

What Can I Do?

If you agree that there is much more that your County Commissioners can do or if you agree that they have insulted Old Fella, by their most recent actions, please contact them today:

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50Burke County Courthouse
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Lucious Abrams, Jr.
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Waynesboro, GA 30816
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Allen B. Delaigle, Vice Chairman
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201 Oak Lane
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What Else Should I know?

- Since January of this year, Old Fella has rescued over 300 homeless pets in Burke County and “fixed” almost 200 of Burke County’s companion animals. That is approximately 500 animals that will not be reproducing unwanted cats and dogs in our community. According to SpayUSA formulas, we have possibly prevented hundreds of thousands of homeless pets over the next 6 years.
- In all, over the past 10 years, we have rescued over 2,500 homeless animals and “fixed” approximately 2,000 Burke County pets.
- SNIP funds are the only county funds provided for animal issues. These funds are only managed by Old Fella and go directly to medical costs associated with spay and neuter surgeries provided by Burke County Animal Hospital. None of these funds are used for rescue costs nor do they pay for out of county applicants.



Burke County Animal Rescue

PO Box 1437

Waynesboro, GA 30830

info@oldfella.org

oldfella.org

Facebook.com/oldfellarescue



Mikey

Changing the lives
of Burke County’s
homeless pets since 2006

Dear Friend,

We would like to thank you and our longtime friends, The Knights of Columbus Council #8495, for their support.

Every time someone purchases a BBQ chicken (or spaghetti) dinner, leaves a donation in our "donation dog" at BCAH, participates in any of our events, sends in a monetary donation, shops at our benefit yard sale, shares our Facebook posts, or volunteers, it says, to us, that we are doing our job, and that we are important to this community.

However, over recent years, instead of being seen as an ally and asset to the community, our commissioners seem to see us as a thorn in their side. In the past few years we have been slighted by the county government over some proposals submitted to assist county citizens, as well as the homeless animals of the county. Very recently, the same commissioners insulted our volunteers and organization by splitting spay-neuter funds between Old Fella and another local rescue organization. These "SNIP" funds provide approx. 90-100 spay or neuter surgeries per year, and have been managed by Old Fella since 2010.

We are unsure as to the reasoning behind this move by the commissioners, Old Fella has provided all documentation of monies spent over the past 6 years the SNIP program has been in existence and has acquired additional funds, through volunteer time and talents, to more than double and triple what the county provided in order to provide, on average, 200-300 free or low-cost surgeries per year.

It is possible that the commissioners reasoning behind this slight of hand, is to attempt to get our two groups to work together. At an August county commission meeting, we were told that

our groups would need to join together to gain their support for animal control.

We believe that this is just the latest excuse the commissioners are using to try to place the blame away from their unwillingness and refusal to provide a much needed service to their citizens.

In 2012, Old Fella proposed an animal control contract with the county. The commissioners appeared interested, but sighted the economy and not wanting to raise taxes at such a time.

In 2013, Burke County Commissioners contacted us and asked if we would consider submitting another proposal for animal control. Not only did they seek us out, they offered us the use of a county owned property for a shelter. However, at the eleventh hour, the commissioners backed out of the agreement. To us, they cited continued financial concerns. However, in the True Citizen they are quoted as "having concerns about internal turmoil observed in the organization."

Their excuses are wearing thin: Revenues from Plant Vogtle would pay for animal control without necessitating the need to raise taxes. Internal turmoil in Old Fella? Our Board of Directors stands firm on our Mission, Vision and Values and has for over 5 years. And, in July, one of the most ridiculous excuses ever... the County Administrator and Chairman claimed they haven't heard any complaints or concerns about animal issues for months. However, private citizens and rescues have emails showing differently.

Back to the most recent insult... In August, both rescues were instructed to provide any requests for support. Both requested additional funds for spay-neuter, as spay-neuter is the only proactive means to prevent pet overpopulation. However, not only did the commissioners vote to not add any funds; at the last minute, they decided to split

the funds between the two groups. The only positive step that the commissioners have taken is the inception of the Animal Advisory Committee, which was suggested to them by our own Board of Directors.

Old Fella Burke County Animal Rescue members do support the animal control advisory committee. We encourage citizens to attend committee meetings on the Third Tuesday of every month at 6pm. We encourage Burke County Citizens to submit their suggestions and recommendations on animal control issues, in writing to the committee.

We have sat quietly for too long. We have tried to continue an amicable working relationship with our county officials. We have spent the past 6 years, since getting SNIP funds walking a line of trying to do what is best for the animals, while not alienating the commissioners. Our number one priority has always been the animals and the citizens that need us. The Animal Advisory Committee is a step in the right direction and we hope that their recommendations will be acted upon by the commissioners; however, we will not waste any more time tiptoeing around. Citizens voiced their opinions, to get this far, and need to continue to do so before the commissioners start planning next year's blame game on why nothing is being done in Burke County.

For the animals of Burke County,

Old Fella
Board of Directors

