

**Metro animal shelters at crisis levels, overrun with pets ... - Atlanta**  
Web Oct 7, 2022 · ATLANTA — Animal shelters across metro Atlanta are in a crisis. They are overrun with pets, some of which have been there for more than a year. In fact, LifeLine Animal Project Placement Manager ...

**FOX 5 Atlanta**  
https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/overcr...  
**Overcrowding at animal shelters becomes serious ...**  
Web Dec 9, 2022 · FOX 5 Atlanta Metro Atlanta animal shelters, rescues looking for adopters Organizations are trying to address overcrowding in kennels. DEKALB COUNTY, Ga. - Animal shelters across metro...

**Atlanta News First**  
https://www.atlantaneWSfirst.com/2022/10/10/its...  
**'It's bad' | Overcrowded metro animal shelters are in crisis mode**  
Web Oct 10, 2022 · ATLANTA, Ga. (Atlanta News First) - Two of metro Atlanta's largest animal shelters are in crisis mode as intakes are up and adoptions are down. The crisis has been seen across the state and here in the metro area.

**LOCAL NEWS**  
**Georgia animal shelters experiencing uptick in dogs being surrendered**  
by: Daisy Kershaw  
Posted: Jun 16, 2022 / 12:30 PM EDT  
Updated: Jun 16, 2022 / 01:54 PM EDT



SAVANNAH, Ga. (WSAV) — Animal rescues across Georgia are seeing a major uptick in dogs being surrendered by owners. Here locally, Chatham County Animal Services reported a 50% increase in owner surrenders, says...

**Feline parvo outbreak forces Georgia animal shelter to stop taking in owner-surrendered cats**  
Athens-Clarke County Animal Services, which is also known as...

**Ledger-Enquirer**  
**A Ledger-Enquirer exclusive: Nearly 1,200 dog bites recorded in Columbus over past 3 years**

**DPH reports increase in animal bites across SWGA**

# GEORGIA'S HOMELESS PET CRISIS: WHY DOING NOTHING IS NO LONGER AN OPTION.

Atlanta News First on MSN · 10d  
**DeKalb County Animal Services makes urgent plea as they're overcrowded.**  
According to LifeLine's Facebook post, the shelter is out of dog housing and around 140 dogs are deteriorating very quickly.

**Overcrowding in Ga. animal shelter due to lack of court cases being solved, group says**  
State authorities tell Channel 2 Action News they have lifted the order that temporarily banned the DeKalb Animal Shelter from accepting new animals because it was...

by FOX 31 Staff | Wed, May 11th 2022, 10:4...  
**Animal shelters reach an all-time high overpopulation crisis**  
https://www.wsav.com/co...  
by: Megh Porterfield  
Posted: Apr 7, 2023 / 03:24 PM EDT  
Updated: Apr 7, 2023 / 06:10 PM EDT

· 13d · on MSN  
**DeKalb County Animal Shelter asking for help finding 140 dogs homes**  
DeKalb County Animal Services are trying to find homes for more than 140 dogs as the shelter has hit capacity with over 600 ...



Animal hoarding handicapping animal shelters forcing more animals to euthanize...  
NESBORO, Ga. — Many animal shelters across metro Atlanta are over capacity and part of that increase is...

**GEORGIA'S HOMELESS PET CRISIS:  
WHY DOING NOTHING IS NO LONGER AN OPTION\***

<b>THE FINANCIAL COST TO THE STATE</b>	<b>3</b>
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*\* All news clippings, pictures, and social media posts contained herein are recent and from Georgia.*

**THE FINANCIAL COST TO GEORGIA:**

**Having more cats and dogs than we have homes for, a completely preventable problem, costs Georgians > approx. \$136 million annually:**

**Animal Welfare Non-Profits:        \$76 million**

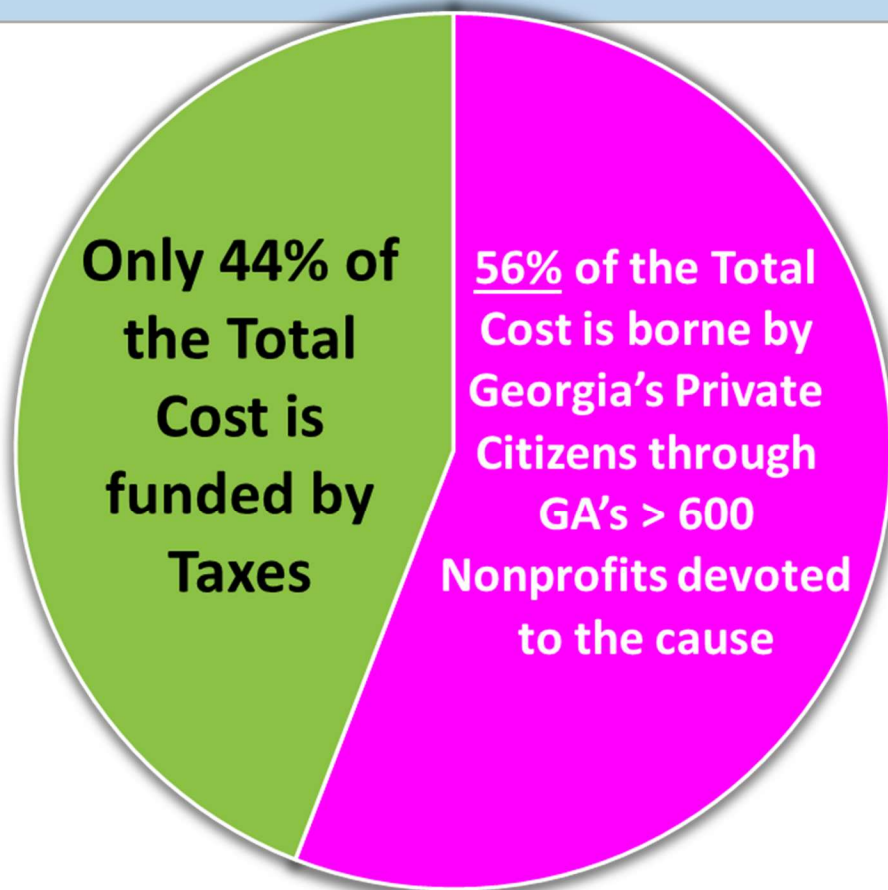
**Municipal Animal Shelters:        \$60 million \*\***

**GRAND TOTAL                                \$136 million \***

\* This figure only includes expenses and DOES NOT INCLUDE Capital Expenditures (such as purchases of new ACO trucks, equipment, and shelter buildings). This figure also does not include the \$ value of 1,000s of hours of free labor provided by volunteers, fosters, networkers, and transporters across the state of Georgia, utilized by municipal shelters and all non-profits.

\*\* This figure does not include the cost to run the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture’s Companion Animal Division’s oversight of rescues and shelters.

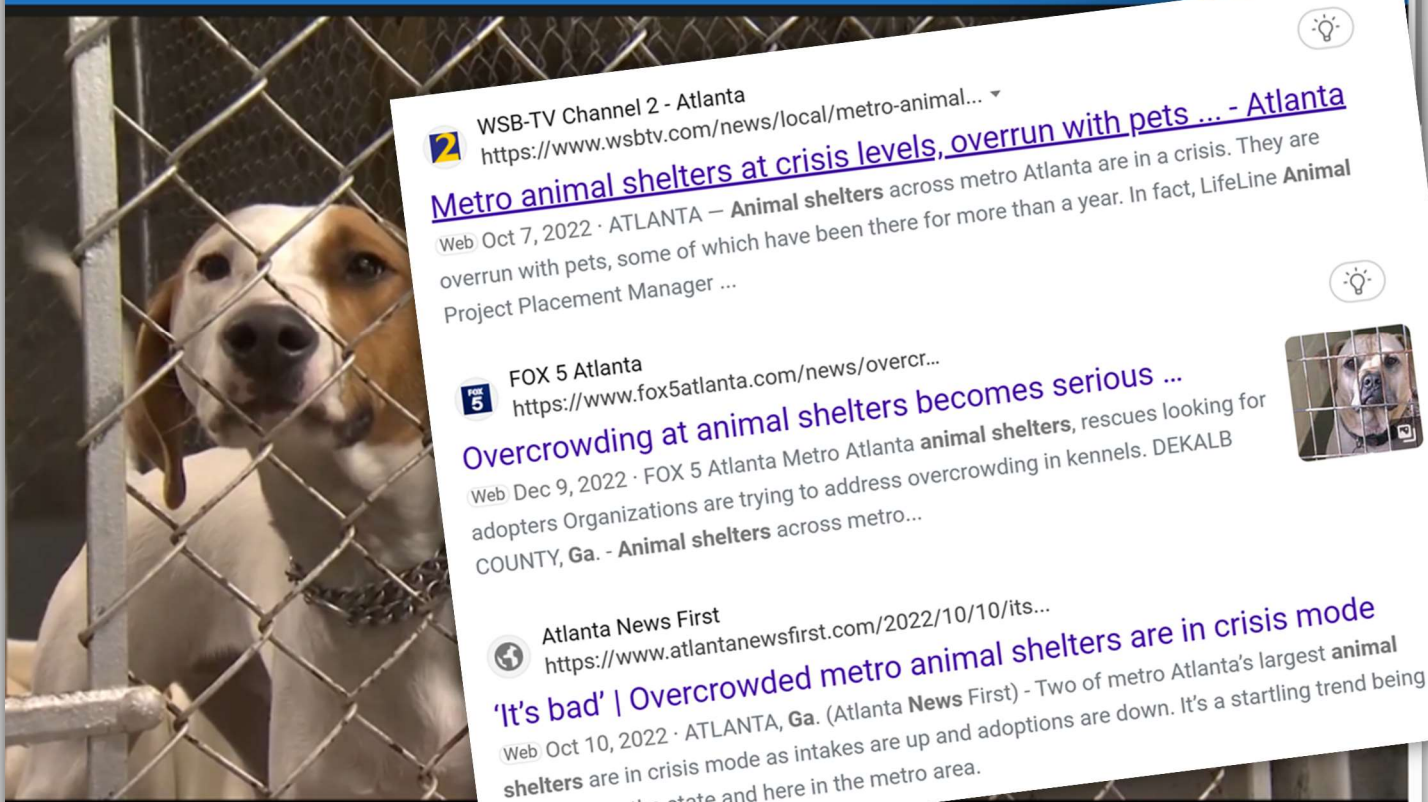
**CONTROLLING the size of Georgia's HOMELESS PET POPULATION is an important need of Georgia's taxpayers that is NOT BEING MET, as evidenced by financial data, as well as local news & social media coverage.**



**Georgia's non-profit animal welfare organizations, funded by Georgia's taxpayers, (as private citizens), pick up 56%, more than half, of the > \$136 million annual cost to the state.**

**Clearly, the statewide cost of the problem is not being spread fairly, when more than 70% of households in Georgia own at least one pet, and more than 50% of those own more than one pet.**





COMMUNITY

# Animal shelters reach an all-time high overpopulation crisis

by: [Megh Porterfield](#)  
Posted: Apr 7, 2023 / 03:24 PM EDT  
Updated: Apr 7, 2023 / 06:10 PM EDT

SAVANNAH, Ga. (WSAV) – Animal shelters in our area are fighting an overpopulation crisis that is now reaching an all-time high. Volunteers say nearly a third of dogs going into local shelters aren't making it out alive and it's only getting worse.

“This is a legislature issue. We don't have laws that require spay and neuter in Georgia. So, we are seeing huge numbers of dogs coming into our shelters, and right now our 2022 Chatham live release rate was only 70%, and that's a pretty devastating number,” says Cody Shelley, Renegade Paws Rescue volunteer and board member.



Atlanta News First on MSN · 10d

**DeKalb County Animal Services makes urgent plea as they're overcapacity.**

According to LifeLine's Facebook post, the shelter is out of dog housing and around 140 dogs are deteriorating very quickly.

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Georgia animal shelters experiencing uptick in dogs being surrendered**

by: [Daisy Kershaw](#)  
Posted: Jun 16, 2022 / 12:30 PM EDT  
Updated: Jun 16, 2022 / 01:54 PM EDT



SAVANNAH, Ga. (WSAV) — Animal rescues across Georgia are seeing a major uptick in dogs being surrendered by their owners. Here locally, Chatham County Animal Services have seen intakes increase by 50% over the past year.

“What we’ve seen is a pretty significant increase in owner surrenders,” says Dr. Jake Harper, the director of Chatham County Animal Services.

This overcrowding is putting dogs at risk of being euthanized.

“It’s nearing capacity to where we have to make decisions about whether or not, are these dogs adoptable,” says Dr. Harper.

But, this is about more than numbers, advocates say, to solve this issue, we need to address the underlying causes.

“We have too many animals and we don’t have enough homes for the animals that are already out there in our community, which is why so many are at risk for euthanasia in our shelters,” says Cody Shelley, a volunteer with [Renegade Paws Rescue](#).

· 13d · on MSN

**DeKalb County Animal Shelter asking for help finding 140 dogs homes**

DeKalb County Animal Services are trying to find homes for more than 140 dogs as the shelter has hit capacity with over 600 ...





# ur help



**Humane Society of Forsyth County, GA**

3d · 🌐

We desperately need unopened bags of dry small-breed dog food, wet dog food, and dry cat food to supplement our pet food pantry. Members of our community are struggling to feed their animals. We also support residents needing pet assistance through The Place and Meals by Grace. Please help us help them keep their beloved pets in loving homes. Animal Control, Rescue Organizations, and Humane Societies nationwide are struggling with an overwhelming number of intake requests. By providing services through our pet food pantry, snip-it programs, and low-cost vetting, we hope to make a difference, but we cannot do it alone. We accept all brands of food. Any assistance is greatly appreciated. Please consider donating today. Donations can be dropped off at our adoption center at 4440 Keith Bridge Road - Tuesday thru Thursday between 10am-4pm and Friday, Saturday, and Sunday between 1pm-4pm.

## Georgia's Homeless Pet Overpopulation Creates Public Safety Issues

### Increased:

- dog maulings resulting in injury, lost limbs, or death.
- cruelty and animal hoarding cases.
- dog fighting cases.
- contagious fatal diseases spread due to increases in unvaccinated pets –
  1. Rabies
  2. Parvo
  3. Heartworm

### DPH reports increase in animal bites across SWGA

by FOX 31 Staff | Wed, May 11th 2022, 10:46 AM EDT



Photo: WFXL STAFF



The Southwest Georgia Public Health District has seen a recent increase in the number of residents and pets being bitten by wild or stray animals.



Before handling an animal, think twice, and avoid getting bit. Animal bites are painful and may expose a person to the rabies virus and other infections.

Rabies is a viral disease of mammals, usually occurring among wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes. When an infected animal bites another animal or person, the rabies virus is transmitted in the infected animal's saliva. The rabies virus travels from the site of the bite up through the nerves until it reaches the brain, causing encephalopathy and ultimately death.



**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** believe approximately 4.5 million dog bites occur annually. It is estimated that 1,000 people are bitten by dogs each day.

**“...Children between the ages of five and nine are at the greatest risk of receiving serious injuries related to dog bites. Approximately 81 percent of all dog attacks involve children, 86 percent of all dog attacks cause bodily harm or maiming, and 76 percent of dog attacks result in fatalities...”**

 Ledger-Enquirer

**A Ledger-Enquirer exclusive: Nearly 1,200 dog bites recorded in Columbus over past 3 years**

Columbus, GA has seen nearly 1200 dog bites over the past 3 years, according to data from Columbus Consolidated Government & Animal control.

1 month ago



Attorney Vic Hawk says he sees dog attack cases more than you think.

“We probably get calls every month to a month and a half about a dog case that has resulted in a serious injury,” he said. “These can be very serious, very tragic consequences as a result of owning a dog.”

MARTINEZ, Ga. (WRDW/WAGT) - We’re learning more about a dog attack that killed a 7-month-old girl in Martinez and left a family and the community in mourning and disbelief.

The attack by a dog in the household [happened Tuesday afternoon at 3701 Columbia Drive](#), where the girl — identified by deputies as Serenity Garnett, of Grovetown — was being watched by her great-grandmother.

The Columbia County Sheriff’s Office on Wednesday afternoon released an incident report that revealed new details about the case.

 FOX 5 Atlanta

**Fulton County woman sentenced to jail for dogs' violent mauling of young boys**

FULTON COUNTY, Ga. - A Fulton County woman will spend years in prison and under house arrest for the violent mauling of two young boys by...

Oct 27, 2022



WSB-TV · 8d

### 18 cats euthanized after stray tests positive for rabies in north Georgia county

HABERSHAM COUNTY, Ga. — Habersham County officials euthanized more than a dozen cats after one of the animals tested positive for rabies. On June 18, Habersham County...

LOCAL

## Pet hospitals say they're seeing a big increase in parvovirus cases this year



By WSBTV.com News Staff

July 12, 2020 at 2:06 pm EDT

Pet hospitals say they have seen an increase in cases of a life-threatening vi

BluePearl runs more than 90 pet hospitals nationwide, including several loc

BluePearl says its hospitals have seen an "alarming" 70% increase in the nu compared the numbers to the same time period over the last five years.



### Feline parvo outbreak forces Georgia animal shelter to stop taking in owner-surrendered cats

The Athens-Clarke County Animal Services Department says it has confirmed cases of feline panleukopenia, which is also known ...



WTOC-TV · 11d

### Overcrowded animal shelters may force dogs to be euthanized in Chatham Co.

CHATHAM COUNTY, Ga. (WTOC) - Chatham County Animal Services is overflowing with dogs who need a home. A local rescue facing capacity issues is concerned their lack of space could mean more dogs being ...

FOX 5 Atlanta · 5d

### Hundreds of dogs in need of foster and forever homes in DeKalb County

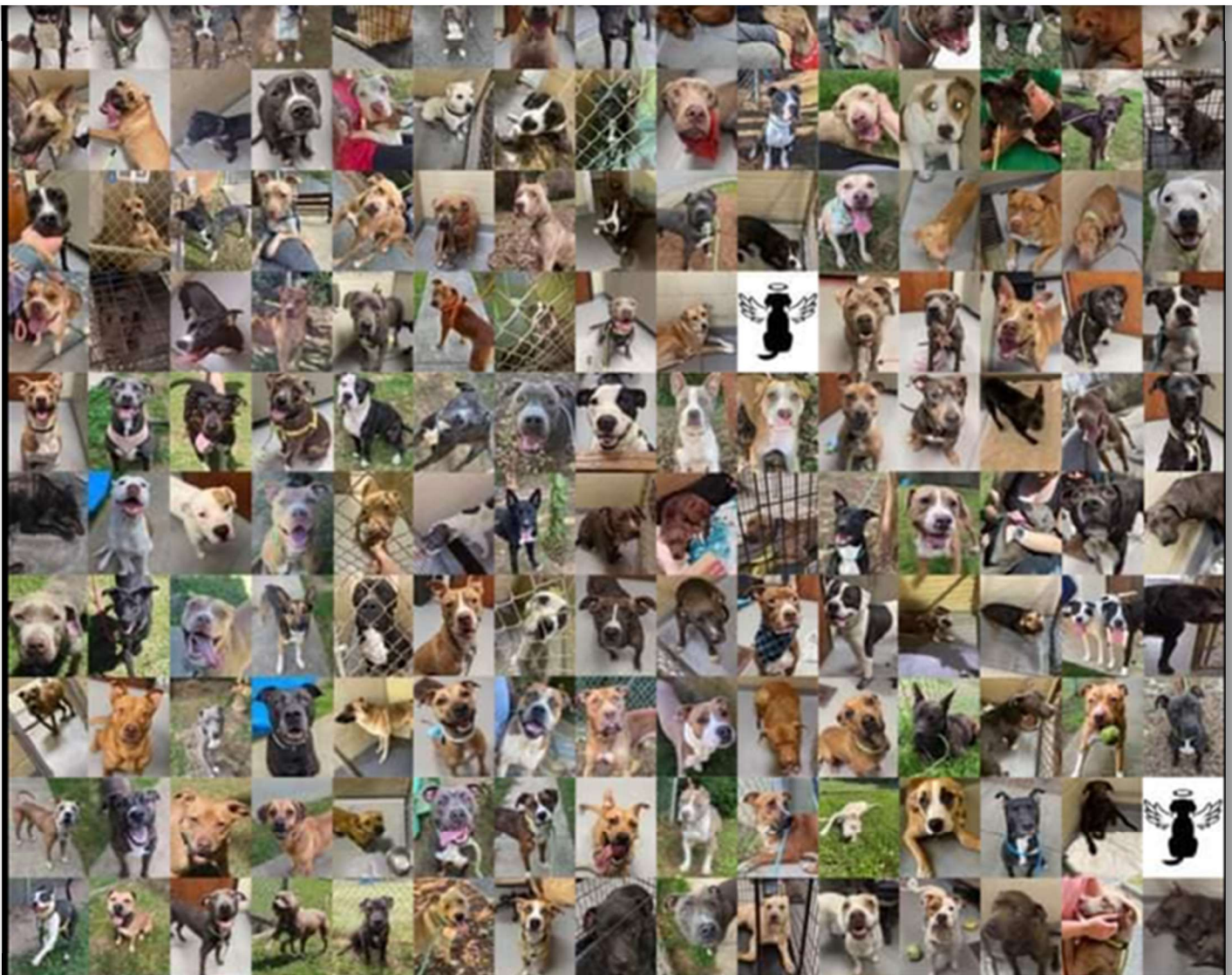
CHAMBLEE, Ga. - The DeKalb County animal shelter is in desperate need of finding dogs forever homes. In a Facebook post to the LifeLine Animal Project page on Friday, the organization said it had ...

Chattanooga Times Free Press · 2d

### Man caught on video throwing kittens from truck in Dalton, Georgia

Dalton police are looking for a man who was caught on video tossing three kittens out of a truck in front of the Humane ...

WE SURE DO! If anyone has more info, please contact the officer working the case. Call 706-278-9085 with any information. Oh how we love the three babies and they are loving all the volunteers! Thank you for all your help.



In memory of the dogs euthanized for capacity at Columbus Animal Care & Control Center from June 4, 2022 to June 4, 2023-

## **Homeless Pet Overpopulation Wastes Taxpayer Resources**

**1) Animal Control agencies are so busy corralling homeless pets; they barely have time to fulfill their most important roles serving the public:**

**To Educate: in the form of homes visits or community or school outreach.**

**To Enforce local ordinances and state law.**

**To Investigate possible:**

- **Dogfighting**
- **Illegal breeding**
- **Cruelty, Neglect, and Hoarding cases**

**To Report other crimes. As First Responders they often have first knowledge of situations involving domestic, child & elder abuse.**

**2) Each of Georgia's >500 homeless pet shelter & rescue entities (that exist purely because Georgia has too many homeless pets) require licensing & inspections by Georgia's Dept. of Agriculture's Companion Animal Division, which does not have a sufficient number of inspectors.**

**3) More pets mean more cases of hoarding, neglect, cruelty, and dog bites that use up precious other public resources:**

- **Local law enforcement: police, sheriffs, code enforcement.**
- **Prosecutors, Judges, Defense Attorneys, and the entire court system.**





**\$275 raised for SOS Rescue GA**  
7 people donated.

Donate



**SOS Rescue GA** is 🙏 asking for donations — at **SOS Rescue GA**.  
June 7 at 1:09 AM · Macon, GA · 🌐

Warning: very disturbing photos.

Macon - we have GOT to do better than this.

Someone contacted us about this dog earlier today and then..... she was somehow left at our gates.

This older girl has had a very hard life. She has had multiple litters, is SEVERELY emaciated, complete muscle atrophy, congestive heart failure due to severe heartworms, parasites, explosive diarrhea and severe flea infestation with open sores on her skin.

She almost can't walk due to being so thin and malnourished. How anyone can allow a dog to get this way just sickens us.

Please, help us help her and others like her. We are calling her Sapphire since her eyes are as blue as the gem stone and we think she is a gem. Sweet as can be but so so pitiful.

Welcome to [SOS Rescue GA](#) Sapphire. You are flea free, bathed and have a full belly tonight, on a soft bed in the cool A/C. May be the first peaceful sleep ever in your sad, hard life.





**RESCUE OR ADOPTION  
NEEDED BY 12PM JUNE 16TH**

 <b>"ERIK"</b> A018621	 <b>"LIBERTY"</b> A018636	 <b>"SHELLIE"</b> A018637	 <b>"LUNA"</b> A018638	 <b>"DRACO"</b> A018642
 <b>"BURK"</b> A018650	 <b>"SNOOT"</b> A018651	 <b>"IVOR"</b> A018653	 <b>"BEN"</b> A018655	 <b>"JERRY"</b> A018656
 <b>"DENNIS"</b> A018660	 <b>"LION"</b> A018684	 <b>"CASSY"</b> A018685	 <b>"BAMBI"</b> A018687	 <b>"PRESSLEY"</b> A018688
 <b>"PHOEBE"</b> A018689	 <b>"BALLA"</b> A018691	 <b>"LEANNE"</b> A018695	 <b>"TOAST"</b> A018696	 <b>"EMILIA"</b> A018697

**CLAYTON COUNTY  
STATE OF  
ANIMAL CONTROL  
GEORGIA**

**Animal Control Headquarters**  
Address: 1396 Government Circle,  
Jonesboro, GA 30236  
Phone: 770-477-3509

**Adoption Center**  
Address: 3199 Anvil Block Rd.  
Ellenwood, GA 30294  
Phone: 770-347-0210

[Rescue.coordinator@claytoncountyga.gov](mailto:Rescue.coordinator@claytoncountyga.gov)

Atlanta Journal-Constitution · 13d

### Man indicted in dog's beating death will remain in DeKalb jail

Jackson has been in and out of jail this year after a DeKalb prosecutor's mistake led to him being granted bond in the animal cruelty case in March ... He is a lifelong Atlantan and a graduate of ...

Atlanta Journal-Constitution · 1mon

### Man facing child, animal cruelty charges after SWAT standoff at Clayton hotel

Thomas is facing multiple counts, including reckless conduct, obstruction, first-degree cruelty to children and cruelty to animals, police said.

Hosted on MSN · 1mon

### 'Emergency situation:' DeKalb County crews find 31 dogs, 1 dead in suspected animal cruelty case

30 dogs and the remains of one other were seized from a "cruelty ... fighting case" off Creekford Lane in Lithonia, according to DeKalb County officials. Currently, DeKalb County Animal Services ...

## PROPOSED SOLUTION & COST

<b>Pet Education Portal</b>	<b>statewide online pet education portal</b>	How to decide whether to get a pet or not Preparing for a new pet Dog Bite Safety - owned/not owned dogs Wildlife encounters Proper care of pets Careers with animals Relevant laws and ordinances	<b>\$50,000 upfront build</b>	<b>\$25,000 annual maintenance</b>
<b>Public Service Announcement Campaign to increase awareness of the need to spay/neuter</b>	<b>statewide PSA campaign</b>	Social media ads Website banners Posters at public places	<b>\$50,000 design/build</b>	<b>\$100,000 annual ad budget</b>
<b>Pet Owner Resources Online Database</b>	<b>statewide online database of resources available to pet owners</b>	Vet care Spay/neuter services Pet food pantries	<b>10,000 upfront build cost</b>	<b>\$25,000 annual maintenance</b>

<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>Build</b>	<b>\$ 110,000</b>
	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>150,000</b>
	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>150,000</b>
	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>150,000</b>
	<b>Year 4</b>	<b><u>150,000</u></b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 710,000</b>

**Till now, Georgia's \$136m per year has been used re-actively to handle the already existing overabundance of pets.**

**Our proposal switches Georgia's approach to a more pro-active one, one that seeks to prevent homeless pet overpopulation through addressing some of its causes.**

**This proposal:**

- ✓ **raises statewide awareness of the homeless pet crisis & the need to fix our pets,**
- ✓ **provides free pet education, and**
- ✓ **maintains a database for Georgians of available pet owner resources.**

**The goal of Georgia's official public policy on homeless pets should be to PREVENT GEORGIA'S DOGS AND CATS FROM ENTERING ANIMAL SHELTERS IN THE FIRST PLACE," because:**

- **We cannot adopt our way out of the problem of having more dogs and cats than we have homes for.**
- **We cannot donate our way out of the problem of having more dogs and cats than we have suitable homes for.**



## Twelfth Defendant Convicted in Dog-Fighting, Drug Distribution Ring

A Georgia resident pleaded guilty to federal charges resulting from a lengthy investigation into a significant multi-state **dog** fighting and cocaine trafficking network.

WSI March 10, 2022

## Georgia man charged with dogfighting after drug bust finds 20 dogs in home, deputies say

The search warrant was executed and deputies found and seized more than 20 dogs from the home ... Anyone with information about the case is asked to contact the sheriff's office.

## Overcrowding in Ga. animal shelter due to lack of court cases being solved, group says

State authorities tell Channel 2 Action News they have lifted the order that temporarily banned the DeKalb Animal Shelter from accepting new animals because it was...

WMAZ · 1mon

## Douglas County confirms raccoon involved in fight with dogs positive for rabies

DOUGLAS COUNTY, Ga. — Douglas County confirmed a positive rabies case following a fight involving a raccoon and two dogs. county's animal control team was called Wednesday after two "owned ...

## Georgia man arrested for keeping dozens of kittens in 'inhumane conditions,' deputies say

A Floyd County man was arrested for possession of methamphetamine and 24 counts of cruelty to animals charges.



Augusta has a stray cat problem, and dealing with it has workers putting the animals down through euthanasia.

By [Craig Allison](#)

Published: Apr. 12, 2023 at 6:22 PM EDT



AUGUSTA, Ga. (WRDW/WAGT) - Augusta has a stray cat problem, and dealing with it has workers putting the animals down through euthanasia.

Shelter data from the Georgia Department of Agriculture shows the Augusta Animal Shelter's cat euthanasians jumped from more than 1,000 in 2021 to more than 1,300 in 2022.



**Hawkinsville / Pulaski Animal Control**

4d · 🌐

Our hearts are broken. 😞😞😞

Today when we came in Bill had vomited all over his kennel and was having a hard time standing. He was rushed to Westmoreland and Slappey but by then it was too late. Bill was an older fella with heartworms and even with the slow kill heartworm treatment his body gave out. Bill loved all humans and loved loved loved his stuffed toys. Bill had a great smile and was always happy. I'm thankful he at least passed knowing care, love and comfort vs out on his own.

Humans definitely need to do better. If you can't afford standard vet care please do not get a pet. We buried your dog today.





Echols Animal Rescue

2d · 🌐

Today is their last day in Lowndes shelter and no one wants them. 💔 I tried to get the word out around Fargo but not everyone down there gets online or has wifi or would know to go look for their dog an hour away. The shelter is a high intake with hardly no adoptions and low rescue pull. If they decide these dogs have to go their time can be up at anytime and euthanized. Ppl are thinking they are safe. **THEY ARE NOT SAFE!**

# “Free Puppies!”

<https://www.amazon.com/Free-Puppies-Samantha-Wishman/dp/B0BHG1H2X8>

“... a chronically overlooked crisis that’s dogging the rural American South. Skimpy funding for shelters, high rates of poverty and a warm climate have led to an overwhelming influx of stray dogs with nowhere to go. Directors Samantha Wishman and Christina Thomas narrow their focus to Dade County in northwest Georgia, where an intrepid group of local women have stepped up to compensate for the lack of an operating animal shelter.

Their grassroots efforts to start up a spay-and-neuter program, rescue countless adorable strays from euthanasia and neglect, and place them in loving “forever homes” will pluck at the heartstrings of any dog person. This simple, subtle doc is the perfect combo of warm fuzzies and a serious (and sometimes heartbreaking) mission...”







## **“MERCY’S KENNEL”**

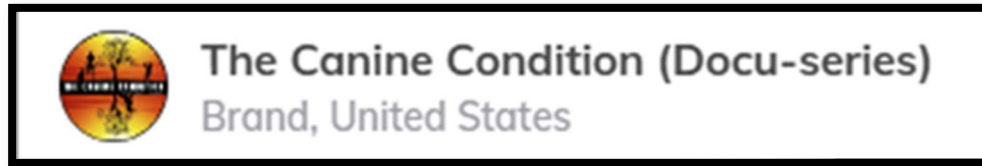
<https://filmfreeway.com/mercyskennel>

### ***ATLANTA***

**“...G.K. Simpson, a former dog breeder who lives in Atlanta, takes viewers into a world where money talks, pit bulls are currency and the media perpetuate many of the stereotypes maligning this misunderstood breed. Mercy's Kennel explores the economic backdrop to what is commonly called "backyard breeding" to show how poverty and lack of education are at the root of pet overpopulation and animal abuse in many underserved areas around the country.**

**“...G.K. and former breeder Byron Haygood (B. Good) interview shelter officials, rescue groups, breeders, dog fighters and everyday people on the street... G.K. and Matt's brother Mickey (Snoop) search for solutions to the violence of poverty paralyzing so many inner-city communities, and their quest inevitably leads them back behind bars to more dogs...and people in need of rescue.**

**“...The parallels drawn between pit bulls and people are unmistakable, unintentional and completely unavoidable. Ultimately, Mercy's Kennel is a story about redemption and salvation that transcends race, culture and economics to present a compelling look at the challenges facing pit bulls...and people living in an increasingly hostile world. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” We think the jury is still out on that one...”**



## **“The Canine Condition, Season 2, Ep. 5: HEADING BACK TO GEORGIA”**

[https://discovered.tv/watch/ZajkBGp1ZNnn?fbclid=IwAR2OAz03Xy96-oocO3N\\_GiXL80xz7nYMGfsx8C68-BflQ7l2pnUo9FXIM8o](https://discovered.tv/watch/ZajkBGp1ZNnn?fbclid=IwAR2OAz03Xy96-oocO3N_GiXL80xz7nYMGfsx8C68-BflQ7l2pnUo9FXIM8o)

**“...In this episode we head back to Georgia... The dogs of Georgia keep pulling at our heart strings. This state has one of the highest euthanasia rates in the country. But we find no shortage of kindhearted animal loving humans going out of their way each and every day to try and help end dog homelessness dog abuse and neglect in their state...”**



## In the **New York Times:**

December 2022

### What Do Stray Dogs Tell Us About the South?

December 12, 2022 in News



“...This little dog is one of millions of pets transported from the American South to places in the Northeast and Midwest with fewer adoptable animals — communities where there are well funded animal-welfare agencies, stricter leash laws, a shorter breeding season and weather harsh enough that fewer strays survive.

Widespread animal relocation began in 2005 in response to Hurricane Katrina... “Adopt, don’t shop” has become a national mantra among pet rescue advocates working desperately to reduce the

number of animals euthanized in overcrowded shelters or left to starve on their own. Most of those doomed pets live in the South... “Free Puppies” will be released on DVD — and as video-on-demand on Apple and Amazon — on Dec. 13. The heroes of the film are **Monda Wooten, Ruth Smith and Ann Brown, three pet rescuers who live in the area where Alabama and Tennessee share a border with Georgia.** Their work to remedy local animal suffering is the narrative lens through which the film considers this regionwide problem... “Free Puppies” follows the women as they collect unwanted litters; take in strays; persuade people to surrender neglected pets; bathe infested puppies with flea shampoo; even pick up animals from their homes, take them to a veterinary hospital or mobile clinic to be spayed or neutered, and return them to their owners at no charge.

They have cultivated a network of other volunteers to help. For all of them, this is hard, hands-on work — dirty, sometimes dangerous, too often completely heartbreaking. In one scene, Ann tells the story of rescuing a female dog that had spent her entire life chained to a tree, bearing litter after litter of puppies. When Ann took her to be spayed, the dog’s uterus was so damaged she died on the operating table.

... As demoralizing as it must be to see animals needlessly, endlessly suffering, the women at the heart of “Free Puppies” manage to show compassion toward the human beings responsible for the suffering, too. **“The majority of people are really good people,” Monda says. “It’s just lack of knowledge.”**

**...The reason for the number of unwanted dogs isn’t simply isolation or profound poverty. All over the country, people adopt rescue dogs — or buy puppy-mill purebreds — without having any idea of the cost and training that responsible pet ownership involves, and those dogs frequently end up at shelters once they become unmanageable adolescents. But the problem is compounded in rural places where there’s already a huge number of homeless pets and no resources to address the problem. If a stray dog turns up pregnant, kind souls may find homes for the puppies, but if they don’t get the mother dog spayed, and if the puppies don’t get spayed or neutered, the number of unwanted pets explodes.**

**Economic reality is perhaps the most universal explanation for what is happening in the world of this film. Living paycheck to paycheck, or on a fixed income, puts fencing a yard or paying for veterinary care far out of reach...”**

13WMAZ · 6d · on MSN

### Hawkinsville Animal Shelter asks for help as they experience overflow

Animal Control says they only have 11 kennels for animals and they're always filled. She says there are seven to eight dogs on the waiting list waiting for a space ...

The investigation into abuse claims at the McDuffie County Animal Shelter is now in the hands of the district attorney.

By [Nick Viland](#)

Published: Apr. 14, 2023 at 5:16 PM EDT



THOMSON, Ga. (WRDW/WAGT) - The investigation into abuse claims at the McDuffie County Animal Shelter is now in the hands of the district attorney.

It's been eight months since the shelter closed its doors to the public. The state did find discrepancies in the electronic record-keeping of animals coming in and out of the shelter. But they did not find evidence of abuse.

With this ongoing investigation, the new animal services director, Wendy Ivey, wants to move the shelter in a different direction.

We sat down with her to learn how they are looking to get past these challenges.

### Georgia man faces 30-plus animal cruelty charges for allegedly committing same crime twice

A Georgia man was arrested and charged with animal cruelty after officials discovered ... Shelton said more help is needed to prevent these types of case. "These people will go on to do it ...

Hosted on MSN · 1 mon

### Testimony begins in animal cruelty case involving Rockdale deputy

Eric Tolbert, a former K9 officer, is also facing two counts of misdemeanor cruelty ... case notes, because she felt the sheriff's office should have turned the investigation over to the Georgia ...

### Georgia Men Sentenced to Prison for Dog-Fighting and Drug Distribution

Two Georgia residents convicted on dog-fighting and drug distribution charges resulting from an investigation into a significant multi-state dog-fighting and cocaine trafficking ring were sentenced to prison today.

February 1, 2022







Albany (GA) WALB

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## Albany-area animal shelter talks overcrowding

Story by Lorenza Medley • Wednesday

**A**LBANY, Ga. (WALB) - The Albany Humane Society is one of many Southwest Georgia animal shelters that is dealing with overcrowding right now.

One way the shelter is encouraging residents to adopt is through their "doggy date" service. The service allows people interested in a particular dog to spend any amount of time with the dog. This ranges from one day to one hour.

Payton Jarrell, the adoption director at the Albany Humane Society, says the service is popular with residents and has had some success.

Author: Dawn White

Published: 9:00 AM EDT June 24, 2023

Updated: 7:22 AM EDT June 24, 2023



JONESBORO, Ga. — Many animal shelters across metro Atlanta are over capacity and having to make tough decisions on which animals to euthanize. Some shelters said a big part of that increase is due to animal hoarding.

More than 250,000 animals are victims of hoarding each year in the United States; almost 40% of object hoarders also hoard animals, and 80% of hoarders have dying or dead animals in their homes, according to the [Anxiety and Depression Association of America](#).

# Overcrowding at animal shelters becomes serious issues across metro Atlanta

By Lindsay Tuman | Published December 9, 2022 | DeKalb County | FOX 5 Atlanta | [➔](#)

Metro Atlanta animal shelters, rescues looking for adopters





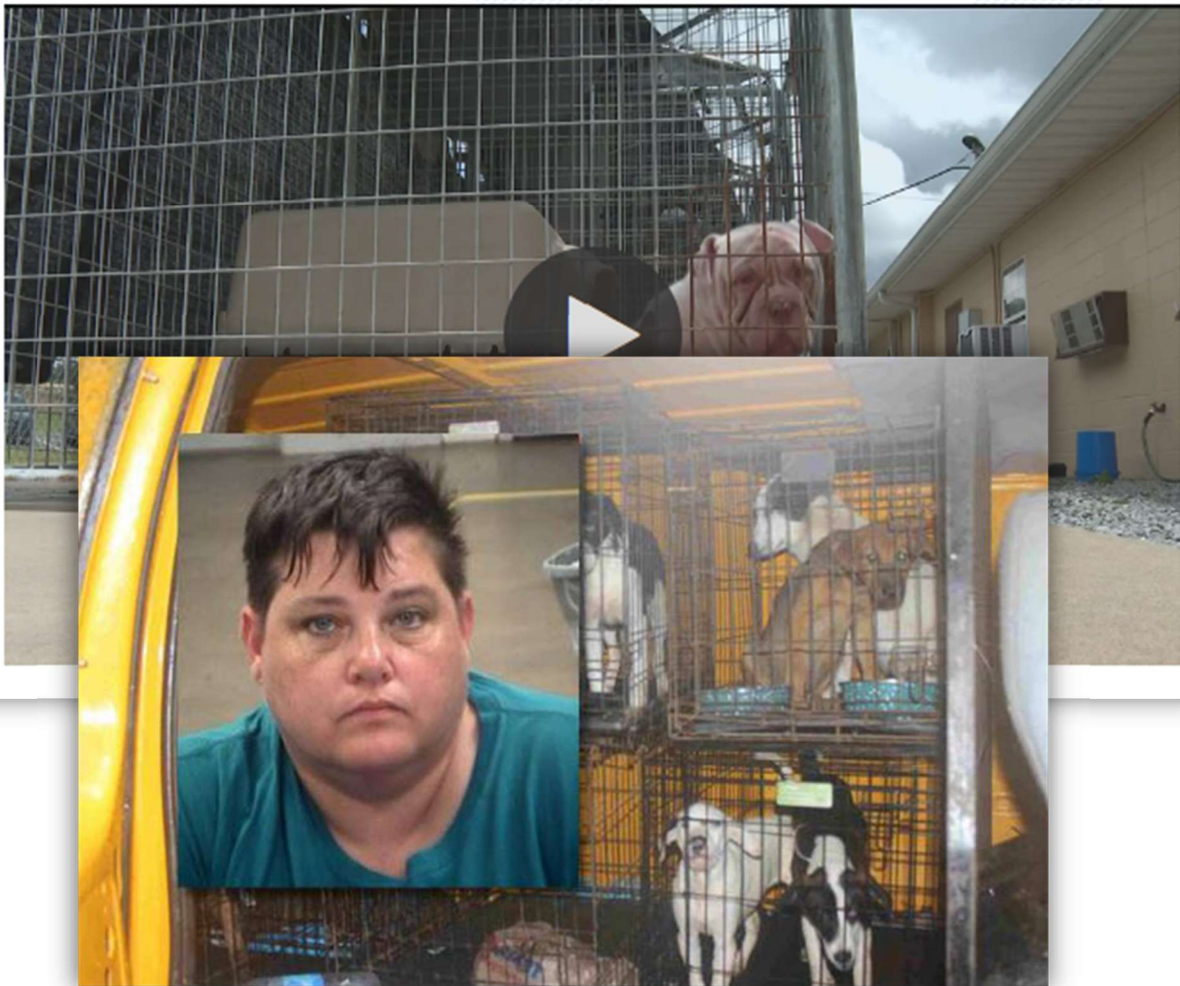
**11 ALIVE** News Weather Sports **VERIFY** **11ALIVE+** NEWS

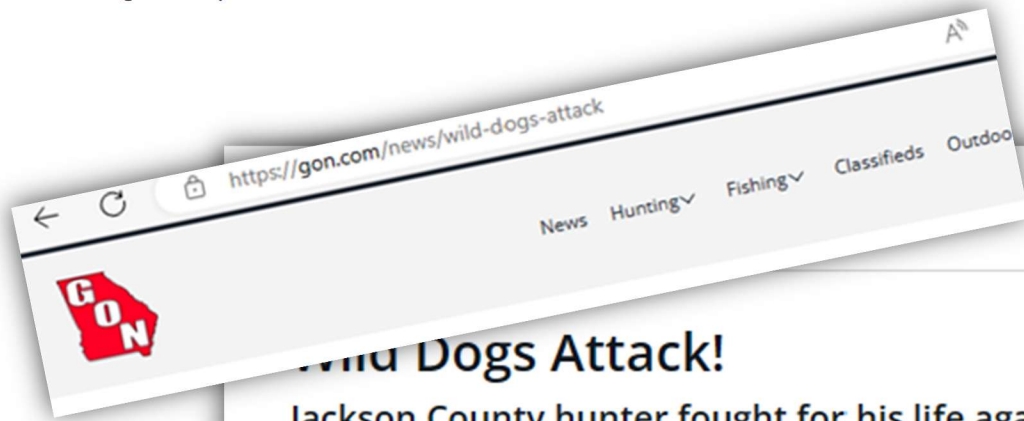
← ADVERTISE WITH US 11ALIVE INVESTIGATES VOICES FOR EQUALITY ATLANTA & COMPA

ANIMALS

# Animal hoarding handicapping animal shelters forcing more pets to be euthanized

More than 250,000 animals are victims of hoarding each year in the United States, and 80% of hoarders have dying or dead animals in their homes.





## Wild Dogs Attack!

Jackson County hunter fought for his life against three large dogs.

Mike Bolton | February 9, 2023



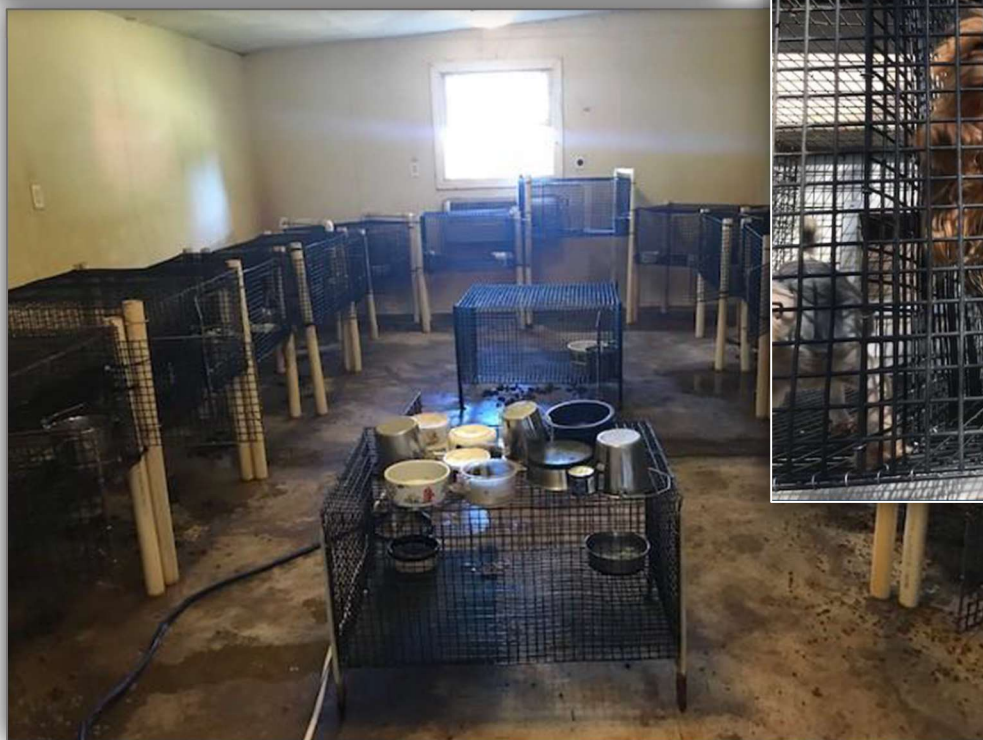
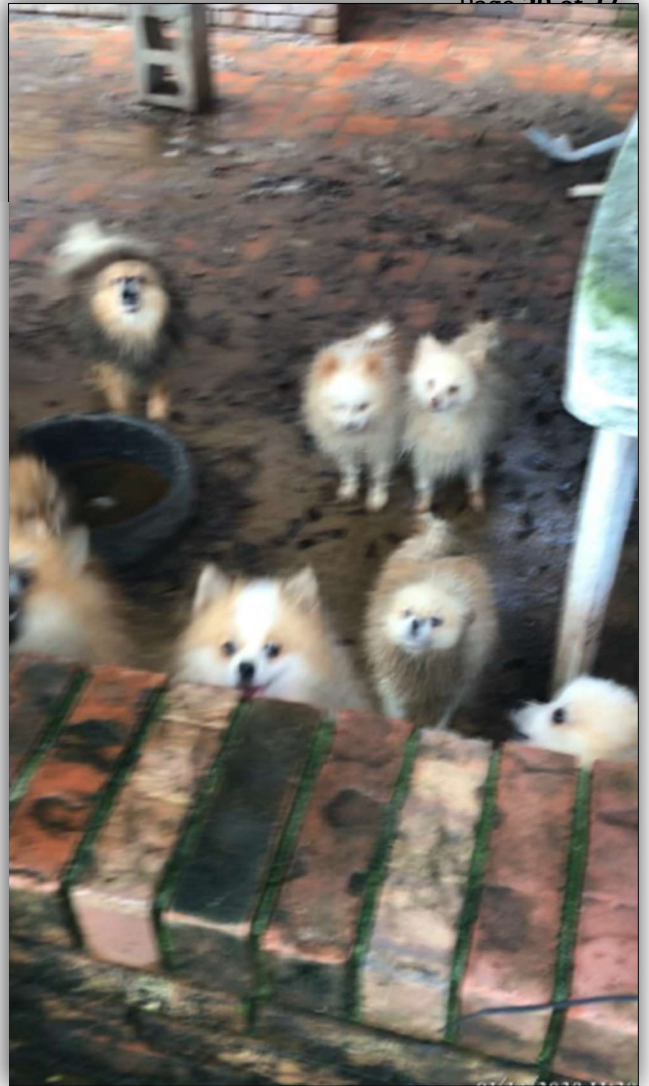
*Scott had 298 puncture wounds and lacerations and was sewn up in seven places after three dogs attacked him in Jackson County.*

**Editor's Note:** *The below story about wild dogs attacking a man took place on Sunday, Jan. 15. The event was extremely traumatic for the victim's family, and he asks that only his first name be used. However, he wanted to share his story with **GON** readers so that no one has to experience what happened to him.*

Being mistaken for a deer by another hunter is one such fear, but the wearing of hunter's orange virtually eliminates that chance. Falling from a tree stand is another possibility, but wearing a safety harness can turn a tree stand fall into an embarrassing story instead of a broken leg or even a fatality.

Being in any danger was the furthest thing from Scott's mind Sunday, Jan. 15 when he got up early and decided to spend a little time in the Jackson County woods. That routine morning turned into a frightening life and death struggle.







**Although unrecognizable due to the level of starvation she is at in these pictures, this dog is a Belgian Malinois. For those of you not familiar, the Belgian Malinois is the working dog of choice by our military as well as Law Enforcement, such as Sheriffs and Police Departments.**







**This little puppy has an excruciating skin disease, called Mange, that is completely treatable and only gets this bad after months of no care and takes even longer to recover from. He can't even open his eyes. Some poor adopter will have to pay for months of medical care and medicine.**





**If the supply of dogs and cats exceeds the demand for them as pets, their value deteriorates down to zero. It's our contention that re-balancing supply and demand in Georgia will help reduce the amount of neglect, starvation, abuse, and other criminal behavior related to animals that we see every day and our ACOs, citizens, Law enforcement and courts have to deal with, and fewer animals that have to be rescued and rehabilitated at high cost to taxpayers.**







An embedded collar, seen too often across Georgia. This is what a dog's neck looks like when a collar has been on him or her for months or years, while that dog aged from puppy to an adult.





**The Pet Education Portal, Pet Owner Resources Database and Public Service Announcements campaign will be designed and produced by Georgians. A dozen municipal animal services agencies, as well as individuals and non-profits have committed to contributing to each component of this comprehensive initiative. Our goal is to make sure the whole program will be FOR GEORGIANS, but also built BY GEORGIANS.**



The goal of the online Pet Education Website is to address the lack of education among some Georgians on how to:

- Choose,
  - care for,
  - Contain,
  - Train, and
  - Socialize their pets
  - Keep communities safe from dog bites – both owners and non-owners
- Free to anyone with a Georgia zip code
  - Tailored to different age groups
  - Could be used for:
    - Individual parents or kids
    - Animal shelters adopting out pets
    - Animal rescue groups adopting out pets
    - Public or private schools across Georgia
  - Will be built using content from free sources and local SMEs from Georgia who will be paid for their time to produce materials.

PET EDUCATION CURRICULUM		
High School	Middle School	SUBJECT MATTER
X	X	<b>Pet Care &amp; General Knowledge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dogs - breeds, care</li> <li>Cats - types, care</li> <li>Small furries (gerbils, guinea pigs, rabbits)</li> <li>Reptiles</li> <li>Equine</li> </ul>
X	X	
X	X	<b>Safety around Animals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dog Bite Prevention</li> <li>Safe Behaviors/Reading body language</li> <li>How to Behave around Service Dogs and Other Working Dogs</li> <li>Wildlife encounters</li> </ul>
X		<b>Social Studies/Community &amp; Animals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working Dogs</li> <li>Georgia's Animal Care Infrastructure:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local and State (Animal Control / Services, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources' Wildlife Division, Georgia's Dept. of Agriculture)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Georgia's Local Ordinances and State Laws protecting Pets</li> <li>Animal Shelters</li> <li>Pet Owner Resources (Pet Food Pantries, Low cost vet care, vaccines and Spay/Neuter)</li> <li>Volunteering in Your Community</li> <li>Spotting and reporting Abuse/The Link between Violence against Humans &amp; Animals</li> </ul>
X		<b>Animal Careers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Veterinarians and Veterinary Nurses</li> <li>Animal Services, Humane Enforcement Officers, Animal Cruelty Investigators</li> <li>GDA Inspectors</li> <li>Dog Groomers</li> <li>Dog Trainers</li> <li>DNR Officers</li> <li>Kennels/Boarding</li> </ul>


# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT CAMPAIGN

One reason not enough of Georgia's dog and cat owners are spaying or neutering their pets is that they are simply NOT AWARE that:

- Shelters are full and euthanizing healthy dogs and cats for space
- There aren't enough homes for the puppies or kittens their pet could produce

Most folks wouldn't let their pet get pregnant if they know those offspring will end up homeless, in an animal shelter with euthanasia as a possible fate.

**SPAY AND NEUTER**



**How can you save 100 kittens? Fix 1 cat.**

Fact: 2 cats + 7 years = 420,000 cats

**WHY SPAY AND NEUTER?**

brought to you by **DVMmultimedia** www.DVMmultimedia.com

<b>REDUCE</b> SPRAYING & MARKING	<b>REDUCE</b> ROAMING	<b>REDUCE</b> AGGRESSION
<b>LOWER</b> RISK OF CANCERS	<b>DECREASE</b> OVERPOPULATION	<b>INCREASE</b> LIFESPAN UP TO 5-5 YEARS

In 3 years, and as early as 4 months old, 1 unspayed female and 1 unneutered male can produce:

**512 DOGS**  
**382 CATS**

A statewide Public Service Announcement campaign would get this message out so that pet owners who can afford to and have access to a vet will actually get their pets fixed, preventing more homeless litters of kittens and puppies.

This would be accomplished through:

- \* Social media ad campaign
- \* Website banners
- \* Posters at public places



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT CAMPAIGN –

### Examples



**Georgia's animal shelters are full**

**Please spay & neuter to save lives**


**Find help here:** 



**“Hey! Did you know Georgia's animal shelters are full of dogs like me?”**

**FIND SPAY/NEUTER HELP HERE:** 







## PET OWNER RESOURCES DATABASE

The goal of the online Pet Owner Resources database is to provide a way for Georgians to look up nearby resources for their pet care needs, such as:

- Pet food pantries
- Spay/Neuter services
- Low-cost veterinary services

Georgia has close to 700 non-profits devoted to animal welfare. Those offering services to the general public will be included in the list.

An individual will be able to search the resources by entering a county or a zip code to find services close to home.

Cobb County	ATLANTA WEIMARANER CLUB RESCUE (ATLANTA WEIMARANER CLUB RESCUE)	3399245
Cobb County	Stand Up Pups (REBECCA FISCHER-TRIPODI)	3400169
Cobb County	Fur Missioners Inc. (Lenora Fernandez)	3400183
Cobb County	Kitties and Co., Inc. (Kim Moneypenny)	3400276
Cobb County	MUTT MADDNESS (Stephanie Teach)	33100554
Cobb County	NATIONAL BRITTANY RESCUE & ADOPTION NETW (KATHY MILLER)	33103503
Cobb County	GEORGIA HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY (JENNIFER MCGEE)	33104606
Cobb County	COBB ANIMAL SHELTER AUXILIARY, INC. (JUDY ANN MANN)	33104657
Cobb County	PAPAYAGO RESCUE HOUSE, INC. (MARIA STODDARD)	33105839
Cobb County	DACHSHUND RESCUE FOUNDATION	
Cobb County	FANCY FELINE RESCUE OF THE SOUTH, LLC (FANCY FELINE RESCUE OF THE SOU)	3394520
unty	Husky Pack Rescue, Inc (JENNIFER C. DAY)	33105788
unty	KITTY ANGEL RESCUE (CHERYL DARITY)	3385935
unty	BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY (Amanda Blair)	3399958
unty	BOSLEY'S PLACE INC. (JENNIFER SIEGAL)	33105840
unty	DANA'S DOGHOUSE (DANA LYNN NEWTON)	33103852
unty	GEORGIA HOMELESS PETS (Robin Gower)	33101812
unty	Kudzu Cat Alliance (Julie Sims)	3400228
unty	Lavelle, Inc (Bernadette Vlachos)	3400124
unty	ATLANTA BOXER RESCUE, INC (DIANNE DA LEE)	33100283
County		
County	CLAYTON CO. POLICE DEPT, ANIMAL CONTROL ( )	3372
County	HUMANE SOCIETY/SPCA CLAYTON CO (ROBIN RAWLS)	3373
County		
County	Pooler Paws Inc. (Julianne Haynes)	3400257
County	Chatham County Animal Services (Dr. Charles Harper DVM)	337643
County	THE HUMANE SOCIETY FOR GREATER SAVANNAH (LYNN GENSAMER)	331131
County	DACHSHUND RESCUE OF NORTH AMERICA, INC. (DACHSHUND RESCUE OF NORTH AMI)	3390184
County	Red Clay Animal Rescue, Inc. (Emily Pointer)	3400021
County	Renegade Paws Rescue (Jennifer Taylor)	3400114
County	Tabby Tales Rescue (Vanessa Lewallen)	3400282
County	SAVE A LIFE (Melissa Mauldin)	33102131
County	GRRR GA Rescue Rehabilitation Relocation (MARGARET LYNN SKINNER)	33102917
County	COASTAL PET RESCUE, INC (LISA SCARBROUGH)	33103030
County	ONE LOVE ANIMAL RESCUE (KARRIE BULSKI)	33105772
County	IMAGINE PET RESCUE (CINDY MCMANUS)	33105859
County	CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND (Walter Hattrich)	3393868
id County		
id County	AUGUSTA ANIMAL SERVICES (AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY ANIMAL)	3319357
id County	CSRA HUMANE SOCIETY INC (LUCINOA (CINDY) S. BENTLEY)	3352776
id County	AUGUSTA HUMANE SOCIETY, INC ( )	3357499
id County	Rocket's Rest Stop (Erin Jacobs Dennis)	3400188
id County	BRASS KNUCKLE PIN UPS RESCUE INC. (CHERISH ALAINA DANFORTH)	33105812
id County	Augusta Animal Rescue Friends	
Richmond County	Hands to Paws (Kathryn Ellis)	33105984
Richmond County	SAVE THE ANIMALS RESCUE SOCIETY, INC. (WILLENE COLVIN)	:89275 SUSPEN
Hall County		
Hall County	HALL COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER (HALL COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER)	33102411
Hall County	HALL COUNTY, HUMANE SOCIETY OF ( )	3312311
Hall County	LABRADOR FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH, INC. (LABRADOR FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH,)	3396006
Hall County	Evelyns Rescue Inc (Teresa Reynolds)	3400002

GCAC Coalition
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*Thank you for your attention!*

*For further information, please call or email us.*



**Georgia Companion Animal Coalition**

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Phone: (703) 347-3871