore. We will have our booth there and hope to have a lot of visitors!

*Pet Facts – Dogs only sweat from the bottoms of their feet, the only way they can discharge heat is by panting. Cats do not have any sweat glands.*