



Humane Society notes strengthened community outreach, nearly 1,500 adoptions in 2024 report; shelter identifies new lifesaving opportunities for 2025

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (Jan. 6, 2025) – The Humane Society of Northeast Georgia (HSNEGA) recently announced the impact of the shelter’s lifesaving mission in Hall County and 50 additional Georgia counties in 2024. The shelter expanded operations by offering free vaccination clinics and ongoing support to pet owners in the community, as well as at-risk shelters throughout the region. The Humane Society is also celebrating nearly 1,500 adoptions this year, despite a slight decrease from 2023.

HSNEGA Impact			
Impact Area	2024	2023	2022
Adoptions	1,490	1,522	1,373
Pets Served Through Free Vaccination Clinics	1,015	803	580
Pets Served Through Healthy Pet Clinic	13,868	13,064	11,651

“Our annual report reflects the local impact of a national decline in adoptions, as well as the importance of accessible and affordable veterinary care,” said Kathleen Garrand, the shelter’s director of operations. “Despite the dip in adoption rates, we are focused on reversing this trend and elevating animal welfare through education opportunities, advocacy and robust resources for pets and their owners.”

The shelter also bolstered its outreach efforts in 2024 by donating over 9,200 pounds of pet food to the senior community through a partnership with Meals on Wheels. The Mars-Wrigley Corporation donated 5,000 pounds of food to provide to the Gainesville community during outreach events. In all, the shelter served 582 animals in the community with food, preventative medicine and toys, as well as 920 people in need of pet-related items.

To combat rising costs associated with pet ownership, the Humane Society of Northeast Georgia served 3,549 families with low-cost veterinary care and spay and neuter surgeries at the [Christian-David Healthy Pet Clinic](#). The Healthy Pet Clinic is an onsite facility that’s open to the public and will complete its 100,000th surgery later this year. In addition to surgery, the clinic offers annual preventative care, vaccinations, dental treatment and other affordable services.

As part of the shelter’s focus on outreach, the clinic provides free vaccinations and microchipping at various community events throughout the year including a vaccination event for cats Jan. 18 at St. Paul United Methodist Church and a separate event for dogs Feb. 15 at Lakeshore Crossing Mall.

The Humane Society is also performing spay and neuter surgeries in at-risk counties to address Georgia's overpopulation crisis as part of the Better Together Georgia initiative. The goal is to help other shelters achieve no-kill status by providing veterinary support where needed, strengthening foster programs, promoting spay and neuter surgery and enhancing community resources through grant funding.

To improve the adoptability of dogs in the shelter's care, the Humane Society recently launched the Canine Good Citizen program at the Gainesville shelter. The program is the American Kennel Club's gold standard of behavior for dogs in the community that teaches good manners through ongoing training and positive reinforcement. This program will be a focus for the shelter's behavioral team in 2025.

"Though we strengthened our impact helping animals in the community and at-risk shelters in 2024, the animals in our care remain our priority," said Juan Cueto, president and executive director of the shelter. "We are deeply grateful for our generous community that allowed us to help more animals than ever in 2024 and look forward to new opportunities to elevate animal welfare in 2025."

In addition to the upcoming vaccination clinics, the shelter is also preparing for its major fundraising event of the year, Art with Heart, presented by Genesis Biosciences. The event will take place at The Ramsey Center at Lanier Tech Saturday, February 22, 2025. Tickets are on sale now and 100% of proceeds will benefit animals in the shelter's care.

To learn more about the shelter's mission, please visit <https://humanesocietyofnortheastgeorgia.org>.

About the Humane Society of Northeast Georgia

Serving northeast Georgia since 1913, the Humane Society of Northeast Georgia (HSNEGA) is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)3 regional shelter whose mission is to help animals and people live better... together.

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