

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 28 May '18

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With subtropical storm Alberto heading our way, now would be a good time to make sure your pets have their collars and ID tags on them in the event a fence is knocked down by tree limbs or wind. After any weather event we take a much higher number of lost pet calls and our Facebook page, "Lost and Found Pets in Elmore County Alabama" also goes into overdrive with lost pet postings. If you have outside pets watch the weather and bring them inside BEFORE the bad weather hits. Thunder, heavy rain, wind and lightening can scare your pet so that it runs and runs to escape what is scaring it until it becomes hopelessly lost. And besides – do you want to be outside in a bad storm? Bring your pets inside in any bad weather to keep them safe and also to save you the heartache and time of looking for a lost pet for days, weeks or more. And don't worry – we will have all our shelter dogs locked inside the kennels as well when the bad weather starts rolling in so that they are also safe and dry.

For those who have livestock, NOW is the time to also check fences to ensure gates are well secured and weak fence areas are repaired. But, perhaps more important will be to check your fences AFTER any storms roll through as rain and wind significantly increase trees falling and limbs breaking which can lead to wandering livestock if these trees take out chunks of fence. And face it, no one wants to be out picket pounding or fence mending in 95 degree heat, so the milder temperatures right now are another good reason to completely walk/inspect fence lines.

Need ID tags for your pets (or horse halters)? We can make custom tags in about five minutes in our office at the shelter for a measly \$7 for small tags and \$10 for large tags. We even have pet medical alert tags for \$10 in case your pet has a medical condition a finder (or boarding facility) needs to be aware of. If you cannot get to the shelter (we are closed Memorial Day), write your phone number on your pet's collar/livestock halter in indelible ink so it can be read even if wet.

The advent of spring storms also shepherds in the start of hot weather. Face it, it gets miserably hot here in Alabama and while many pet owners love taking their pets everywhere, your pet just might disagree when it is 90+ degrees outside. In Alabama heat you simply MUST think ahead in regard to your itinerary BEFORE leaving the house. It may be better to leave your pet at home than take any chance on it having to stay in your car for any length of time no matter how quick you think your stop will be.

And please, if you are a flea market lover, just leave your dog at home while you brave the heat to look for 'treasures.' You may think taking your pet with you shows how you love it, but far too many dogs are simply miserable on hot sand or pavement and would be much happier (and safer) staying at home in the comfy A/C.

For those that are thinking of traveling with their dog in the back of a pickup truck – just DON'T! The bed of a truck is hot enough to scorch your dog's paws so please put your dog in the cab of the truck with you so it too can enjoy the air conditioning and be much safer.

We encourage citizens to call your local police and report any pets in parked cars during hot weather so they can take appropriate actions. And if you leave your vehicle running with the air-conditioning on for your pet, still make sure that you don't do that for too long as mechanical failures could occur so that the A/C is no longer cooling, and the results could be devastating.

Our pets are not super beings able to withstand conditions that we don't like ourselves. If you are miserable in the heat, your pet is too so please plan accordingly to keep your pet safe and happy throughout our long Alabama summer.