



## OUR MISSION

To improve the lives of Georgia's companion animals through professional lobbying, legislative action, and education of law enforcement and the public.

## OUR VISION

To make Georgia a top tier state in animal protection policies.



**GA Pet  
Coalition**

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**GA Pet  
Coalition**

*The United Voice for  
Animal Protection Laws*



**[www.GAPets.org](http://www.GAPets.org)**



## WHO WE ARE



The Georgia Pet Coalition (GPC) is uniquely positioned as a statewide partnership dedicated to ending animal cruelty by supporting the passage and enforcement of state and local laws.

As a 501(c)4, we engage in professional and grassroots lobbying while conveying a united voice to lawmakers.

## PRIORITY ISSUES

- Over population and homelessness of companion animals
- Puppy Mills
- Irresponsible breeding (i.e. backyard breeders) and unintentional breeding
- Irresponsible pet ownership
- Chaining/tethering of dogs
- Animal cruelty and neglect
- Lack of enforcement for existing humane laws
- Animal abuse associated with domestic violence and family abuse



## KEY LEGISLATIVE RESULTS AT THE GEORGIA CAPITOL

With help from dedicated lobbyists, the GPC has:

- Helped defeat or deter Petland's attempts at a state preemption bill for the past **THREE YEARS**, thus safeguarding local ordinances that ban retail sales of dogs and cats sourced from puppy mills (2019, 2018, 2017).
- Supported the passage of SB 31 enabling law enforcement to rescue pets from hot cars (2019).
- Passed a new spay/neuter license plate, thus providing additional funds for sterilization through the GA Pet Foundation (2018).
- Supported the "Cost of Animal Care Law" requiring abusers, instead of taxpayers, to pay for the cost of care while animals are sheltered during court proceedings (2016).
- Stopped a bill that would have allowed 24/7 chaining/tethering of dogs (2014).
- Supported an amendment to strengthen GA's felony animal cruelty law (2014).

## HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH GPC TO ADD YOUR VOICE

1. **SIGN UP** to receive our email Action Alerts at [www.GAPets.org](http://www.GAPets.org).
2. **FOLLOW US** on Facebook (Georgia Pet Coalition, Inc.) and Instagram ([gapetcoalition](https://www.instagram.com/gapetcoalition)).



3. **ENGAGE** in grassroots advocacy. See our Tips for Talking to Elected Officials.
4. **PROVIDE** an annual or monthly donation to support our lobbying efforts at the GA Capitol and scholarships for law enforcement training. Any amount is greatly appreciated! Go to [www.GAPets.org](http://www.GAPets.org) and click on Donate.



## TIPS ON TALKING TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

1. Look for GPC's email Action Alerts regarding a bill's status. Legislators want to hear from constituents and prefer phone calls. Ask your friends and family to call as well.
2. Find out who your state or federal legislators are at <https://openstates.org>.
3. Identify the bill number and ask the legislator to support or oppose. Keep your tone respectful and polite.
4. Tell your own story. Communicate how an issue affects you, your family and your community.
5. Avoid party politics. Animals have friends on both sides of the aisle.
6. Express gratitude. Thank the staffer or official for their time. Politely express disappointment if needed. Remember, they may vote your way next time.

