Lending a Hand to Our Southern Partners

Darlington County Humane Society and **Cherokee County Animal Shelter** are located in rural South Carolina. Like many shelters in the south, their intake numbers far exceed their local adoptions, so they rely heavily on rescue partners like Home at Last to pull their pets to save lives.

- County-funded, open-intake shelters like these cannot refuse any pets coming in via owner surrender or animal control. Once they reach their maximum number of dogs and cats, they must euthanize for space.
- These southern shelters are comprised of volunteers whose goal is reducing the euthanasia rate at their shelter, improving the health of all shelter pets with medical care, and providing a safe boarding area.
- The "Bridge Transitional Facility" in Darlington is an outdoor facility, primarily funded by donations. Dogs are housed in this area while waiting transportation to rescue partners, so most HAL dogs have been in this outdoor kennel before their "freedom ride" north.
- HAL also rescues dogs from **shelters in Georgia**. Most have outdoor kennels, and some are so underfunded that other shelters in the Coalition send them food or money because they have no other way to function.
- Our shelter partners do incredible work evaluating the dogs for possible rescue by HAL. They take photos, make videos to show dogs' temperaments, and even test how they interact with other dogs, children, and cats. This information helps our fosters choose which dogs they would like to save each week.

6 dogs are often kept in "community kennels" meant for 1 dog just to keep them from being euthanized for space.

80-250 dogs are typically housed at maximum capacity in EACH southern shelter every day.

33,109 dogs were euthanized in Georgia shelters in 2024.
In 2020, it was 12,271.

HAL can only save a southern dog if someone volunteers to foster them.
Please adopt or become a foster. Let's clear the shelters and find them all forever homes!