

# WHAT IS AHIMSA HOUSE?

Ahimsa House a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is Georgia's first and only organization dedicated to helping the human and animal victims of domestic violence reach safety together.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Up to 71% of domestic violence victims report that the abuser has threatened, harmed or killed their pets.

Concern for a beloved companion animal's welfare prevents or delays as many as 50% of battered individuals from escaping domestic abuse.

Fewer than 1 in 8 domestic violence shelters is able to accommodate victims' pets.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Ahimsa House depends on our donors and volunteers to provide care for the pets in our program. It costs approximately \$400 per month to care for one victim's pets. Donations from kind people help us continue our lifesaving work.

*To make a tax deductible donation, visit [www.ahimsahouse.org](http://www.ahimsahouse.org), or make checks payable to Ahimsa House and mail to:*

**PO Box 8181, Atlanta, GA 31106**



**Volunteer:** Ahimsa House is staff almost entirely by volunteers. Visit our website or contact us to learn more.



**Donate:** You can also help by donating pet supplies or professional services. See our website for our current wish list.



**Partner:** Join our veterinary network or become a corporate partner.



**Raise Awareness:** Help us spread the word. Share this brochure with someone.

**P.O. Box 8181  
Atlanta, GA 31106  
Crisis Line: 404-452-6248  
Phone: 404-496-4038  
Email: [info@ahimsahouse.org](mailto:info@ahimsahouse.org)  
Website: [www.ahimsahouse.org](http://www.ahimsahouse.org)**



**Because choosing safety**



**shouldn't mean leaving a family member behind.**

**"Ahimsa" [uh-him-sah] is a Sanskrit principle meaning nonviolence.**

# AHIMSA HOUSE SERVICES

- Up to 60 days of confidential emergency shelter for pets while their human families seek safety.
- Basic & emergency vet care
- 24-hour hotline providing crisis intervention, safety planning, legal assistance and information/referrals
- Assistance with pet deposits
- Transporting pets to safety
- Raise awareness about the link between domestic violence & animal abuse.

## HOW TO GET HELP

- Call our 24-hr crisis line: 404-452-6248
- If you are in an abusive situation and have not yet located a (human) shelter or; you are in need of assistance but don't have any pets, call Georgia's 24-hr Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-HAVEN (42836)

*All Ahimsa House services are available free of charge to victims of domestic violence anywhere in Georgia who need assistance with their pets to reach safety or stay safe. We aim to offer assistance to any animal in need, regardless of species or breed.*



## MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

### *Domestic violence affects pets too.*

Just like other members of the family, pets are at risk in violent homes. Abusers often target pets as a way to intimidate, control and retaliate against the rest of the family.

### *When pets get hurt, everyone suffers.*

Witnessing someone hurt or kill a beloved pet is a significant trauma, especially for children—who may blame themselves for not being able to protect their pets.

### *Pet abuse can be a red flag.*

Research indicates that abusers who harm pets also engage in more controlling behavior and more severe violence.

### *Pets need shelter too.*

Nationwide, fewer than 1 in 8 domestic violence shelters accepts pets. Pet abuse puts lives at risk; abusers can use pets to control or manipulate victims, and concern for pets can delay or prevent leaving an abusive situation.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- If you are obtaining a Temporary Protective Order (TPO) or Conditions Bond, you can include your pets. Contact us for more assistance.
- If possible, gather any materials that would prove that you are the pet's owner. Abusers sometimes use the legal system to try to gain control of the pet. Your name on purchase/adoption papers, microchip registration and vet records can all help.
- If possible, make sure your pet is spayed/neutered and current on vaccinations.
- If possible, or if it can be done safely, have the following items in a discreet place and ready to go:

Leash, collar, pet carrier  
Proof of ownership  
Vaccination records  
Medications  
Small supply of food  
Important phone numbers  
*(see below)*

\*Note: In the event you are not able to safely gather these items, they will be provided by Ahimsa House.

**Ahimsa House Crisis Line: (404) 452-6248**

**Georgia DV Hotline: 1-800-33-HAVEN (42836)**

**Your Veterinarian:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other important numbers:** \_\_\_\_\_