

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 23 Sep ‘13

Rea Cord

Director

Mother Nature gave us the most perfect first day of fall for our 8th annual Bark in the Park at Ft. Toulouse (www.forttoulouse.com) yesterday! If you missed out on Bark in the Park yesterday you truly missed out on a wonderful day of “dog fun” at Ft. Toulouse! For fear of missing someone, we just want to send a huge round of applause to our staff, board, volunteers, vendors, educators, media, Ft. Toulouse staff and ALL who came out to help make this a great event where so many people and dogs can come together for an afternoon of fun and camaraderie. If you are a Facebook fan check out the huge album of wonderful photos already uploaded and we will get them on our website (www.elmorehumane.org) later this week along with a detailed list of all the wonderful vendors & sponsors who helped make this such a success.

We like to think of Bark in the Park as more of a celebration of our shelter, our supporters and all who love pets, and that it brought in roughly \$7000 to help our pets is certainly a wonderful benefit! We heard a lot of positive comments on this year’s Bark in the Park T-Shirt and have a few left for a measly \$10 – just stop by the shelter at your convenience but don’t delay as there are not that many left!

Shifting gears – World Rabies Day is coming up this Sat, 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.

There were approximately 7,000 dog and cat bites in Alabama last year many resulting in post exposure treatment at a cost of from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per treatment. In the U.S., typically 1-3 cases of human rabies are reported per year, mostly from contact with rabid bats. In Alabama, raccoons and bats are the most frequent wildlife to be found rabid. In 2012 there were 55 cases of rabies diagnosed in animals in Alabama (62% were raccoons and 18% were bats).

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!

And we are jumping right into our next fund-raiser! Who wouldn’t want to spend a week with family and/or friends at a huge ocean-front house? For only \$5 ticket, or five tickets for \$20, you just might win a week at a fantastic, five-bedroom house in NagsHead, N.C. from 25 May – 1 Jun ’14. We will get all the details on our Facebook and website this week but don’t miss out - stop by the shelter to get your ticket(s).