

STATE ANTI-CRUELTY INVESTIGATORY/ARREST POWERS
(Updated July 2006)

State*	Authority to Investigate Cruelty**	Authority to Make Arrests***	Humane Officer/Animal Control Officer/Investigator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Qualifications ○ Powers ○ Training ○ Badges/Certification/Firearms 	Prohibited Actions
<p>Georgia</p> <p>http://www.legis.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/gi_codes_detail.pl?code=1-1-1 [Unofficial GA statutes; updated through 2005]</p> <p>Georgia Animal Control Association: http://www.camdencounty.org/gacaindex.html [Under 'favorite links' there is a link to the GA statutes]</p>	<p>An animal control officer who believes there has been a violation of this article or any law adopted pursuant to this article may apply for an inspection warrant. Ga. Code Ann. § 4-11-9.2(a).</p>	<p>“A person carrying out the duties of dog control officer shall not be authorized to make arrests unless the person is a law enforcement officer having the powers of arrest.” Ga. Code Ann. § 4-8-22(c).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Animal Control Officer’: ““Animal control officer" means an individual authorized by local law or by the governing authority of a county or municipality to carry out the duties imposed by this article or imposed by local ordinance.” Ga. Code Ann. § 4-11-2(1.1). • ‘Dog Control Officer’: ““Dog control officer" means an individual selected by a local government pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c) of Code Section 4-8-22 to aid in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this article.” Ga. Code Ann. § 4-8-21(a)(2). • Dog control officers are designated by local governments and the person appointed may serve more than one county or municipality if the governments have contracted for joint dog control services. A sheriff or rabies control officer may take on the additional duties of dog control officer. Ga. Code Ann. § 4-8-22. • The dog control officer has the power to investigate and inquire about reports of dangerous dogs. Ga. Code Ann. § 4-8-23. • A rabies control officer shall be appointed by the county board of health and shall be responsible for enforcing the “laws which regulate the activities of dogs.” Ga. Code Ann. § 31-19-7. • “An animal control officer...may impound any animal: (1) that has not received humane care; (2) that has been subjected to cruelty in violation of Code Section 16-12-4 [Cruelty to animals]; (3) that is used or intended for use in any violation of Code Section 16-12-37 [Dogfighting]; or, (4) If it is determined that a consent order or other order concerning the treatment of animals issued pursuant to this article is being violated.” Ga. Code Ann. § 4-11-9.2(c). 	<p>None listed</p>