

**Georgia Companion Animal Advocacy**

Neglect is cruelty.  
Cruelty is a crime.

Georgia Companion Animal Advocacy

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We support advocates, rescuers, shelter, law enforcement and animal control professionals that share the same goal of reducing the suffering, neglect, and unnecessary death of unwanted companion animals in Georgia in any way we can.

We provide tools and information helpful to improve local animal ordinances, spread awareness of the issues of neglect and overpopulation in Georgia's communities, provide educational tools on combating animal cruelty, and the Link between it and public safety to decisionmakers and law enforcement. We research and compile euthanasia and intake totals for the state of Georgia. We research and compile a statewide list of animal ordinances in order to identify best practices for communities looking to improve their own. We use social media and community billboards to publicize legislative issues, cruelty cases, available trainings on animal law enforcement and the Link. We provide free memberships to Justice clearinghouse for interested animal control officers and meeting materials and handouts for advocates to present to government decisionmakers.

**CRUELTY TO ANIMALS** - MISDEAMOR. GA Code § 16-12-14

1st offense = up to 12 months in jail and/or \$1,000 fine  
2nd offense = up to 12 months in jail and/or \$5,000 fine

A person commits the offense of CRUELTY TO ANIMALS when he or she:

- causes physical pain, suffering, or death to an animal by any unjustifiable act or omission, OR
- fails to provide to such animal the food, water, sanitary conditions, or ventilation consistent with what a reasonable person would believe is adequate for that animal.

\* Good Samaritan is protected under this code.

**AGGRAVATED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS** - FELONY. GA Code § 16-12-14

1st offense = up to 5 years in jail and/or \$15,000 fine  
2nd offense = up to 10 years in jail and/or \$20,000 fine

A person commits the offense of AGGRAVATED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS when he or she:

- causes the death of an animal.
- intentionally inflicts an injury on an animal.
- releases an animal, subjecting it to severe or prolonged physical pain.
- releases an animal to a person or place.
- fails to provide an animal the food, water, sanitary conditions, or ventilation consistent with what a reasonable person would believe is adequate, resulting in death or disfigurement.

**ABANDONMENT** - MISDEAMOR. GA Code § 4-11-17.1

1st offense = up to 12 months in jail and/or \$1,000 fine  
2nd offense = up to 12 months in jail and/or \$5,000 fine

Knowingly and intentionally abandoning any domesticated animal.

**UNLICENSED BREEDING** - MISDEAMOR. GA Code § 4-11-7

1st offense = up to 12 months in jail and/or \$1,000 fine  
2nd offense = up to 12 months in jail and/or \$5,000 fine

A person who sells or offers to sell more than one litter of offspring a year must have a Georgia Pet Dealer license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

**DOG FIGHTING** - FELONY/MISDEAMOR. GA Code § 16-12-31

1st offense = MISDEAMOR of HIGH and AGGRAVATED NATURE, up to 12 months in jail  
2nd offense = FELONY, 1-5 years in jail and/or \$5,000 fine

**Participants** - FELONY

1st offense = 1-5 years in jail and/or minimum \$5,000 fine  
2nd offense = 1-15 years in jail and/or minimum \$15,000 fine

- entering, possessing, training, transporting, or selling any dog with intent to fight another dog.
- using any device to bait, train, or condition any dog to fight another dog.
- possessing any device used in baiting, training, or conditioning a dog to fight another dog.
- possessing or conducting a dog fight.

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**ANIMAL LICENSING**

Year	Number of Licenses Issued	Percentage of Licenses Issued	Number of Animals Spayed or Neutered	Percentage of Animals Spayed or Neutered
2018	629	55%	657	8%
2017	631	3%	630	2%
2016	405	7%	638	2%
2015	708			1.57

**GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT COMPANION ANIMAL OVERPOPULATION COMES WITH THESE RISKS:**

- INCREASED SHELTER COSTS
- INCREASED ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT COSTS
- SUMNER COUNTY'S CURRENT INTAKE/HUMAN POPULATION ARE DOUBLE THE RATE CONSIDERED NORMAL IN GEORGIA COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTIES
- SUMNER COUNTY IS SURROUNDED BY COUNTIES THAT DO NOT HAVE A SHELTER OR ANIMAL CONTROL
- BAD PRESS ASSOCIATED WITH PUPPY MILL BUYS
- BAD PRESS ASSOCIATED WITH HOARDING CASES
- BAD PRESS ASSOCIATED WITH CRUELTY CASES
- BAD PRESS ASSOCIATED WITH HIGH EUTHANASIA RATES

ANIMAL ORDINANCES REVIEW - 1ST EDITION

Address	City	County	Year	Adopted	Repealed	Amended	Other
368 DVA SCHOOL RD	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
9205 Middlebrook Hwy	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
7396 Bullard Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
111 Industrial	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
305 GA Hwy 22 W	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
1724 W. Vester Cir	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
326 West Pk Church Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
184 Rose Road Dr	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
4230 Phillipsburg Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
148 Parkway Dr SW	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
3026 N. Columbus Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
800 S. Egan St	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
627 Higgins Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
3364 Deanswyler Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
1388 Apple Pie Ridge Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
120 Giles Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
900 Highway 211 NW	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
178 Birch Creek Cir	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
2005 Oak Pepper Ln	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
1551 Carl Bethman Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
2020 Smith Station Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
972 Compass Dr	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
124 Hildebrand Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
604 Hix Ln	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
109 Rockwell Church Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
157 Woody Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
145 Hogue Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
388 Pizano Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
257 Summit Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
2407 Sams Lake Church Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
557 Tuckerville Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
2403 Sams Lake Church Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
2209 McMillan/Jampani Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
1145 Maryanna Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
112 Highgate Trail	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
4329 Haystack Bridge Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
6021 Westcott Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
6903 Farmington	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
3863 Eisenhower Pkwy #3	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
2201 Pioneer Highway Rd	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				
5138 Turner Cir	Lawrenceville	Spalding	2009				

**ABBREVIATED SUMMARY OF GEORGIA STATE ANIMAL CRUELTY LAW:**

2018 Georgia Code § 16-12-31. Cruelty to animals

A person commits the offense of CRUELTY TO ANIMALS when he or she:

- causes physical pain, suffering, or death to an animal by any unjustifiable act or omission, or
- fails to provide to such animal the food, water, sanitary conditions, or ventilation that is consistent with what a reasonable person of ordinary knowledge would believe to be the normal requirement and feeding habit for such animal's size, species, breed, age, and physical condition.

A person commits the FELONY offense of AGGRAVATED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS when he or she:

- intentionally causes the death of an animal by any unjustifiable act or omission, or
- intentionally inflicts an injury on an animal, or
- intentionally releases an animal, subjecting it to severe or prolonged physical pain.

Any person convicted of the offense of AGGRAVATED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than five years, or fine not to exceed \$20,000.00, or both, if the offender has a prior conviction for the same offense; otherwise, the offender shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than five years, or fine not to exceed \$10,000.00, or both.

If the offender is a defendant in a criminal case, the sentence shall be suspended if the offender is a first-time offender and the offender is a first-time offender.

Any person convicted of the offense of AGGRAVATED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than five years, or fine not to exceed \$20,000.00, or both, if the offender has a prior conviction for the same offense; otherwise, the offender shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than five years, or fine not to exceed \$10,000.00, or both.

If the offender is a defendant in a criminal case, the sentence shall be suspended if the offender is a first-time offender and the offender is a first-time offender.

**Chaining is cruelty. Cruelty is a crime.**

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