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Executive Director

April is a week full of important recognition of issues important to animal caring people. Last week was National Animal Control Officer (ACO) Appreciation Week and since our ACO's deserve to be thanked every week of the year, we don't think we are too late in recognizing their work. In Elmore County each of our city and county ACO's are alone in their work to enforce state and local laws, help animals in need, protect the health and safety of people, and resolve issues involving animals. We know their departments appreciate their contribution to public safety as they interact with people and animal alike, often in risky situations involving injured, scared or aggressive animals.

Animal Control Officers today do far more than the old 'dog catcher' term implies. They deal with animal bite/attack cases, mediate disputes between neighbors over animal issues, round up loose livestock that have gotten out of pastures, investigate animal cruelty and neglect cases, help injured animals get to care, work with other law enforcement when animals are involved in larger criminal cases, etc. All areas of Elmore County have a containment law for dogs and Wetumpka & Tallassee add to that with a "leash law" for cats. City noise ordinances and barking dogs are often at crossed paths and some towns have limits on the number of pets in city zoning ordinances. And some, but not all of our cities restrict livestock within city limits.

Our Animal Control Officers are dedicated professionals who deserve respect from the public they serve – some have attended specialized animal control training at the state and national level to learn about things like safe capture techniques, animal identification, disease issues, legal issues, investigative techniques, court proceedings, rabies control, public education, wildlife and exotics, and so much more. Animal issues often put them in harm's way from both animals and people and their call volume often means they have to triage cases to deal with the most serious, or potentially serious, the quickest.

We greatly appreciate the ACO's we deal with daily and ask that the public also thank them for all they do to help animals and people throughout Elmore County.

We are in the 2nd week of "Paw it Forward" by [Bluewater Broadcasting](#) whereby animal lovers can drop off donations to help the three area Humane Shelters. [Bluewater Broadcasting stations](#) will be live from 11:30am-1pm at a different sponsor location every day to collect donations in their Sprinter van. But donations can be dropped off anytime Monday – Saturday during business hours in the Bluewater Collection Barrels at the following Montgomery locations: [Lewis Lawn Equipment Inc](#), 1135 North Eastern Blvd; [Montgomery Subaru](#), 3000 Eastern Blvd; [Montgomery Eye Physicians](#), 2752 Zelda Rd; [Best Friends Pet Resort](#), 4320 Wetumpka Hwy; [Holley's Home Furnishings](#), 3490 Wetumpka Highway; [Acceptance Insurance](#), 428 Twain Curve.

Puppy and kitten food (both dry and canned) is of high need as well as bedding and cleaning supplies like bleach, laundry detergent, dishwashing soap and all donations are greatly appreciated. Please thank [Bluewater Broadcasting](#) and all of the above listed participating businesses for stepping up like this to help shelters as we move into our highest intake months of the year.