

# GEORGIA HAS A PROBLEM

## Pet Overpopulation is a Crisis!



f Stop Pet Overpopulation in Georgia

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Our animal shelters are overflowing. Healthy, adoptable cats and dogs are euthanized daily. GA ranks 5th in the nation for euthanasias, yet the larger problem lies outside the shelters -animals on the streets breeding future shelter populations.

Many county animal controls no longer pick up strays, creating public health and safety risks. Nonprofit rescues are closing intake or shutting down due to rising costs and a lack of fosters. The private funding to address a problem of this magnitude is simply not there. This crisis disproportionately affects GA's poorest residents, who struggle to care for homeless animals.

GA taxpayers are footing the bill. County AC budgets run into the millions yet rarely address overpopulation at its source. The state allocates just \$400,000 per year to the Dog and Cat Sterilization Program, funded through specialty license plate sales and income tax donations.

**We urgently need statewide legislative action. These actions include:**

**A vast increase in state funding to the Dog and Cat Sterilization Program:** Invest in Spay and Neuter (Texas recently invested \$13M in spay/neuter).

**Stronger laws that punish those that are illegally breeding and/or abandoning animals.**

**Recognize that TNR (trap, neuter, return) is not animal abandonment.** This allows county animal shelters to neuter free roaming, usually non adoptable community cats.

**Subsidized spay/neuter surgeries for low-income Georgians** to reduce the vast amount of accidental litters. Far too often, poverty and overpopulation go hand in hand.

**Public education campaigns to promote responsible pet ownership and the importance of spay/neuter.**

The current system is failing GA's companion animals. Without decisive action, the crisis will only grow more costly. **Can I count on your help to prioritize spay and neuter funding and make our state a model of compassion and responsibility?**