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.

**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

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

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