

RESOLUTION

A Resolution in Support of DeKalb Citizens and Their Pets, Facility and Service Expansion, and Prevention of More Homeless Pets

Whereas, DeKalb County is home to over 750,000 citizens living in 286,000 households, of which 57% share their home with pets; and,

Whereas, DeKalb County has a vigorous economic development program and has grown rapidly in recent decades, and is projected to grow another 33% to a population of one million citizens in the next 25 years bringing with them more households with pets; and,

Whereas, DeKalb County joined progressive counties and cities throughout the nation in 2018 to become a No Kill Community, demonstrating its commitment to saving the lives and finding homes for its homeless pets; and,

Whereas, DeKalb County is held up as a national model for successful shelter services including its remarkable and ongoing save rate for an open admission shelter; and,

Whereas, DeKalb County opened a new animal shelter in 2017 as another indication of its commitment to improve quality of life, provide temporary shelter, and find permanent homes for DeKalb's homeless pets; and,

Whereas, the new shelter featured qualities absent in the previous shelter, including adequate air circulation, lighting, plumbing, and a veterinary clinic, however, its capacity for sheltering animals was essentially the same; and,

Whereas, the new shelter was filled shortly after it opened; and,

Whereas, during the pandemic, many DeKalb citizens stepped forward to adopt shelter pets, giving the shelter a brief period when it was not filled to capacity; and,

Whereas, many DeKalb citizens have been negatively affected by the continuing economic conditions following the pandemic and, as a result, have had their resources significantly strained to take care of their pets, some of whom have made the difficult decision to surrender their pets; and,

Whereas, despite operating on emergency procedures during the pandemic and for nearly two years afterward, these extensive intake suppression efforts have not stemmed the high tide of shelter intake adequately to reduce space needs; and,

Whereas, the resumption of Court operations has increased the number of animals held by the Court to over 150, representing one-third of shelter capacity on a compounding basis; and

Whereas, the combination of a growing population, a decision to build a same-capacity facility, the economic effects of the pandemic, and a significant number of animals being held for Court case has produced a significant strain on the operations of the shelter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the DeKalb Board of Commissioners, as the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia,

1. supports the immediate expansion of the shelter to a capacity established by past, current and projected needs analyses and structural and utility feasibility of the site;
2. supports the immediate identification of an ancillary site or on-site temporary shelter;

