



# Georgia Department of Agriculture

## Companion Animal/Equine Division

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW, Rm. 122 Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Phone: 1-404-656-4914

Website: <http://agr.georgia.gov/>

Gary W. Black  
Commissioner

Inspection ID

100067

### Animal Protection Inspection Report

Inspection ID	Inspection Reason	Inspection Date	Inspection Start Time	Inspection End Time	Inspector Name
100067	CONSUMER COMPLAINT	8/29/2022	9:15 AM	11:30 AM	Nissa Bame
EST NO	EST NAME	Type	License No		
12311	HALL COUNTY, HUMANE SOCIETY OF	ANIMAL SHELTER	3312311		
Physical Address	Physical City	Physical State	Physical Zip Code	County	
845 W Ridge Rd	Gainesville	GA	30501	HALL	

#### Requirements Details

Premises	Current License Displayed	Housekeeping	Lighting	Adequate Temperature Control	Adequate Ventilation	Fire Extinguishing Device				
	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass				
Enclosures	Space Requirement	Interior Surface	Structural Strength	Shelter / Elements	Drainage					
	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass					
Performance	Record Keeping	Storage	Pest Control	Sanitation	Waste Disposal					
	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass					
Animal Care	Class Separation	Adequate Food	Adequate Water	Selling or Adopting Injured or Diseased or Abnormal Animals	Minimum Age	Tethering	Euthanasia	Humane Care	Negative Coggins	Evacuation Plan
	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	N/A	Pass	Pass	N/A	Pass

#### Companion Animal Details

Approximate Number of Animals	Number of Stall/Enclosure	Number of Breeding Animals	Number of Monthly Bird Inventory
129			

#### Follow Up Status Information

Follow Up Date	Follow Up Reason	Follow Up Duration	Animal Types
	N/A		

#### Follow Up Notes

#### Action Information

Quarantine Issued	SS (Stop Sale)	SU (Stop Use)	SM (Stop Movement)	Quarantine Issue Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Disease type



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Complaint Unfounded	Complaint Resolved	Complaint Resolved Date	Complaint Reference Number
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8/29/2022	750883695344

## Action Notes

Complaint unfounded. Case closed; no violations issued. No further action required.

## Violation Information

## Inspection Comments

Initial Complaint: "I'm reaching about because I came across a post on a Facebook group that was concerning to me and others as well. The post states how the animals are treated at the Humane Society of Northeast Georgia in Gainesville, Ga and honestly I'm sickened. They provided a picture of a dogs' "intestines" that had fallen out in the cage after a "botched" surgery... I will link the post below but I believe they need to be investigated or terminate some veterinarians or employees. Maybe you could also tell me what else I can do to raise awareness about the abuse and neglect that goes on. I cannot ignore this because I'm passionate about animals and have them of my own. They deserve so much better."

Unannounced Investigation: Upon arrival executive director, Allison Mayfield, administrative officer, Bob Martin, and Operations Officer, Erica Shepherd, were onsite.

Before discussing complaint, management informed me that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had been fired the previous week due to not performing her job duties correctly. Management stated that [REDACTED] had only worked with the facility for approx. 2-weeks before being fired. Management stated that [REDACTED] was a part of the vet tech staff. Management stated that [REDACTED] wanted to make other medical decisions with the animals which went against licensed DVM Dr. Binu Thevatheril. Management also informed me that [REDACTED] was interested in adopting a white puppy named "Lemon Drop" which she was foster for; she was denied adoption. Management stated this is the white puppy [REDACTED] has posted stating that the puppy did not receive medical care in the shelter. Lemon Drop was born onsite on 6-18-2022; health records indicate puppy was being seen over by attending vet and given vaccinations (depending on age and weight) to when it was adopted out on 8-25-2022.

Management and I then went over all medical records of the canines discussed in complaint. The canine with the "botched" surgery where organs had fallen out was canine "Ally" (animal ID #A49770673). Ally came into the shelter on 3-15-2022 with puppies. On 5-4-2022 was spayed; no issues were noted per surgery. On 5-6-2022 during morning rounds, medical team members found canine with intestines hanging out; she was then rushed to Animal Medical Care (DVM Denise Funk). Ally was discharged from vet with instructions on 5-9-2022; no further issues noted. Ally was adopted out on 6-5-2022. Management was able to provide proof of all medical records.

Management and I next discussed the photo of the dog with an imbedded collar scar around the neck. Management informed me that they did not know which canine this was due to photo being taken in 2019 (as stated by ex-employee on Facebook) and having no reference name or animal ID number to look up canine history. Management did inform me that they are contracted with the county to take in strays and pull many animals from the county shelter, and this canine may have been one of them.

The third canine in question, "King" (Animal ID #A49695946). King came into the shelter on 3-1-2022 as a puppy with 11 other litter mates. King was adopted out on 4-21-2022. On 6-9-2022 King was returned to the shelter by adopters due to a severe skin infection on his back and were unable to provide adequate treatment for him. While in the shelter, King was placed on a treatment plan where his skin began to heal. Once King was healed, he was adopted out on 8-7-2022. Medical documentation of King audited upon investigation.

Management stated that the community clinic has not performed community spay/neuters since approx. April, due to being short staffed. Community clinic is currently only offering low-cost vaccinations, preventative treatments, etc. Community clinic side appears to be clean and in good repair. Note that Dr. Binu has been working with the shelter full time for approx. 2-3 months now.

After going over complaint and records, Ms. Shepherd and I then walked through the shelter to observe animals onsite. I observed All felines and canines to be separated by age, size, and health status. I observed all animals to have access to clean water and food. I observed employees/volunteers actively cleaning enclosures throughout investigation. Ms. Shepherd pulled out a canine and feline with paper collars the shelter uses as IDs; two fingers fit between all collars. Ms. Shepherd informed me that staff checks collar tightness every day and must sign off that they have all been checked; I observed the sign off sheet. All areas of the shelter appear



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to be clean and in good repair.

All animals with any medical issues appear to be under the supervision of Dr. Binu; health records observed. Note that I observed one feline "Buttercup" who had recently had surgery for spay and umbilical hernia repair on 8-17-2022; I observed the incision area to be clean; however, it was slightly swollen (no redness observed). Documented that due to large hernia repair, swelling is normal; however, will be monitored for swelling to go down.

All animals onsite appear to be receiving humane care at this time. Facility appears to be in compliance with GDA rules and regulations; no violations observed upon investigation.

Animals onsite: 45 felines and 84 canines.

GDA CA/EQ manager, Jason Smith, was informed of my findings.

Complaint appears to be unfounded; therefore, I am closing this case. A copy of this report will be sent to manager Smith and [ericasheppard@hsnega.org](mailto:ericasheppard@hsnega.org).