

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 28 Jan ‘19
Rea Cord
Executive Director

Last week we cautioned about our pets/livestock and cold weather. And with another blast of winter hitting us this week, PLEASE take measures to ensure your pets are safe from freezing temperatures. Sure, there are some dog breeds who are built for and thoroughly enjoy cold weather! Breeds like Siberian Huskies, Saint Bernards, Great Pyrenees, and more, were bred to work in cold temperatures and have the size and coats to handle low temperatures. These hardy breeds are all generally large dogs and as long as they are healthy, have thick coats free from matting, and have shelter so they can get out of the wind and rain, they will be fine. But for so many other breeds, the temps coming up this week are simply too cold for them to be outside for any extended periods of time. A sadly too common site in our area are Pitbull Terrier type dogs chained to trees without shelter (a chargeable cruelty offense in Alabama) or with a plastic and drafty dog crate with no bedding of any kind. Pitbull Terriers have zero undercoat and are simply NOT built to live out in sub-freezing temps! At best they are miserable trying to stay warm and at worse they can get hypothermia and yes, even freeze to death here in Alabama. And very small dogs simply do not have the body mass to withstand cold temps and can quickly succumb to cold temperatures, even if they have shelter outside.

The easiest solution is to just bring your pet(s) inside with you where everyone can stay warm together. For those pets that are not brought inside it is imperative that you make sure they have appropriate shelter from wind and precipitation. And a plastic igloo with no bedding is NOT adequate shelter this week! Dog and cats need dry bedding of some kind that they can curl up or burrow into, and their shelter needs to be positioned so the wind cannot blow directly into it. For outside cats there are easy ways to make housing using plastic totes, Styrofoam, straw or pet beds (just Google “Feral Cat Houses for Winter”). Obviously outdoor cats are quite mobile so can generally find suitable shelter but that leads to a caution for everyone to bang on your vehicle hood before cranking in the event a cat is underneath from when the engine was warm after you got home the night before.

If you see dogs in distress and without appropriate housing from the weather, please call authorities without delay so they can send an Animal Control Officer to talk to the owner or bring the animal to our shelter where it will be warm, dry, fed and safe.

Stop by our Shelter this week (Mon-Fri 8-5 & Sat 8-4 though if you also want to visit our pets for adoption, please wait until 10 am) to get your ticket(s) for our 9th annual ‘Getting Down with the Dawgs’ \$10,000 Drawdown! We are looking forward to the fun on Friday, 15 March 2019 at the Entertainment Center, Wind Creek Wetumpka, 100 River Oaks Dr, Wetumpka, AL!

With the purchase of a \$100 ticket you will have a 1 in 312 opportunity to win \$10,000 (you do NOT have to be present to win the grand prize)! Besides a chance to win big, each ticket holder and guest will also get a delicious buffet dinner, chance for door prizes, cash bar and so much more.

On 15 March the Wind Creek Entertainment Center doors will open at 6:00 pm, dinner catered by Wind Creek will begin at 6:30 pm and the Drawdown will start at 7:15 pm. If not for yourself, buy a ticket as a gift, or purchase one in the name of a special organization you support! For any questions contact us at 334-567-3377 or email hselco@bellsouth.net.

