

Fulton County Quarterly Animal Welfare Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date and Time

Date of Meeting: November 10, 2025
Time of Meeting: 6:05 PM

Meeting Location

Location of Meeting: Fulton County Government Building
141 Pryor St SW; Suite#: 3700
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
<https://www.youtube.com/live/yk2BnHRkGi0?si=0TW7cSauJ1PJsj0v>

Meeting Attendees

Present at Meeting: Board Members: Marley Wiggin, F. Iza Webster, Katie Factor, Karen Levy; Vivien Dumford; Yoshina Colbert-Bradford
County Staff: Li Sapp, Brad Bowman, Joe Barasoain, Trevin Law, Vernon Sawyer, Captain N. Dwyer;
Lifeline: Audrey Shoemaker, Rebecca Guinn; Citizens: Robby Caban; Charles Ingram

The regular meeting of the Animal Welfare Board of Fulton County was called to order at 6:05 PM on November 10, 2025, at Fulton County Government Building by Frances Webster.

I. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

II. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous 8/11/2025 meeting and Meeting minutes for the 7/25/2025 Special Call meeting were approved. Motion made by Katie Factor and Motion seconded by Yoshina Colbert-Bradford. The motion passes by majority.

III. Consideration of Open Issues

- Call To Order:**
Frances Webster, Board Chair
- Current Shelter Operations (Lifeline- Fulton Operations):** Rebecca Guinn-Lifeline
Rebecca Guinn presented current shelter statistics, including intake numbers for each month of Q3 and year-to-date figures (January–June) compared to last year, along with percentage changes. Overall intake has increased by 20% compared to the same period last year, with a significant rise in dog intake and a notable increase in cat intake, though cats remain more manageable operationally. On track for a intake of about 11k animals. Last year's intake was the highest since 2014, and 2025 is projected to set an all-time high since the contract began in 2013. Approximately two-thirds of all intakes comes from the City of Atlanta. For the summer months of June and July, the shelter received 200 more dogs than during the same period last year, with August data still pending.

Rebecca shared data for all dog and cat intakes by type, noting that dog intake has increased by 20% year-over-year, while adoptions have risen by 34%, indicating strong outcome performance. The save rate has slightly increased despite higher overall intake. She explained that the save rate is calculated as $(\text{Live Intake} - \text{Non-Live Outcomes}) \div \text{Live Intake}$, with Non-Live Outcomes including animals that died, were euthanized, or classified as "other" (lost in care, missing, escaped). This differs from the Live Release Rate, which is calculated as live outcomes divided by all outcomes, as the save rate factors in total intake volume. Marley asked about what had spiked TNR in the shelter. Rebecca stated yes because more volunteers are bringing in more Cats to TNR.

Calls for Service have increased. 1k more than last year. Impounds are increasing. ATL is 60% from last year and 15% are South Fulton. Rebecca provided Calls for Service per Capita per 1000 residents. Majority come from East Point by per capita. Dog at large are still the highest violations. City of Atlanta still receives the most citations and warnings as expected. Captain Dwyer provided an update on Court Cases. They are due to open court cases due to no owner surrenders and court cases are moving slowly. Field is working diligently to see if owners would surrender.

Public clinic is operating 3 days a week with 226 clients this past 3 months. Rebeccas also provided stats for Pets for Life. Pets for Life is an independent program that Lifeline provides services specific zip codes throughout the city.

Rebeccas provided the stats pertaining to staffing. There is a large gap in vacancies in Field Services but currently Captain Dwyer with Fulton County PD is currently acting as the Field Services Director.

Board had a question about why the Cruelty Animal number changed from 104 to 80. Captain Dwyer stated it was due owner surrenders and a large impound case had movement. Frances Webster commended Lifeline for filing the Veterinarian positions.

3. **Foster Program Update:** Operations: Rebecca Guinn and Audrey Shoemaker -Lifeline

Rebecca stated that foster numbers have increased and have been especially beneficial. 578 Dogs are currently in foster and 220 in cats. Probably the largest in the country right now. Friendly finder which is another foster program. Rebecca explained what friendly finder was. Keeps about 40-50 animals out of the shelter each month. Average length of stay is averaging less than 30 days.

Rebecca provided the requirements for foster. Rebecca provided what other sign-up notes that could entice more fosters. Lifeline partners with a program that has a 24/7 texting program for fosters to use for medical cases.

Audrey reiterated that they have implemented some new automated services to elevate some of the easy questions from fosters. Audrey stated that they have 4 open positions in foster which has stretched the team but they have been able to utilize volunteers in the meantime.

Rebecca provided ways to foster dogs such as Dog for the Day, Weekend Warrior, Event Fostering, Trial adoptions just to name a few. Cat fostering opportunities for Bottle Babies, etc. Lifeline provided a summary of "What is Kitten Season."

4. **Old Business-** Division Chief, Vernon Sawyer, Coordinator, Trevin Law- EMA

Frances Webster asked about Court Case Management. What is the status of the alternative for Motions to Dispose and Cost of Care? Captain Dwyer provided an update that Animal Services is struggling with communication from the Solicitors and the County Management. Rebecca stated there is a meeting planned for Friday November 14 to discuss alternative/options. Yoshina asked, "is there anything the Board can do to assist and what mechanism should be filed. Rebecca stated that the sooner court dates will help but the court is backed up on all cases including criminals. Rebecca also reviewed what the difference is between cost of Care and Motions to Dispose.

Frances Webster asked for building repair maintenance. Division Chief Sawyer advised that all maintenance projects are being managed and handled by Department of Real Estate and Asset Management (DREAM) but currently the dryer hasn't been fixed due to the door from Sally Port in the shelter isn't wide enough and will need expanded to fit the drum. Pest Control is being taken care of Orkin in the shelter. Frances Webster inquired about the property next to the Shelter that is possibly owned by GA Power. Division Chief has advised if there are any Wasp Nest or Bees nest that is found to alert Management to notify CGL. Frances Webster asked about "Lack of Landscaping." Tre' Law provided an update that DREAM, and Tree Atlanta met the previous week. There is a plan in place to plant some trees around the shelter at the end of January 2026, but space is limited due to projected work on the play yards. Frances asked about Ground Maintenance and lack of space to walk dogs. Division Chief Sawyer provided insight on why dogs aren't allowed to walk to specific areas in the public facing areas. General Counsel provided insight that someone who owns a "poop scoop company" as a individual could volunteer their time to do so but it should be a volunteer waiver that Lifeline could use through their volunteer program. Rebecca Guinn stated there is hired staff who is tasked with custodial maintenance that have been more consist with maintenance. Frances Webster asked about the Play Yard issues. Division Chief Sawyer advised that DREAM has switched Project Managers for this issue. Frances Webster asked about Building Access. Division Chief Sawyer advised there are extra blank key cards that will allow staff/volunteer into the building while on staff.

5. **New Business:** Captain N. Dwyer, Fulton County PD

Field Services will be taken over by Fulton County Police Department December 16. There will be 1 Manager, 3 Supervisors and 18 Field Officers. Frances Webster asked if there will be any changes to Services. Rebecca stated she hope they will be better and that Captain Dwyer has taken on the interim role as the Director of Field Services until the transition is permeant. Marley voiced her concern about How to access Field Services. Captain Dwyer stated that she is directing everyone just to call 911. Yoshina asked to increase more than 1 officer in a truck at a time. Yoshina suggested an app for residents to be able to report loose dogs not to tie up 911.

6. **Public Comment/Questions:** Citizens have 2 minutes to provide public comment.

Charles Ingram provided testimony about his mother's dog bite incident.

Robby Caban provided testimony about general animal services concerns.

IV. Agenda and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 5:30PM on February 9th, 2026, at: **Fulton County Government Building
141 Pryor St SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

Motion Katie Factor and Seconded by Marley Wiggin. Motion passes by majority.

The agenda for the next meeting is as follows: TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39PM by F. Iza Webster

Motion by Yoshina Colbert-Bradford and Seconded by Katie Factor.

Minutes submitted by: Trevin Law

Minutes approved by: F. Iza Webster