



Georgia Companion Animal Coalition, Inc.

POSITION STATEMENTS

GEORGIA'S HOMELESS ANIMAL CRISIS

GCAC believes fixing Georgia's Dog and Cat overpopulation problem and Animal Shelter Crisis requires a multi-pronged approach:

- Better animal law enforcement through training and education of ACOs and law enforcement on "the Link"* and state animal cruelty statutes,
- Increased access to low cost spay/neuter and veterinary services for low income and rural communities,
- Removal of breeding loopholes in Georgia's state pet dealer statutes,
- Humane education of Georgia's young people,
- Local ordinances that are easily enforced, ban tethering/chaining of dogs, and encourage spay/neuter, and
- Increased access to resources such as food and supplies for owners who want to keep their pets out of shelters but are experiencing financial difficulties.
- GCAC believes ALL of Georgia's municipal shelters should be open admission shelters, since they are paid for by Georgia's taxpayers. We believe managed intake and no-kill equations result in animals suffering on the streets and encourage manipulation of shelter statistics to qualify for funding.

HORSERACING

GCAC believes **unsanctioned horse racing** should not exist. Unfortunately, this unregulated, unsanctioned, so-called "Bush Track" horseracing is happening every weekend in the state of Georgia. It is known nationally, as evidenced in the press and by law enforcement across the nation to be a hotbed of illegal activity that includes trainers doping racehorses with illegal drugs, including methamphetamine, cocaine and fentanyl, and jockeys shocking racehorses with electric devices. These racehorses are shipped to races in an out of states in circuits

without any oversight from regulatory authorities for health or humane welfare reasons. These horses often spread contagious incurable equine disease into the states from Mexico.

GCAC believes **parimutuel horseracing** by nature results in overbreeding of horses, which creates a homeless equine population. Parimutuel horseracing provides lifeblood to other industries that are inhumane and unethical, such as kill pen operations, nurse mare foal operations and unscrupulous racehorse investors and trainers. For these reasons, we do not support the state of Georgia making parimutuel betting legal.