

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 18 Jun ‘18  
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Executive Director

Join us this Friday, 22 June starting at 4 pm, at [CASA NAPOLI Italian Restaurant](#) in Wetumpka for an evening of the best Italian cuisine in the River Region while you also support the [Humane Society of Elmore County](#)! While enjoying your meal you can relax and enjoy live music performed by the very talented Terry Bar! [Casa Napoli](#) will be donating 10% of all sales to our Shelter to help us as we care for all the pets in our care waiting for their forever family. Donations of food, litter, cleaning supplies, etc will be also be accepted and appreciated! For groups of six or more a reservation is highly recommended. Casa Napoli is at 2215 Hwy 231, Wetumpka, AL and they can be reached for questions/reservations at 334-478-3256.

We have already experienced the drenching rains and wind from Tropical Storm Alberto this year so there is no better time than now for pet owners to plan for their pets' safety in a natural or man-made disaster. Probably the most important lesson learned from Hurricane Katrina was that if you have to evacuate because it is not safe for you, then it is not safe to leave your pets behind. Planning ahead for your pets is vital so that everyone is together and safe with the disaster is over. The first step in planning is to find a safe place to stay whether that is a friend, family member, emergency shelter run by a local organization (many of which will not accept pets or will have a limit as to how many) or even a [pet friendly hotel](#) outside of the affected area. Most Humane/Animal Shelters in our area are unable to 'board' pets during a disaster as shelters tend to have heavy intake before bad weather and are simply full with homeless pets that have no family to care for them.

Identify the evacuation zone you are in so you'll know when you have to evacuate. Evacuate to the safest location that is as close to your home as possible. Traveling with a pet can sometimes slow you down a bit, so be sure to leave early to give yourself the extra travel time.

Ensure your pet is wearing a collar, rabies tag and Pet Identification Tag (we can make custom tags at our shelter) &, if at all possible, a Microchip (call your Veterinarian) and make sure your contact information is current. Keep your pets leashed and if your pets are traveling in a carrier, be sure to secure identification to the travel carrier.

Prep a Pet Evacuation & Disaster Kit in a sturdy, waterproof carrier containing: Food for a minimum of three days for each pet, can opener for any canned pet food, bottled water for a minimum of seven days for each pet, food/water bowls, leashes/harnesses/pet carriers, bedding, pet medications, copies of pet medical records, for cats - litter/litter box, disposable bags for pet waste, current photos and description of your pets to help identify them if you were to become separated, toys/treats that may help distract/calm your pet. In this age of cell phones take and store photos of your pets, their tags and microchip numbers so you can access them in the event you lose or cannot get to stored records.

If you are away and your pets are under the care of a friend/neighbor or even a boarding facility, make sure they have a pet information sheet with your pet's description, ID tag and microchip numbers, photo, veterinarian address and contact info, information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, and behavioral issues. Also make sure your pet caregiver knows how to contact you in the event of an emergency and where you have gone.

Remember, don't wait until the last minute to prepare as things can get chaotic when bad weather hits, or you are trying to help others near you who have not taken the time to plan. We want all families AND their pets to be as safe as possible during any disaster.