

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 22 Sep ‘14

Rea Cord

Director

It was another glorious Sunday afternoon at Ft. Toulouse for our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Bark in the Park! HUGE thanks to our staff, board, volunteers, vendors, educators, Ft. Toulouse staff and ALL who came out to help make this a great event! Where else can you go to enjoy an early fall afternoon surrounded by fellow pet lovers and oh so many great dogs just having fun! Check out our shelter Facebook for tons of great photos and we hope you were there with us instead of saying – darn, wish I had gone! Give us a week and we will also update our website ([www.elmorehumane.org](http://www.elmorehumane.org)) with a detailed list of all the wonderful participants & sponsors who helped make this such a success.

A huge part of our extended shelter family are all the great folks in the Predators Motorcycle Association and we were simply thrilled that they routed their Sunday ride to join us at Bark in the Park AND bring us the Cruisin’ fer Critters final check for \$8600!!!! That is simply stupendous and we are truly lucky to have such a wonderful group that works so hard to help our shelter and all the pets we care for. Thank you so very much to each and every member of the Predators and all who work so hard to make Cruisin’ such a success!

We are also thrilled that we should have won another \$1000 for our pets (it won’t be official until Wednesday) for finishing #1 in Alabama in The Animal Rescue Site Shelter Challenge! We didn’t have to push and announce this as often this time because of our incredible supporters who jumped on the voting from the very first day and also because the supporters of the Prattville-Autauga Humane Society (PAHS) were also voting for us since their shelter was not eligible. So when this contest starts again, and we are not eligible, we will ask our supporters to please vote for PAHS and keep this most needed money helping pets in the River Region! Thank you so much to everyone for voting daily and keeping us in such a commanding lead!

Shifting gears – World Rabies Day is coming up this Sun, 28 Sep. Thanks to science and modern veterinary care most of us never give this horrible disease much thought, but Rabies kills over 55,000 humans world-wide each year. Rabies is caused by a virus that can spread from animals to people through exposure to the saliva or nervous tissue from a rabid animal and while it is 100% preventable, it is nearly always fatal without proper post-exposure treatment.

In Alabama 39 animals tested positive for rabies in 2013, 55 were positive in 2012 and 82 were positive for the disease in 2011. Raccoons and bats are most frequently positive for rabies in Alabama. Rabies prevention starts with the pet owner as all dogs, cats and ferrets are required to be vaccinated against rabies. Sadly only about 50-60% of the dogs and 20-25% of the cats in Alabama are vaccinated for rabies. Keeping pets vaccinated against rabies is vital, as is having them spayed or neutered to reduce roaming and fighting which helps further reduce their exposure to this deadly disease. And while we love watching wildlife, enticing them close to homes, children and pets is just not a good idea. Please don’t leave food outside for your pets; keep your garbage securely covered; please don’t keep wildlife as pets and teach children to steer clear of unfamiliar animals – even if they appear friendly.

If you are bitten by a domestic or wild animal, go to the appropriate medical facility for treatment and contact your local health department or animal control. Domestic pets that have bitten a human generally requires a mandatory ten-day quarantine at a licensed veterinary hospital and the County Health Department will follow-up to see that applicable state laws are followed. In the event of a bite from an animal that cannot be captured, the person will most likely have to undergo rabies post-exposure treatment – remember, untreated rabies is FATAL!