

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 24 Dec '18 (print media)

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Executive Director

We hope everyone had a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS! The shelter will be open this week normal hours Thu – Sat. We will close again at noon on Mon, 31 Jan and remain closed on Tuesday, 1 Jan '19 for New Year's Day. One thing we know in shelters is that we will be inundated with lost pet reports after New Year's Eve. Reality is that fireworks and pets are NOT a good mix and many pets get lost on New Year's Eve as they try to escape from scary fireworks or loud parties.

Prevention is always the best method, so how do you keep your pet safe this coming weekend & New Year's Eve? Easy - just bring your dogs and cats INSIDE BEFORE any fireworks start and keep them in until well after all of the flashes and bangs are finished for the evening. They may still be scared and hide in a quiet spot in the house, but at least they will be safe at home. If your pet cannot come in the house, then consider containing it in your garage or shop or barn but please make sure to put pet hazardous items out of their reach. Once the fireworks are done you should then be able to safely let your pet back outside but be prepared to contain your pet(s) again if any fireworks start up again. Since it gets dark so early this time of year, don't delay bringing your pets inside as that first volley might cause your pet to panic and take off. And be aware – thinking your pet is ok because it is in a fenced yard does not always work. When dogs are petrified they can scale a fence or go under it in an instant to escape what is scaring them – please, BRING THEM INSIDE. Cats too! If you are going to be away from your home then bring them inside, perhaps crate them inside so they will be safely waiting on you when you get home.

Making sure your pet has identification on their collar will go a long way to getting them back home – current rabies tag, a personalized ID tag (remember, we can make these for you at our shelter), or writing your phone number on their collar in indelible ink can often get your pet back home without the shelter ever getting involved. Make an appointment with your veterinarian to have your pet microchipped as that truly helps us get pets back home in the event they lose their collar. If your pet does become lost (or you find a pet), please call us at the shelter at 334-567-3377 as soon as possible so we can take a report; if we do not answer, please leave a message and your phone number. If you are a Facebook person, don't delay posting pics and info (*where, when lost, phone numbers to contact you*) on any of a number of Lost/Found Pet sites – ours is "[Lost & Found Pets in Elmore County](#)" or you can post to our shelter page "[Humane Society of Elmore County](#)." Or you can private message us on either of those pages if you don't want to make a public post. Our Facebook Admins can then post for you if necessary and will also start cross-posting to other pet/community pages you might not even know about to maximize the number of people knowing your pet is lost (or found). You can also report a lost/found pet directly to us via email at [hselco@bellsouth.net](mailto:hselco@bellsouth.net). Photos of your pets make a HUGE difference as we work to reunite pets and their families, so if you don't have any, take them this week!

Many families also have brand new pets in their families from Christmas so please realize that these pets are still adjusting to their new surroundings. If new pets escape, they have no idea where they are or where to go for safety. To reemphasize, please, please, please keep your pets inside AND make sure they have collars and tags on them.

We do hope everyone had a most wonderful Christmas and that you, and your pets have a safe & fun New Year's Eve!