

Questions & Answers

Who is Old Fella? Old Fella Burke County Animal Rescue is an all-volunteer organization in Burke County, GA. We assist as many abandoned companion animals as possible and provide spay and neuter services to county residents in order to decrease the numbers of homeless animals in our county.

Can Old Fella come pick up this dog? Under a "rescue" license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture, our organization operates under specific laws dictating the intake procedure for animals. Because the state prohibits Old Fella from taking in "stray" animals, these animals must first be picked up by an agency licensed to do so, such as animal control, or taken in by an individual who cares for and claims the homeless animal as their own after searching for its rightful owner. The individual can then contact Old Fella and request to surrender the animal.

Do you have a shelter? Old Fella relies on foster homes to provide shelter to our rescues. We do not have a "brick & mortar" facility. Foster homes are necessary to our success. Old Fella pays for all medical needs of the foster pets and will provide food, if needed.

Why doesn't Burke County have animal control? In 2011, after over 5 years of rescuing the county's homeless animals, Old Fella presented a proposal to Burke County Commissioners to provide animal care and control services to the unincorporated areas of Burke County. The Commissioners declined our offer, citing finances and the need to raise taxes if they funded the program. In 2012, Burke County Commissioners contacted Old Fella with their own proposal which included offering the use of land and a building in addition to the contract fee. As details were being worked out, the commissioners backed out, again citing finances and not wanting to raise taxes to fund animal control.

What do I do about my neighbor's dogs? If you have contacted your neighbor and they won't contain their dogs, then you will need to contact the BCSD and file a complaint (if you live in the City of Waynesboro, call Waynesboro Animal Control). It is likely that you may not get the response you are looking for. Be persistent and document your contacts.

What do I do about the feral dogs living down the road? Contact BCSD (see above). Contact your Commissioner and County Administrator and politely demand the services that you, as a tax paying and/or voting citizen of Burke County rightly deserves.

What do I do about feral cats at the dumpster? Old Fella promotes TNR practices by providing free "fixes" to colony caregivers. TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) is a non-lethal method to reduce the number of stray cats in our community both immediately and for the long-term. Outdoor cats are humanely trapped, vaccinated, and spayed and neutered. They are returned to their original location to live out their lives under the watch of voluntary caregivers who provide food, water, and outdoor shelter.

TNR WORKS! As long as caretakers are diligent to have all cats in an area sterilized, the breeding stops and cat populations are gradually reduced. When cats are removed, more cats will come!! Because cat colonies will reach a stable limit based on what the environment can support, sterilized cats will naturally maintain that level by chasing off new strays.

The benefits of TNR include ending the breeding of more unwanted cats, reducing annoying behaviors such as yowling and fighting, controlling the spread of disease and controlling rodent populations.

I can't keep my dog anymore. Can you help? Old Fella takes in a limited number of owner surrenders due to limited foster homes. If you are willing to foster until adoption or transport, there is a better chance that we can help. Send an intake request (2 current pictures (face and body) and any pertinent info, such as breed, age, gender and reason why you want to surrender) to info@oldfella.org.

There is a dog in another county that is scheduled to be killed. Can you help? Old Fella assists dogs at Waynesboro Animal Control by pulling them, placing them in foster care, paying for their medical bills and sending them on transports north along with our owner surrender dogs. Due to limited foster homes, finances and volunteers we are unable to leave our county and go pick up dogs from kill facilities in other counties. If you would like to rescue a dog from a kill facility, pay for medical requirements and then request our assistance to send the dog north, we may be able to help, but any dog would be required to pass a behavioral and medical evaluation as well as be approved by our partner shelter, same as dogs from Waynesboro Animal Control.

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Why should I get my dog (or cat) fixed? (and why should I give you a donation?) We have a huge problem with homeless dogs and cats in Burke County (and the South). Spaying and Neutering prevents unwanted litters. There are not enough good homes for the offspring of your pets if left "intact." These unwanted litters are frequently abandoned somewhere in the county leading to nuisance and safety issues. Old Fella provides sterilization surgeries for our county pets (and feral cats). On average we pay \$85 for each animal to be "fixed" and receive a rabies vaccine. We ask for a small donation of \$20 for the surgery; however we never turn anyone away who is unable to contribute this small amount. The donations go directly back into Old Fella's "Litter Patrol" program.

Don't you receive money from Burke County? Old Fella's "Litter Patrol" spay-neuter program provides funds for low-cost spay-neuter surgeries and manages Burke County's SNIP (Spay-Neuter Incentive Program). In 2009, Old Fella proposed the arrangement with Burke County Commissioners. They accepted and have provided \$5,000, and now \$6,000 a year since then. This amount will typically sterilize approximately 98 companion animals each year. The remainder of the money comes from private donations and grants received from animal welfare organizations. Old Fella receives no other funds from Burke County.