

To Seek Help

Project Safe

Athens shelter for victims of domestic violence
www.project-safe.org
706-543-3331

Ahimsa House

Helping Georgia victims find
safe haven for their pets
www.ahimsahouse.org
404-452-6248

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

www.gcadv.org
Crisis line: 1-800-33-HAVEN (4-2836)

AARDVARC

Statewide/county list of advocates
and support contacts
www.aardvarc.org/dv/states/gadv.shtml

National Network to End Domestic Violence

www.nnedv.org
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

To Report Animal Abuse

Humane Society of Georgia, Inc.

Information about animal cruelty and laws
[www.humaneassociationofgeorgia.org/
animal_cruelty.htm](http://www.humaneassociationofgeorgia.org/animal_cruelty.htm)
(404) 827-0603



Vets for Pets and People is a grant-supported program of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. Our primary mission is to educate veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals and the general public about the link between domestic violence and animal abuse.

Working with Project Safe, an Athens area domestic violence shelter, and a network of volunteers, we also provide temporary foster care to pets whose owners have sought shelter from domestic violence.



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www.vet.uga.edu/vetsforpetsandpeople/

Do you know a pet in an abusive environment?



What every pet owner should know



Vets for Pets and People

Protecting the **Entire** Family From Domestic Violence

Animal Abuse is Domestic Violence



For many battered women, pets are sources of comfort providing strong emotional support: 98% of Americans consider pets to be companions or members of the family.

[American Veterinary Medical Association (2003): U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook. Schaumburg, IL: AVMA.]

Get the Facts

Domestic violence targets the whole family. Abusers often use animal abuse as a means to further terrorize and emotionally harm their human victims. Victims of domestic violence often sacrifice their own safety to protect their pets. References: Ascione, Weber & Wood, 1997 *Society & Animals*, unless otherwise noted.

- **71 to 85% of women** entering shelters reported that their partner had threatened, injured, or killed the family pet.
- **More than 25% of victims** report that concern for their pets had affected their decisions about staying or leaving.
— McIntosh, 2001 *The Latham Letter*.
- **50% of children** surveyed had protected pets, in some cases by directly intervening to keep their pets from being harmed.
- **74% of women** owned pets in the last 12 months before entering a shelter. **68%** owned more than one pet.
— Ascione, 1998 *Journal of Emotional Abuse*.
- **31.7% of sheltered women** reported emergency veterinary care for their pets; **71%** reported their pets received vaccinations.

Seeking Safety Does Not Mean The Pet Has To Suffer

There are organizations within the local community to help with the safety of pets and their owners escaping violent environments.

What to Look For

- Know the warning signs. If you see, hear about or experience pet abuse, take it seriously.
- Animals with long-term untreated injuries or medical conditions.
- Neighbors who repeatedly bring “new” puppies.
- Injuries attributed to unknown causes (accidental injuries are frequently admitted while intentional injuries are blamed on unknown causes).

Plan of Action

- Make a safety plan for you and your pet.
- Find a place for you and your pet to stay that the abuser does not know about.
- Have emergency supplies in case the abuser withholds money.
- Establish ownership of your pet by creating a paper trail. This includes veterinary records in your name, license in your name, and microchip registration.
- Pack a bag for your pet that includes food, medicines, documents of ownership, and leash.
- If you are obtaining a Temporary Protective Order (TPO) on conditions bond, you can include your pets.
- Contact your veterinarian for help for your pets.

You are not alone.



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Abuse is often unexpected,
and can happen to anyone.