

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 16 May '16  
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On Saturday, 7 May, a simply wonderful group came together at The Elms in Coosada for the 'Run for the Roses - Coosada Style,' Kentucky Derby Party to raise money for our shelter! With fancy hats, bow ties and incredible food in abundance these dedicated pet lovers raised almost \$3400 for our shelter! We will do a shout out to all who hosted this event once we make sure we have all their names, but suffice to say we are very lucky that this group has enough faith in our work to continue this class event for seven straight years now. Thank you ALL so very, very much!

We had a super Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> thanks to Charline Pope and all who donated supplies and money at Millbrook Walmart Supply Drive! Charline brought back a truckload of donated supplies and over \$200 and all of that truly helps as our intake starts its late spring/summer increase meaning more animals in our care. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

This week is Dog Bite Awareness Week and while we love our dogs, owners also need to be aware of the risks involved with dog bites. Sadly children, followed by senior citizens, are the most frequent victims of dog bites and occur most often during simple everyday activities. Besides the injury and trauma, dog bites are costly. Insurance companies paid out more than \$480 million in homeowner's insurance claims in 2013 at an average cost of over \$27,000 per dog bite claim.

Education and situational awareness are the best preventions so here are a few tips to help prevent a dog bite. A general tip is to always be cautious around strange dogs, and to treat your own dog with respect. Because children are the most common victims of dog bites, parents and caregivers should:

- NEVER leave a baby or small child alone with a dog.

- Teach children not to approach strange dogs or try to pet dogs through fences.

- Teach children to ask permission from the dog's owner before petting the dog.

- Teach children to leave dogs alone when the dog is eating or playing with a toy or a chewy.

- Teach children not to put their face up to a dog's face and to not kiss or hug dogs.

- Teach children not to scream, run at or away from, or throw things at strange dogs

As a dog owner you can also take measures to help ensure your own dog will not be involved in a bite by:

- Carefully selecting your pet from a reputable source.

- Socializing your puppy/dog so it feels at ease around people and other animals.

- Not putting your dog in a position where it feels threatened or teased.

- Keeping your pet safely contained at home and if fenced, making sure gates are secure.

- Training your dog. Basic commands help dogs understand what is expected of them and help build a bond of trust between you and your dog.

- Walking and exercising your dog regularly for its physical & mental health.

- Avoiding highly excitable games like wrestling or tug of war that might escalate.

- Using a leash in public to ensure you are able to control your dog.

- Keeping your dog healthy; having your dog vaccinated against preventable diseases, taking your dog to your Veterinarian for routine checkups.

- Spaying or neutering your pet to reduce potential behavior issues associated with females in season and males fighting to get to those females in season.

No one wants to suffer the injury of a dog bite so please think ahead and take measures to prevent that ever happening to you, your children or others.

