

## Village of Elm Grove Annual Report for 2016 Calendar Year

The Village of Elm Grove continues to be a municipality serviced by Elmbrook Humane Society (EBHS) for a number of animal related services including assisting stray and injured domestic animals, sick and injured wildlife, Humane Officer needs, and ongoing animal related education and assistance for any resident who seeks EBHS out for help. The Village of Elm Grove and EBHS work together and are committed to ensuring a safe community for both animals and citizens to reside.

From January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016, EBHS provided the following services to the Village of Elm Grove:

### Wildlife

EBHS staff responded to concerns from Village of Elm Grove residents ranging from sightings of unusual wild animals, to complaints about nuisance animals. We experienced a number of calls for assistance with raccoons with a significant number infected with distemper. Other municipalities within Southeastern Wisconsin reported the same with respect to raccoons.

EBHS provided assistance when possible, renting out traps where appropriate, and providing on-site removal of animals trapped in or on the personal property of residents.

EBHS recovered 31 injured/sick wild animals from private properties in Elm Grove, an increase of 29% from the same time period last year. Animals that were treatable were rehabilitated through the services of Wildlife in Need (a licensed wildlife rehabilitation center in Oconomowoc) and were returned to the area that they were found. Animals deemed too sick or injured to be successfully treated and released were humanely euthanized and their remains disposed of as required by state law by EBHS staff.

EBHS has been providing the Village of Elm Grove monthly newsletter with articles addressing wild animals as well as other educational pieces to inform residents. We have been working to educate residents as to what can and cannot be done when dealing with wild animals. We have become much more hands-on by going to residences and working with individuals on exactly how they can prevent wild animals from becoming unwanted permanent tenants. We have also joined the Village of Elm Grove in trying to educate owners on the perils that roaming cats cause the wild residents and migratory birds.

In the event a wild animal is involved in a bite, EBHS works with all parties involved. EBHS sends the specimens, as needed and required, to Madison for rabies testing.

### Companion Animals

EBHS took in 23 stray dogs and cats, an increase of 29% over the same time period last year. Of those, 11 of these animals were returned to their owners, a slight decrease from the same time period last year (14). EBHS responded to all stray animal control calls, however, some animals

were unable to be captured, others were reunited with their owners at the scene, and others brought to their home if it was close by. As you are aware, many of these calls are received overnight when the shelter is closed, and our staff responds to calls for assistance 24-hours a day.

EBHS also took in 3 surrendered animals from residents in the Village of Elm Grove, a 50% decrease compared to the same time period last year. These were animals that were given to us due to financial constraints, divorce, change of housing accommodations, family changes, or for behavior reasons. For two years in a row, our organization did not encounter any situations in which a large number of animals needed to be removed from their homes – thankfully! As this is needed, our organization will of course be available to help animals, citizens, and law enforcement.

Being a No Kill organization, EBHS is committed to finding homes for all healthy, manageable, and treatable stray and surrendered pets from the Village of Elm Grove. With that commitment, we are a resource to Village of Elm Grove residents throughout the process of adopting a pet and beyond. We accept the return of any pet adopted from us after ensuring all efforts have been exhausted to keep the pet with its new family.

Our safe-keep service is available to and allows residents of the Village of Elm Grove to temporarily house their animals at the shelter due to fire, catastrophic illness, death in the family, or in situations of domestic violence. This animal care is provided without cost to the owner, EBHS incurring all costs. The average stay for an animal in these situations is approximately two weeks.

EBHS continued to provide animal licensing as a service to Village of Elm Grove pet owners.

EBHS participated in Village of Elm Grove events such as the Farmer's Market. Our Humane Education program continued to visit area schools and work with scout and civic groups. We provide these services for free and encourage Village of Elm Grove schools and civic organizations to contact EBHS for customized and age appropriate programs. We also offer shelter tours for groups.

### **Humane Officer Activity**

Our Humane Officers, Natalie Klitzing, Zachery Heebsh, and acting Humane Officer Mitchell Ruiz, investigated cases ranging from animals at large, to animals locked in hot vehicles, to situations where there was suspected animal abuse or neglect. Where appropriate, our Humane Officers worked with Village of Elm Grove Police to coordinate abatement orders, warnings, and citations. Our Humane Officer continued to respond to barking complaints as asked by Village Police. We are currently providing the necessary training and education to increase our Humane Officer staff by one (Mitchell Ruiz) to ensure we can meet the demand for this service.

We look forward to serving the City of Brookfield and your residents for the remainder of 2017 and going forward.

### **Other**

In August 2016, we assisted Village of Elm Grove Police with an at large mute swan. Mute swans are an invasive species and can be quite aggressive. We cared for the mute swan while we worked with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Village Administrator and

Police, and the owner. We were successful with connecting the DNR and the owner to complete the process for owning mute swans (he owned two) and returning the mute swan when the owner refused to reclaim from our facility. This was done at no cost to the owner (he refused to pay for his stray mute swan) and assistance from Village Police.