

Fulton County

Quarterly Animal Welfare Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date and Time	
Date of Meeting:	May 12, 2025
Time of Meeting:	6:00 PM
Meeting Location	
Location of Meeting:	Fulton County Government Building 141 Pryor St SW; Suite#: 3700 Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Meeting Attendees	
Present at Meeting:	Yoshina Colbert-Bradford, Brad Bowman, Li Sapp, Roberta Coban, Laurel Ann Dooley, Frances Iza Webster, Vivien Dumford, Amanda Newsome, Marley Wiggins, Joseph Barasoain, LaTonya Robinson

The regular meeting of the Animal Welfare Board of Fulton County was called to order at 6:00 PM on May 12, 2025, at Fulton County Government Building by Frances Iza Webster.

I. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

II. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, motion to correct names and dates from last meeting minutes approved .

III. Consideration of Open Issues

1. Call To Order:
Frances Iza Webster, Board Chair
2. Welcome And Opening Remarks:
Joseph Barasoain, Director of
Emergency Management
Roll call: Karen Levy, Pamela Harvey, Chris Emerson, Audrey Shoemaker, Katie Factor, Alex Robles, and Vernon Sawyer were not present
3. **Current Shelter** Operations: Rebecca Guinn-Lifeline
Rebecca Guinn presented current shelter stat; presented that 2024 was the highest intake since 2014 for dogs and 2025 has surpassed that record with currently 1588 dogs taken in during the first quarter an increase of 11.9 % from 2024. There were 415 cats taken in during the first quarter of 2025 up 15% from 2024. Fosters are up 32.2% from first quarter in 2024. Community support declined 5.6% during the first quarter of 2025 from first quarter of 2024. Volunteers are only tallied at the end of the year therefore percentage differences cannot be determined until the end of the 2025 year. Pets for Life is up 5% during first quarter of 2025 from first quarter of 2024. Rebecca explains spade and neuters are low due to Vet shortage and down 11.5% from first quarter of 2025 than first quarter of 2024. Lifeline needs supplies and food.
4. **Tour Date for Commissioners:**
It was discussed that 3 of the County Commissioners expressed interest in touring the facility, dates have not been determined. Once dates have been determined touring of the facility will be scheduled.

5. **Breakdown of Calls/Field Services**

Director Barasoain explained the difference with priority numbering tiers based on the severity of the call. Chair Webster requested a copy of the breakdown, and it was explained by Director Barasoain that there are issues with the CAD software that occurred because of the Cyber-attack, and it is interfering with the reporting of the breakdowns, but we are working on it and waiting for our IT team to confirm the report is generating correct data. Questions were asked regarding dog at large with a 24-hour response time and asked if during the visit if the dog is not located is there an interval as to when and if they return and it was explained by Rebecca Guinn-Lifeline, that even though dog at large has a 24-hour window response time, it is highly unlikely that the response would be 24 hours.

6. **Pets for Life:**

Pets for life is making changes as to where and how they help the community by moving some of the services to the shelter regarding the pet food distribution.

7. **Staffing at the Shelter:**

It was discussed as to the difficulty with hiring Animal Services Officers/Investigators, Rebecca Guinn of Lifeline explained because they require specialized skills and abilities and the shelter's looking for a specific skillset that increases the difficulty of hiring for this position, in addition it's not an entry level position, Rebecca also stated that a job fair was held as a method of identifying and creating a talent pool. Board member Colbert-Bradly inquired about interns performing services at the shelter, Rebecca informed that they do currently have internships and looking further into programs but are limited to the services they can provide.

8. **Adoptions:**

The question was posed as to the process for adopting a dog from the animal shelter and what constitutes a yes/no outcome. Rebecca explained the Adoption Welcome-Humane world for animals' program has a manual that can be accessed online and that is used as a guide for training for adoptions, she further explains that is what used to try to fit the best pet with the best home. Lifeline explained exactly what they look for when adopting out animals from there shelter.

9. **Lost and Found:**

Lifeline provided a presentation with resources on how to connect with social medias to get notice out that a pet is lost. Also provided steps on how to reunite pets with owners through Petco Love Lost, by posting on cities website, Facebook, and Next Door.

10. **Questions/Next Steps/Closing Remarks:**

Board agrees next meeting will be in August.

Remarks received from Roberta Coban, Amanda Newson, and Marley Wiggins

IV. Agenda and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:00PM on August 11, 2025, from 6:00pm-7:30pm at:

**Fulton County Government Building
141 Pryor St SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

The agenda for the next meeting is as follows: TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33PM by Iza Webster

Minutes submitted by: LaTonya Robinson

Minutes approved by: Frances Iza Webster