

Animal Cruelty and Public Safety Challenges in the City of Atlanta



January 1st, 2016 the FBI added animal cruelty as a Class A crime. This means that animal cruelty will be reported as a major crime along with crimes like murder, assault and narcotics



Why should Law Enforcement, Law Makers, and the Public care about animal cruelty?



Abusers of animals are **5 times** as likely to harm humans.

 Read the resource: aldf.org/cruelty-domestic-violence

Why should the Public Safety and Legal Administration Committee Care about Animal Cruelty in Atlanta?

Animal Cruelty cases are human health and safety issues.

Animal Cruelty is a crime.

Offenders frequently have a history of multiple forms of aggression.

Animal abuse rarely forms in isolation.

Deal with the same perpetrators.

Early intervention can prevent violence from escalating.

Animal Cruelty Crimes impact everyone in the community

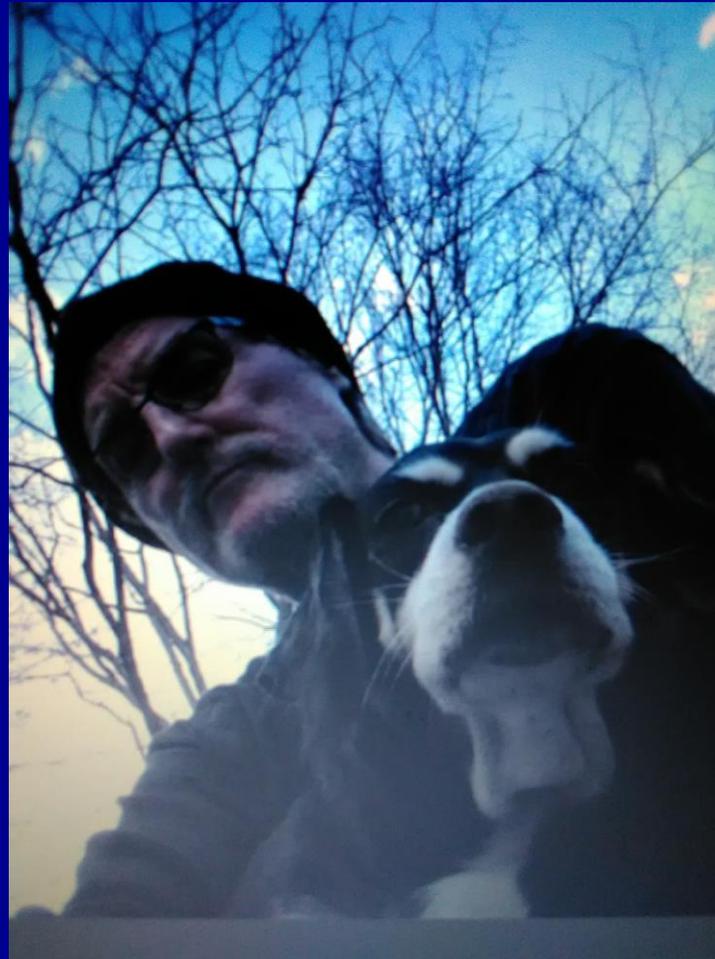
- November 1st – August 28th the APD Animal Cruelty Unit has answered/responded to:
 - 223 Calls
 - 27 city charges
 - 15 misdemeanors
 - 7 felonies
 - 9 county codes charged

January 2017

Syari Sanders and Logan Braatz



Mr. Gary Martin and 8 year old Blessed



2 year old Joshua Smith Williams



600 Children Trained in Safe Encounters with Animals in Atlanta



Animal Cruelty Cases are Human Health and Safety Issues

- **IRRESPONSIBLE** and **NEGLECTFUL** owners must be held accountable!!
- Children walking to bus stops
- Elderly afraid to come out of their homes and/or vehicles.
- Law abiding citizens walking their dogs
- Pedestrians having to walk with large sticks or other protective devices.
- Kids grow up desensitized.

Neglect





Intentional



“Chloe Chanel” killed during a domestic dispute
victim: Dymond Hutcherson



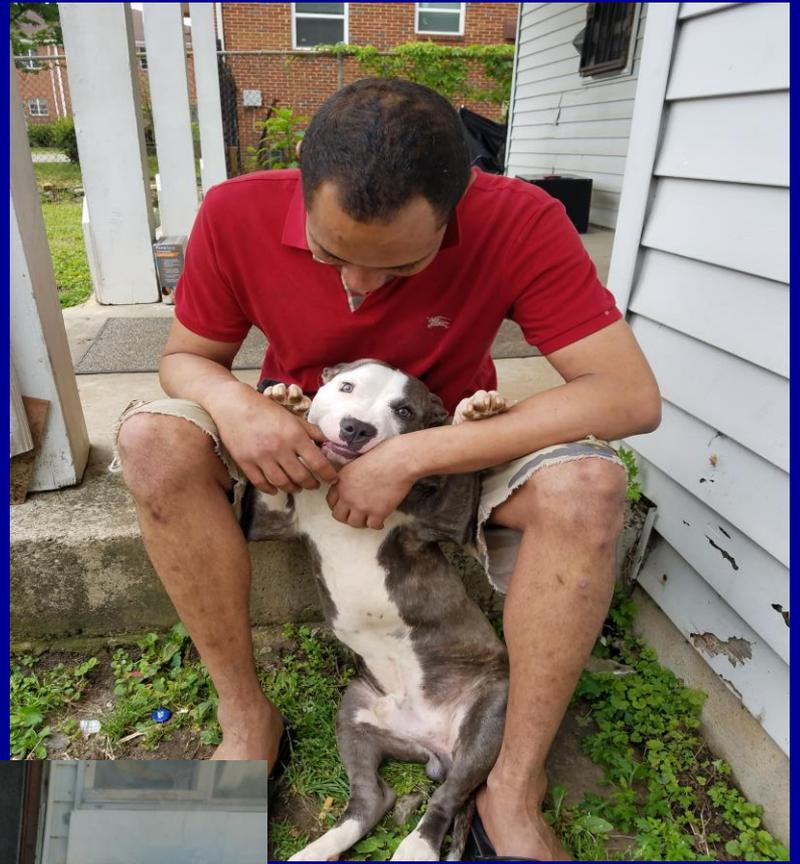
Backyard Breeders



Solutions!!!

Community Engagement





The W-Underdogs

Breaking the Cycle of Abuse



Why an Animal Cruelty Task Force?

- To ensure public safety
- Foster relationships between police, citizens, prosecutors, courts, Lifeline, Atlanta Humane,
- Streamline communication for optimal results
- Cases no longer fall through the cracks,
- Expediate cases so animals are not stored in shelters-bad for the animal, bad for the shelter, and cost lots of money.
- All participants know the law and who to call and when.
- Taxpayers won't bear burden of the cost. Vets get paid for care

Forming a Task Force

- Identify Stakeholders:
- Dispatch, Law Enforcement, Fulton County Animal Services, Atlanta Humane Society, Prosecutors, Vets, Shelter Staff, Rescues, Foster, Probation officers, Lawmakers (City Council, Law Department, community leaders, citizens
- Commit to training, educating others, and outreach within the community



Community Empowerment and Involvement



**atlanta
hu♥ane
society**

LifeLine
ANIMAL PROJECT