Humane Society of Elmore County News – 3 Dec '18 Rea Cord Executive Director

Hope everyone is geared up for the final push towards Christmas as we all find ourselves busy with decorating and shopping and Christmas parties and just busy life in general. This coming Saturday we will be at PETCO on Eastern Boulevard in Montgomery from 1-4 pm doing Pet Photos with Santa! Cost is \$9.95 and 100% of the proceeds benefit our shelter through the Petco Foundation. Hope to see a long line of happy pets and owners!

Are you thinking of buying a new bed for your beloved Pet? <u>Furhaven Pet Products Tails of</u> <u>Joy Program</u> is a great way for you to find a bed for your pet AND they will they send one to our shelter for our shelter pets! Just use our shelter's coupon code **ELMORE40** and they will send us a washable great bed for our shelter pets! What a great way to solve that Christmas present dilemma for your pet and help one of our shelter pets as well!

Another way you can support the three area shelters a bit closer to home this holiday season is through the <u>Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Humane Society Giving Tree</u>. Located in <u>ASF's</u> <u>Box Office Lobby</u>, the tree is decorated with wish list items and employees' pet photos until December 30. What a most wonderful thing the staff of ASF is doing to help the area shelters so even if you are not able to donate, please thank them for their generosity of spirit!

Don't forget to check out our 100% Volunteer run <u>Tails End Thrift Store</u> (co-located at the shelter) for gifts for yourself and your friends! Our Thrift Store has clothes, linens, Christmas decorations, books, collectibles, small appliances, toys and so much more! The store is open Thu, Fri & Sat's from 9am - 3pm and can also receive donations from 9am - 2:30pm. While at our Thrift Store please thank our Volunteers who work so hard receiving, sorting and selling all of the donated items on behalf of all the animals we all work so hard to help.

We think Pet Identification Tags are a super present for your pet, or even other folks' pets, and we can custom engrave tags in our <u>Shelter</u> office in about 5 minutes. We have a variety of tags (to include Alabama & Auburn) - small tags are \$7 and large tags are \$10. Stop by anytime we are open Mon- Fri 8-5 and Sat 8-4.

We do tend to get an uptick in pet adoptions for Christmas and while surprising your children, parents, or spouse with a pet may work out wonderfully since the giver is also a recipient, we do caution against getting a pet as a gift for a non-family friend. A pet is a very personal bond and why we offer Adoption Gift Certificate/Gift Kits for you to purchase so that the recipient can come at a later time to find their new best friend. Our Adoption Gift Certificates are good for a year, so the recipient has plenty of time to visit and find that perfect match. This also allows them to wait until after the hectic holidays if it turns out that Christmas just isn't the best timing for a new pet.

For your planning, our adoption fees are \$100 for dogs & \$50 for cats under 1 year old; cats over one year old can be adopted by approved adopters for an adoption fee of their choosing. This adoption fee completely covers the mandatory spay or neuter, basic immunizations, deworming, microchip, heartworm check for dogs, rabies vaccination if old enough and a free health exam with your participating veterinarian.

Remember, a pet is a 10-15 year commitment & bringing a new pet home is a bit like adding a four-footed child. Our staff will help potential adopters make sure they are ready for the commitment a new pet brings since we want it to be a lifetime of love for people and pet alike whether at Christmas or any day of the year.