



# Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence



## Facts

- 71% of pet-owning women entering women's shelters reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims; 32% reported their children had hurt or killed animals.
- 68% of battered women reported violence towards their animals. 87% of these incidents occurred in the presence of the women, and 75% in the presence of the children, to psychologically control and coerce them.
- 13% of intentional animal abuse cases involve domestic violence.
- Between 25% and 40% of battered women are unable to escape abusive situations because they worry about what will happen to their pets or livestock should they leave.
- Pets are also seen as being in competition with an abusive partner for your attention.

## HELP IS AVAILABLE

Have your pets vaccinated against rabies, and license your pets with your town or county: make sure these registrations are in your name to help prove your ownership.

Consider and plan for the safety and welfare of your animals. Do not leave pets with your abuser. Be prepared to take your pets with you: many women's shelters have established "safe haven" foster care programs for the animal victims of domestic violence.

Alternatively, arrange temporary shelter for your pets with a veterinarian, family member, trusted friend, or local animal shelter.

Ask for assistance from law enforcement or local animal control officer on how to reclaim pets that are left behind.

<http://www.americanhumane.org/interaction/support-the-bond/fact-sheets/animal-abuse-domestic-violence.html>

<http://aardvarc.org/dv/states/gadv.shtml>

<http://nationallinkcoalition.org>

[http://www.vachss.com/guest\\_dispatches/ascione\\_3.html](http://www.vachss.com/guest_dispatches/ascione_3.html)



The Ahimsa House provides emergency safe housing and veterinary assistance for victims' pets statewide in Georgia, as well as information on including pets in safety planning and protective orders. You can reach them 24 hours a day at (404)452-6248. Domestic violence: it impacts your WHOLE family!