

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 7 May '11  
Rea Cord  
Director

We are happy to report that 23 of our pets found their new homes during the three-day PETsMART National Adoption Weekend! Many thanks to all of the volunteers who came out to help in Montgomery & Prattville as your presence allowed us to take even more pets for people to see.

So did you adopt a pet this weekend or perhaps you are going to sometime during the month of May? North Shore Animal League America is sponsoring the 2012 Pet Adoptathon "Why I Am Adopting A Mutt-i-gree®" (Shelter Pet) Essay Contest (200 words or less). This contest is open to new adopters who complete a new adoption of a dog, cat, puppy or kitten from participating Pet Adoptathon shelters (like us), from May 5th thru May 31st, 2012. The Grand Prize for the winning essay is a trip for 4 to Warner Brothers studios in Los Angeles, CA. Go to [www.AnimalLeague.org/PetAdoptathonContest](http://www.AnimalLeague.org/PetAdoptathonContest) to enter.

We take our adoptions seriously as we want each of our pets to go to the best possible home. We only wish others would do the same and if they don't, then even more reason to get their pets spayed or neutered to prevent more litters who won't all find good homes. How many of our readers have had to come to the rescue of a litter of puppies or kittens literally thrown away like garbage? We have had litters brought to us that had been found in sealed boxes, in dumpsters, in garbage bags, in garbage cans or just wandering on the edge of a road looking for a mother that was no longer there to protect and feed them. This is not only a chargeable animal abuse offense, it is simply a horrendous act of callousness and cruelty! And for those who come across these animals and have the goodwill to help them it is also an inconvenience to their day as they worry about how best to help these abandoned pets.

More often than not these 'thrown away' litters are also far too young to be away from their mother, further risking their survival. There are distinct reasons that puppies and kittens need to stay with their mother and litter until they are at least six-seven weeks old and our shelter does not even adopt puppies or kittens until they are at least eight weeks old. No reputable breeder would sell their puppies or kittens younger than eight weeks old and some wait until ten weeks. Why are these ages important? Besides the nutritional advantage of staying with mom long enough, puppies and kittens learn a lot of lessons from their mothers & littermates as they grow. Puppies weaned too early can develop potential health and behavior challenges down the road – some of which are cute, some irritating and some may result in that pet being given away, abandoned or taken to a shelter down the road. So, if you do have a litter of puppies or kittens, please try to keep them until they are a bit older and they should receive their first set of vaccinations and de-worming treatments to help protect them from disease and internal parasites. If you do have to bring them to the shelter it also helps if they are as close to eight weeks old as possible since space is our limiting factor and being able to place them for immediate adoption truly helps.

To help us care for all of these incoming litters, our next Supply Drive is this coming Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Wetumpka Wal-Mart from 9 am – 1 pm. If you can volunteer to help us with this, please contact Charline Pope at [popecharlie58@yahoo.com](mailto:popecharlie58@yahoo.com) or call her at 334-202-1381.

Pet Fun Fact: Seventy percent of people sign their pet's name on greeting cards and 58% include their pets in family & holiday portraits - American Animal Hospital Association survey.