

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MURDER-SUICIDE AND ANIMAL SURVIVORS

**Pets who witness trauma are often behaviorally impacted by their experiences, calling for specialized interventions from the survivors who are left to care for these beloved animals.**

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## SIGNS OF TRAUMA IN PETS

- *Aggression*
- *Hiding and/or avoidant behaviors*
- *Sudden regression in training: accidents in the house, over-excitement, and/or destruction of property*
- *Not eating and/or not drinking*
- *Itching, scratching and/or hair loss*

**While these behaviors cause a great deal of concern, they can be addressed.  
Pets are resilient and can recover from trauma!**

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- *Limit the pet's space to a comfortable and safe environment in the home.*
- *Bathrooms are a nice option for a pet who wants to be left alone.*
- *Provide special food such as canned pet diets or boiled chicken and rice.*
- *Move slowly and allow the pet to approach you when they are ready.*
- *Avoid making eye contact with a pet who is showing aggression or avoidant behaviors.*

**This is a difficult time for all involved. We are here to help.  
The following services are available free of cost for survivors' pets.**

## AHIMSA HOUSE PROVIDES

- *Behavioral consultation and training*
- *Vetting: exam, vaccines, spay/neuter and treatment of any illness or injuries*
- *Boarding: secure foster or boarding locations are available while you decide the best next steps for your family*
- *Supplies: pet food, treats, crates, bedding, leashes and collars*
- *Medication: flea and heart worm preventatives*
- *Pet deposit assistance*
- *Relocation assistance*



ahimsa house

24-hour Crisis Line: 404-452-6248  
ahimsahouse.org



Georgia  
Commission on  
Family  
Violence

404-657-3412  
gcfv.ga.gov