
Gwinnett Animal Advisory Council Minutes
Monday, October 7, 2024 – 7:00pm-9:00pm
One Justice Square; Webex

Present: Jeanne Aulbach, Gail LaBerge, Nahum Nicholas (7:12pm), B Thassanee Gutter-Parker, Dr. Tameka Womack

Absent: Erin Martin

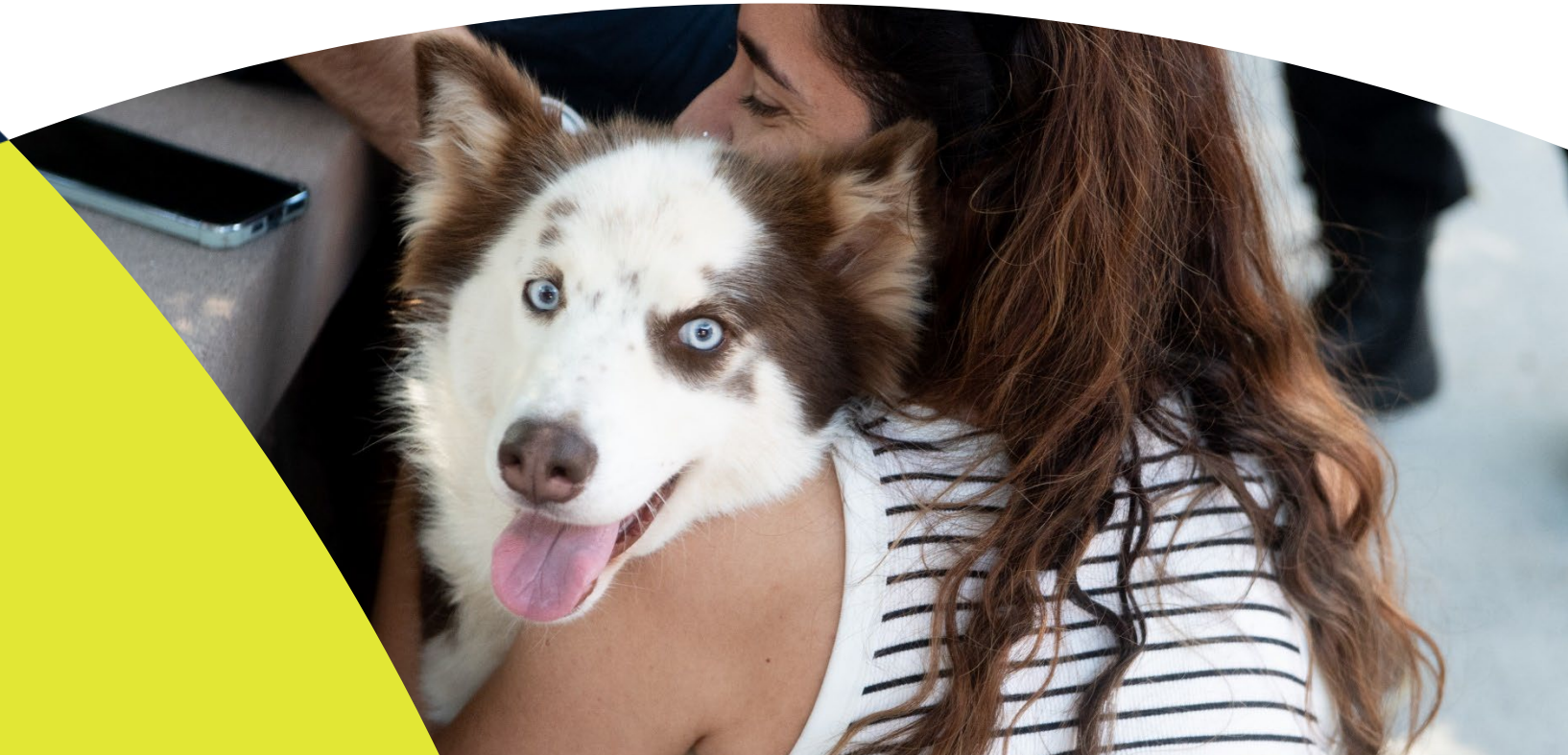
1. Call to Order
2. Welcome / Announcements
3. Approval of Agenda
 - {Action: Approved; Motion: LaBerge; Second: Aulbach; Vote: (4-0); Aulbach-Yes; LaBerge-Yes; Parker-Yes; Womack-Yes}
4. Approval of Minutes – July 8, 2024
 - {Action: Approved; Motion: Aulbach; Second: LaBerge; Vote: (4-0); Aulbach-Yes; LaBerge-Yes; Parker-Yes; Womack-Yes}
5. Animal Welfare & Enforcement Updates
 - Updates from the Director
 - Center Operations
 - Field Operations
 - Special Operations
 - Medical Services and Intake Operations
 - Fosters
 - Community Outreach
 - Volunteer Highlights
 - Appearances & Partnerships
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Public Comments
9. Adjournment
 - {Action: Approved; Motion: Nicholas; Second: Aulbach; Vote: (5-0); Aulbach-Yes; LaBerge-Yes; Nicholas-Yes; Parker-Yes; Womack-Yes}

Gwinnett Animal Advisory Council

October 7, 2024



Updates from the Director



Gwinnett Re-Entry Intervention Program

- GRIP
- Collaboration with Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office
- Incentivized program that offers non-violent offenders access to rehabilitation, educational, vocational, and occupational skills for successful re-entry into society.

GRIP Benefits to Animal Welfare

- Daily support in the kennel with cleaning, laundry, and dishes daily.
- Provides canine handling skills, care, and support of shelter animals.
- Allows staff to focus on animal enrichment activities like play groups.



Center Renovations

- Out to bid until October 10, 2024
- Order of phases identified for project
 - Phase order identified as the most efficient way to keep shelter fully operating during the renovation
- Expecting to present floor plans at the January 2025 AAC meeting
 - While bidding is open, we are not permitted to share floor plans

Georgia Animal Shelter Statics

Terms

- No Kill – When every shelter within the community has a save rate of 90% or higher.
- Nearly No Kill – When every shelter within the community has a save rate of 85% - 89.99%.
- Not No Kill – When at least one shelter in the community has a save rate below 85%.

State Stats*

- 144,586 cats and dogs saved
- 180,595 entered
- 19,331 cats and dogs euthanized
- 80.1% Total save rate (includes medical and wildlife)

**Source [Best Friends](#): Data for the national and state level is based on collected 2023 data and predictive modeling based off previous years of data and community characteristics. 160 of 166 shelters reported data.*

Social Media Policy

- Social media is used for enhancing traditional mechanisms for delivering public information, customer service, and e-government to residents.
- No Gwinnett County department, division, or work group is permitted to respond directly to any postings on its social media accounts unless those responses conform to the response guidelines, developed and managed by the County's Communication Department.
- County employees must be trained as social media coordinators before they are authorized by the County to develop or post content.
- Any employee violating any provision of the policy may be subject to possible disciplinary action up to and including termination. Each department, division, or work group may, based upon its individual business needs or legal requirements, place additional restrictions, but a minimum adhere to the County policy.

Team Training

- Cat Care, Handling and Enrichment
- Caring for Horses
- Tourniquet & First Aid Training
- Self-Defense
- Active Violence



Team Training Continued

- ASP Baton
- Bite Procedures
- Field and Kennel Training
- Fuel Site
- Chemical Capture
- Humane Euthanasia
- Catch Pole Training
- Intake Procedures
- Neglect
- Ordinance Review
- Rabies and Heartworm
- Shelter Buddy Cleaning Procedure
- Defensive Driving
- Dangerous Dogs

Team Updates

July – September 2024

Promotions

- Ira Tolbert – Field Services Manager
- Angela Hutchins – Center Manager

New Hires

- Day Road Coordinator
- Night Road Coordinator
- Facility Operations Assistant
- Animal Control Officer I (4), Part-Time Animal Control Officer (2)

Vacancies

- Animal Control Supervisor
- Kennel Coordinator
- Administrative Support Associate I



Social Media Recap July – September 2024

- 1.4 Million post impressions
- 36,608 Reactions
- 617,699 Post reach
- 122,292 Page and post engagements
- 6,756 Link clicks
- 773 New fans
- 360 Posts



APPOINTMENTS
Open NOW!



Gwinnett Animal Welfare urges residents to adopt pets in annual 'Clear the Shelters' adoption drive



Gwinnett County animal shelter

Google Reviews

- I adopted the sweetest kitten yesterday from y'all and he fits her family perfectly. Y'all are one of the most amazing shelters. Thank you soooo much! ~ L Burke
- Gwinnett County Animal Shelter is a wonderful place where both animals and visitors are treated with care and compassion. The friendly atmosphere, combined with the dedication of the staff, makes it a standout facility. The animals are well-cared for and the team is always eager to help you find the perfect pet. It's a great place to find your new furry family member! ~ A Johnson
- Came in looking for a puppy. Lady helped us play with a dog and less than 30 min later, walked out with our new dog. Great and friendly people. ~ T Cail
- The family across the street left this cat and 4 kittens. Me and my fellow Crazy Cat Lady friends took care of them and found them all homes. Then she got pregnant again with 5. No one could afford to have her spayed to stop the cycle. Then we heard about your program and that it was free. She is now fixed and 4 of the 5 are adopted. Thank you!! The process was fast and efficient and a relief for us all! Bless your work! 😊 ~ R Dunlop

Google Reviews

- Great place to get a family pet. They also take your animals upon surrender. Every county should be like Gwinnett. Their staff, EXCEPTIONAL! ~ S Beard
- I absolutely loved my experience at the Gwinnett County Animal Control. Julie is awesome 👍 . She handled everything from start to finish with a smile & patience ! She was able to answer all my questions & was so helpful. She also reminded me if I needed help, she & staff are just a phone call away for any assistance. Julie is a awesome woman & staff member to have on board at the animal shelter!! She really cares about the animals & the ppl who adopt them . I hope they realize they have a true gem 💎 !! ❤️ Thank you Julie 😊 ~ VV
- Excellent experience at the event today we brought home our newest baby her name is Coraline who has already been fixed and vaxed thanks to the shelter they even set us up with a little kitten food! Remember everyone adopt don't shop! ~ M Cuadra

Center Operations



Center Operations

July – September 2024

	July – Sept. 2024	July – Sept. 2023	YTD for 2024	Total for 2023
Visitors	6,270 (2.2% increase)	6,132	16,782	21,838
Adoptions	1,115 (6% increase)	1,050	2,769	3,684
Return to Owners	368	402	1,372	1,743

Center Operations

July – September 2024

Canine Live Release Rate

93.26% July
94.52% August
90.13% September

91.45% 2024 YTD

Feline Live Release Rate

94.55% July
95.95% August
94.27% September

91.48% 2024 YTD

Percentage Saved

93.81% July
95.18% August
92.36% September

91.66% 2024 YTD

Center Operations

July – September 2024

	July 2024	July 2023	August 2024	August 2023	Sept. 2024	Sept. 2023
Canine Live Release Rate	93.26% (16.9% increase)	79.73%	94.52% (10% increase)	85.86%	90.13%	94.30%
Feline Live Release Rate	94.55% (1.9% increase)	92.76%	95.95% (.20% increase)	95.75%	94.27% 3.9% increase	90.70%
Percentage Saved	93.81% (9.96% increase)	85.31%	95.18% (5.8% increase)	89.95%	92.36%	93.08%

Animal Enrichment July – September 2024

Center

- 107.5 Hours of enrichment
- 344 Dogs in enrichment activities
- Cat enrichment activities include food puzzles, interactive toys, treats, grooming, music, calming pheromone diffusers, etc.

Outreach/Volunteers

- 40 Hours of enrichment
- 5 Hours of volunteer “additional” enrichment
- 50 Dogs in outreach activities such as Dog Day Out, adoption events, Spa Days, etc.



Animal Behavior Assessments

- Behavior Assessments Conducted
 - 110 Assessments (August – September)
 - 28.25 Assessment Hours
- ASPCA SAFER
 - Identifies dog's comfort level with restraint, touch, and reaction to new experiences including movement, sound stimuli, bite inhibition, behavior around food and toys, and arousal level toward other dogs.

Animal Behavior Assessments

Animal Care & Training Staff

- Assess yellow and orange card dogs, owner surrenders prior to acceptances, and other dogs, as necessary.
- Based on results, enrichment and/or behavior modification plan is developed, is the animal safe to adopt, should the animal go to rescue/foster, is further evaluation needed etc.
- Conduct training on behavior assessments for kennel staff.

Trained Kennel Staff

- Assess white card dogs

Euthanasia

July – September 2024

- 119 Animals euthanized
 - 187 Animals euthanized (July – September 2023)
 - 36% Decrease
- Euthanasia Rate
 - 6.19% July; 4.82% August; 7.64% September
- 83 Unassisted deaths*
 - 65 kittens, 7 cats, 3 dogs, 6 puppies, 1 rodent, and 1 bird (wildlife)

Euthanasia by Species

July – September 2024

Animal Type	In-House	Outside Vet
Dog	70	-
Puppy	1	-
Cat	11	3
Kitten	19	-
Bird (wildlife)	2	2
Mammal (<i>i.e., racoons, bats, opossums</i>)	14	-
Marsupial	2	-
Reptile	-	-
Grand Total	119	5

Euthanasia

July – September 2024

Dogs Euthanized

- 1 Total visits/interest from potential adopters*
- 6 Dogs received rescue pleas/last call
- 30 Minutes on average of enrichment received per dog

Reasons for Euthanasia

- 21 Health/veterinary recommended
- 46 Behavior**
- 3 Mental decline

* Stats from 07.29.24 – September 2024

** 16 of 46 behavior euthanasia were dogs deemed and/or surrendered for humane euthanasia. Five of which never had owner come forward.

Field Operations



**Gwinnett Animal
Welfare & Enforcement**

-  [GwinnettCounty.com](https://www.gwinnettcounty.com)
-  770.339.3200
-  Gwinnett Animal Shelter

Field Operations

July – September 2024

	July – Sept. 2024	July – Sept. 2023	YTD 2024	Total for 2023
Animals Saved	1,589	1,657	4,518	6,005
Calls for Service	5,252	5,259	15,614	20,264
Returned in Field	104	107	415	546
Citations Issued	361 (21% increase)	298	1,212	1,130
Picked up on Road	694	844	2,380	3,091
Dead Animals	479 (25.7% increase)	381	1,200	1,669

Top Field Citations Issued July – September 2024

- 144 No restraint (10-71(A))
- 59 Rabies tag (10-141(A))
- 85 Duty to be a responsible owner (10-7(A))
- 54 Attack without provocation (10-8(A)(4))
- 27 Neglect (10-173(A)(1))



Special Operations



Rescues, Neglect, Court & Probation

July – September 2024

	July – Sept. 2024	July – Sept. 2023	YTD 2024	Total for 2023
Sent to a Rescue*	106	175	377	578
Neglect Cases	275	171	641	882
Court and Probation	69	163	560 (250 Probation)	640 (388 Probation)

* Collaborated with 39 different rescues from July – September 2024.

Bites and Rabies Comparison

July – September 2024

	July – Sept. 2024	July – Sept. 2023	YTD 2024	Total for 2023
Animal Bites	212	206	617	770
Positive Rabies Cases	1	9	10	9

Dangerous/Vicious Hearing Board

July – September 2024

Dangerous Dogs	Vicious Dogs
2 Dangerous dog cases (hearing pending)	0 Vicious dog case (hearing pending)
3 Dogs declared dangerous	1 Dog declared as vicious
0 Cases pending/investigation	0Cases pending/investigation

Rescue Pleas

July – September 2024

Received a Rescue Plea

- 66 Dogs
- 24 Cats
- **90 Total**

Sent to/Pulled for Rescue

- 44 Dogs
- 46 Cats
- 15 Horses
- 1 Rabbit
- **106 Total**

Adopted

- 23 Dogs
- 2 Cats
- **25 Total**

Fostered

- 11 Dogs
- 0 Cats
- **11 Total**

Euthanized

- 6 Dogs
- 3 Behavior
- 3 Medical
- 0 Cats
- **6 Total**

Animals Rescued That Are Thriving

July – September 2024



Unlicensed Breeding/Selling Without a License

July – September 2024

Citations for Selling Without a License

- 1 Case owner issued citations (January – September 2024)
 - 2023: 4 Cases owners issued citations

Citations for Unlicensed Breeding

- 5 Cases owners issued citations (January – September 2024)
 - 2023: 5 Cases owners issued citations

Licensing is through Georgia Department of Agriculture

Unlicensed Breeding/Selling Without a License July – September 2024

Why Citations Not Issued:

Insufficient evidence (5 Cases)

Took place outside of Gwinnett County (1 Case)

Person is licensed (4 Cases)

Photo(s) posted online, unable to prove occurrence in Gwinnett County; Department of Ag investigating



Medical Services and Intake Operations

Return to Community Cat Program Updates

- New drop-Off Time: 8:00am – 8:45am
- 8 Cats per day
- Developing a future "Q&A for TNR" event
- Working on possible calibration with CatSnip during TNR high volume seasons



Return to Community Cat Program

July – September 2024

Month	July – Sept. 2024	July – Sept. 2023	YTD 2024	Total for 2023
July	170	142	1,408	1,548
August	161	203		
September	131	144		
Grand Total	462	489		

Owner Surrender Emails

July – September 2024

Month	July – Sept. 2024	July – Sept. 2023	YTD 2024	Total for 2023
July	140	137	1,349	2,248
August	153	191		
September	199	226		
Grand Total	492	554		

Animals accepted from approved requests – 369 (223 dogs, 131 cats, 15 other)

Cat and Dog Adoption Tips Booklet

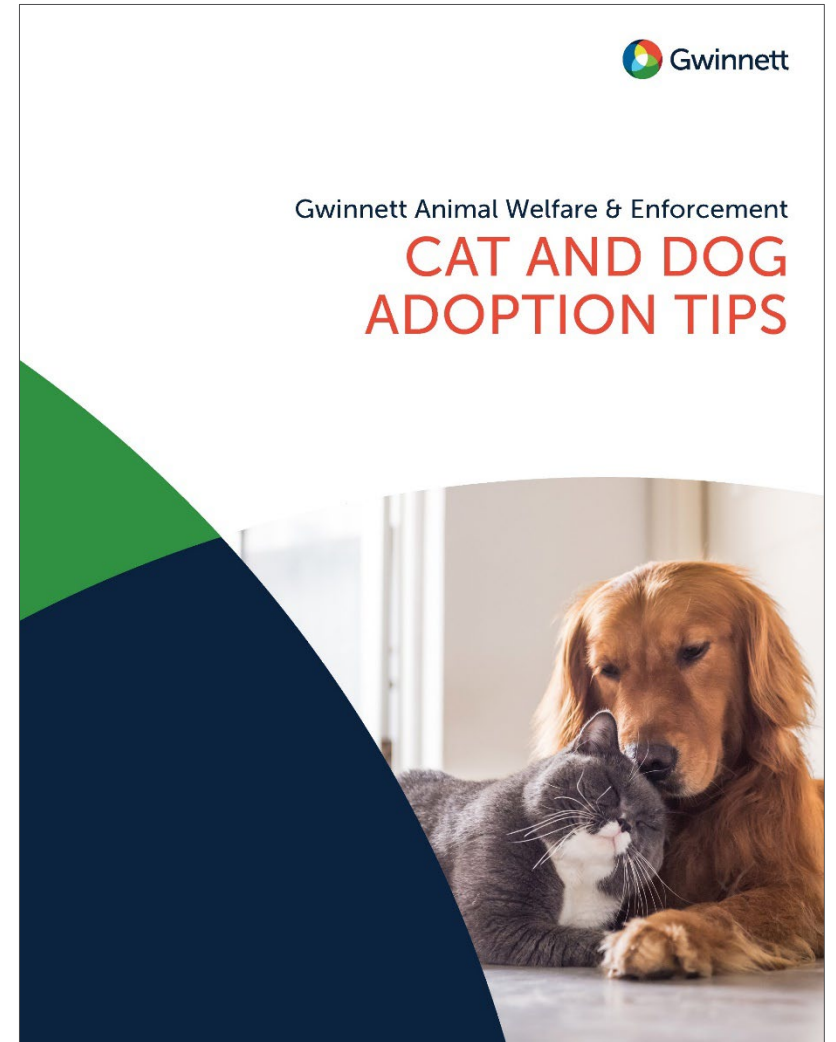
- Booklet electronically sent to adopters to make the experience easier on both the adopter and animal.

Dog tips:

- Feeding, socialization, grooming, handling and training, housing, kennel cough, body language, and vocalization.

Cat tips:

- Scratching, litter box, training, behavioral issues, body language and vocalizations, and upper respiratory infection.





Fosters

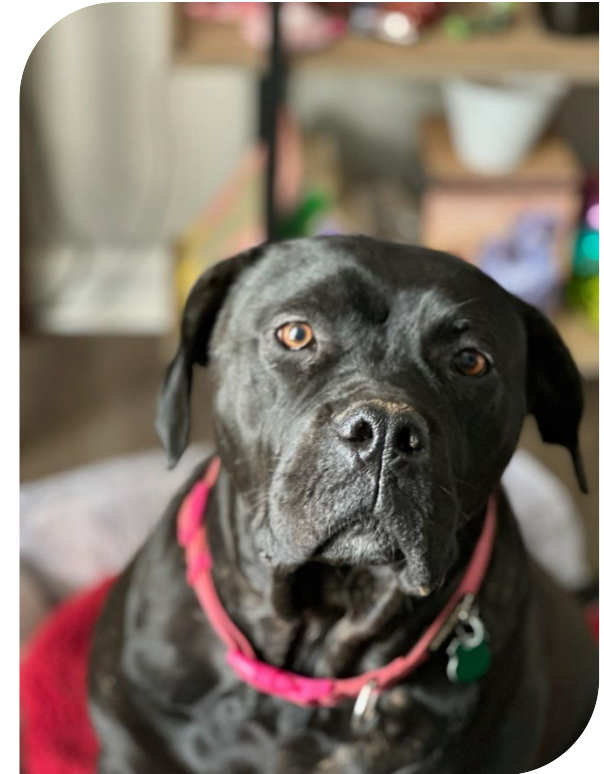


Foster Program

July – September 2024

	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024
Adopted by Foster	5	6	1
Sent to Foster	78	90	22
# New Fosters	3	3	5
# Home Visits	12	15	12
# of Foster Hours	14,825	13,000	12,916

Foster Animals Thriving



Foster Animals Thriving



Community Outreach



Christmas in July Highlights

Before you wrap up for the day, I wanted to share some fantastic news about the remarkable achievements of our Animal Welfare and Enforcement team during the "Christmas In July" adoption promotion. Their tireless dedication and hard work have made a tremendous difference, and I'm excited to highlight their incredible success.

Adoption Highlights:

- **Total July Adoptions: 425 animals found new homes, including 233 dogs and puppies!**
- **"12 Strays of Christmas": 8 out of 17 featured pets were adopted during the campaign!**
- **Overall Increase: We experienced a 130.6% increase in adoptions compared to the same period in 2023, when 101 animals were adopted.**

THE
Gwinnett
Standard

This success is a direct result of the passion and commitment of our AWE team members, who care for these animals every day. They work tirelessly with the public to find the perfect match for each pet, ensuring that every adoption is a success story. From managing the daily care of the animals to creating meaningful connections with potential adopters, their efforts have brought joy to countless families and given many animals a second chance at a happy life.

Our AWE Standard Bearers have gone above and beyond, not just during this promotion but throughout the year. They face the challenges of animal care with compassion and professionalism, making a real difference in our community. Their dedication to finding loving homes for these animals is inspiring, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. ~ Deputy Department Director Lindsey Jorstad



Clear the Shelter Highlights

Animals that Left

- 65 animals (adoptions, foster, rescue, reclaim)
- Over 30 animals left in first 90 minutes of the event

Event Highlights

- Over 500 event attendees
- 35 Local vendors
- 30 Volunteers (combined for 134.5 volunteer hrs.)

Activities and Attractions

- Dog ice cream and sundae station
- Pet ownership tips table
- Painted Paws and lawn games
- Scoop the Poop
- Pet preparedness in emergencies
- Dog misting station



Clear the Shelter Highlights



Clear the Shelter Highlights



Monday Yappy Hour

Free



October 7 | November 4 | December 2

A monthly treat for pet lovers! | 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Volunteer Highlights



Phase 2 of Dog Day Out Program

- Test runs conducted August – September
- Eligible volunteers who have volunteered more than 50 hours can take a white card dog out for the day for pre-approved activities.
- AWE supplies necessary supplies (leash, harness, water bowl, food snacks, seat belt, etc.)
- Dogs have “business cards” should volunteer meet somebody interested in adoption.
- Volunteer fills out a “Report Card” on how the dog behaved, what they did and what they saw.



Dogs Needing Additional Enrichment

Behaviorist identifies dogs who could benefit from additional enrichment; suggests indoor/outdoor activities for each dog.

Volunteers spend 20 minutes with each dog on list doing suggested activity (walk, fetch in bonding pen, tug-o-war, etc.) and signs off the dog's enrichment was completed for that day.

Stats:

- 29 Dogs identified as needing additional enrichment.
- 25 Received additional enrichment (combine total – 5 hours)
- 15 Adopted
- 2 Fostered
- 1 Reclaimed



Volunteer Highlights July – September 2024

Top Volunteers

- Stephanie Farris – 106 hours
- Bri Wallace – 86.75 hours
- Eduardo Hernandez – 85 hours
- Nicole Jackson – 61 hours
- Elizabeth Ferry – 52.75 hours
- Number of volunteers – 68

Total Volunteer Hours – 825.5 hours





Appearances & Partnerships

Appearances & Partnerships July – September 2024

Community Appearances

- 6 Paws in the Park hosted
- City of Lawrenceville Dog Park Ribbon Cutting
- Georgia Gwinnett College
 - PT Job Fair
 - Fall Safety and Preparedness Fair
- Tripp Elementary Career on Wheels
- Public Safety Fall Festival
- 2025 APPEARANCES ALREADY SCHEDULED!

Partnerships

- 5 Dog Days Out
- 3 Off-site Adoption events



Upcoming Events & Promotions

- October 19: Shelter Pets Rock
- October 22: National Animal Shelter Proclamation
- October 26: Vaccination Clinic with Planned PetHood at Best Friend Park
- November 7: Monday Yappy Hour: Food Safety Tips
- December 2: Monday Yappy Hour: Pet Safe Holiday Plants
- December 7: Santa Paws Holiday Market & Photos With Santa Paws



Thank You

GwinnettAnimalWelfare.com

[@GwinnettAnimalWelfare](https://twitter.com/GwinnettAnimalWelfare)