

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 5 May '14

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Executive Director

Right now we are all enjoying gorgeous days and wonderfully cool nights, but those wonderful sunny and hot Alabama days are right around the corner so time to make sure your pets are prepared for the impending heat. Pet owners need to remember that our dogs and cats don't sweat like we do so have to pant to try and control their body temperature. But panting can only cool them down so much so planning is in order if you are going to undertake activities with your pet in our hot weather.

Just like us our pets need unlimited clean, cool water. Make sure your pets have plenty of fresh water and that it is located in a shaded area to help it stay as cool as possible. Many dogs will benefit from having a children's plastic wading pool ½ full of nice cool water that they can get into if it gets too hot and no better time than now to purchase one and have it at the ready.

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.

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 and generally it is simply better to leave your pet at home than take any chance on it having to stay in your car for any length of time no matter how short. If you do have your pet with you in hot weather, please 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 (or child) left in a parked car for even a short time. We encourage citizens to call your local police and report any pets in parked cars during hot weather so they can take appropriate actions. And 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 on a 90+ degree day 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.

Barring bad weather or some change in plans we have a Supply Drive at the Millbrook Walmart this Saturday, May 10th 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. 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. Our needs right now are Pedigree Dry Dog Food, Evolve Ultra Concentrated Bleach Tablets, Bleach, Fabuloso Liquid Detergent, Kitty Litter (clay, non-clumping), Ammonia, Paper Towels, 40 & 13 Gal Plastic Garbage Bags, AA Batteries, Spray Nozzles for hoses, Cheese Whiz, Q-Tips, Scotch Tape and Packing/Shipping Tape. To volunteer and help please contact Charline at 334-202-1381 or popecharlie58@yahoo.com.