



ahimsa house

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



"I don't know what we would have done without your help."

MISSION

In families affected by domestic violence, pets are also at risk. Abusers threaten, injure, and kill family pets to terrorize others in the home --yet most domestic violence shelters are unable to allow pets to accompany their owners to safety. Nearly 50% of individuals delay escaping the abuse because of concern about their pets. Ahimsa House, meaning "nonviolence," is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the links between domestic violence and animal abuse. Anywhere in Georgia and at no charge, Ahimsa House provides emergency pet safe-housing, veterinary care, pet-related safety planning, legal advocacy, a 24-hour crisis line, outreach programs, and other services to help the human and animal victims of domestic violence reach safety together.

VISION

A world where humans and animals live free from domestic violence.

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EXECUTIVE
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NOTE FROM MYRA

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for making 2016 another remarkable year for Ahimsa House. Looking back, I am amazed that in just four short years we have grown from a staff of two to a staff of five. Our services have increased by 150% in those four years. Since we started providing services 12 years ago, we have helped 769 people escape domestic violence with their 1,352 pets! In 2016 alone, we helped 137 people escape with their 255 pets.

We are saving lives. Both human and animal lives... and it is all because of you. I continue to be amazed at our supporters. When we have a need, you come through, from pet food to copy paper. You made our annual “Joining Hands & Paws” gala the most successful to date raising over \$60,000. Our Walk, Wag, N’ Run in August saw the most runners, vendors, and sponsors in its 4 years of existence. And on Georgia Gives Day we raised a record \$14,245.

These fundraising efforts combined with our loyal, dedicated volunteers (some of whom you will hear from in this report), and our generous in-kind supporters enable Ahimsa House to continue providing our services without having to turn any victim away because of lack of resources. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you give, every day to make a difference in the lives of the human and animal victims of domestic violence in Georgia.

Sincerely,

Myra Rasnick
Executive Director



MYRA AND DIEGO

OUR SERVICES



Up to 60 days of confidential safehousing for the pets of domestic violence victims who are seeking safety until they are able to be reclaimed.



24-hour crisis line for victims and advocates, providing crisis intervention, community referrals, legal advocacy, and safety planning.



Preventive veterinary care, including spay and neuter surgeries, as well as treatment for illnesses or injuries due to abuse.



Safe transportation of pets to foster homes, veterinarians, and reunifications.



Pet supplies, pet food, payment of pet deposits, and other assistance victims may need in order to move forward with their lives together.



Training for human services and animal protection agencies, as well as direct outreach to the public to raise awareness.

Espresso's story

When Espresso entered the Ahimsa House program in February, he was suffering from a severe flesh wound. Espresso's owner was a victim of domestic violence, and soon after leaving her abuser he returned to her home to release Espresso and his brother Prince in retaliation. He had hoped they would run away and be lost forever. Instead, poor Espresso was hit by a car near the home and left alone on the side of the road – except for Prince, who stood by his side until help arrived.

Espresso's case is an amazing testament to the work Ahimsa House does every day because it highlights the customizable nature of program services. This client was fortunate to have a safe place to stay with her children and two dogs so she did not utilize the temporary foster program. However, she could not afford the emergency veterinary care required to save Espresso's leg – including x-rays, and 2 surgeries – and the two months of ongoing veterinary visits and bandage changes to ensure that the wound healed safely. This rigorous schedule required the client to drive to and from the animal hospital each day for nearly a month, and every other day for the month after that. Ahimsa House volunteers and supporters generously donated gas station gift cards that completely covered the client's transportation costs to and from these vet visits, and enabled her to keep Espresso with her while he healed.

On April 26, the client's official end date in the Ahimsa House program, the cost of veterinary services related to Espresso's incident neared \$3,000. Equally as important, Ahimsa House was also able to cover the costs of neuter surgeries, vaccinations, and preventative medications for both him and Prince. Investing in the future of our clients by meeting their unique needs and the needs of their pets is what we do here, and we are thrilled that together with our veterinary partners we can play a part in saving animals.

Ahimsa House's services are not prescriptive, but are customized to meet the needs of each client. There is no financial cap or limit on the number of pets we are able to assist with. Our goal is to help people and pets escape domestic violence together, in whatever way that looks like for each family.

Behind every number is a story like this— a survivor making life or death decisions about the future for herself, her children, and her pets. Thanks to our supporters, Espresso and Prince are thriving and living a full and joyous life with family in a safe place.

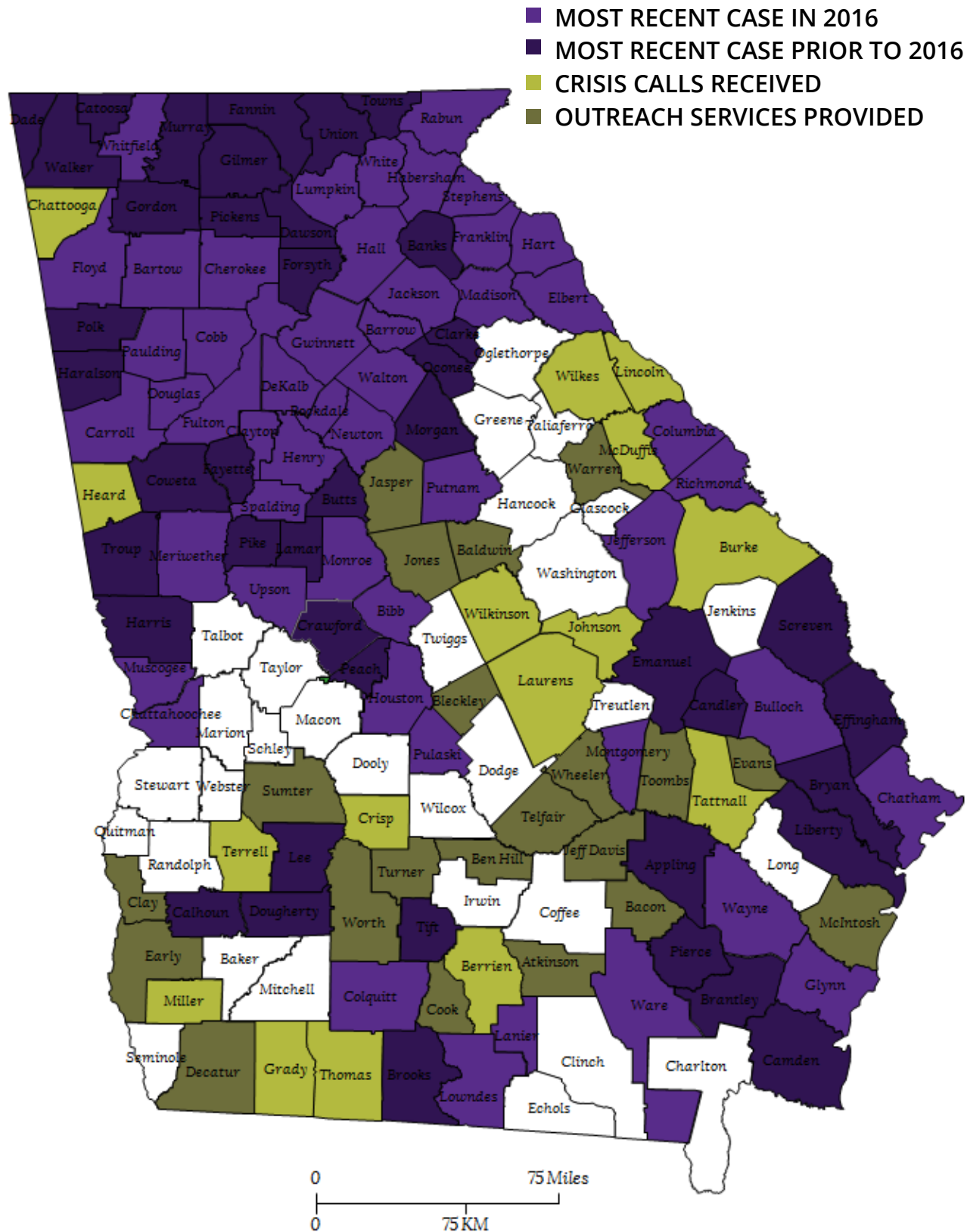


ESPRESSO, PRINCE, AND MOM ON
THEIR LAST DAY OF THE PROGRAM



THIS BONDED PAIR NEVER LEAVES
THE OTHER'S SIDE

MAP OF SERVICES



2016 STATISTICS

2,295

CRISIS CALLS

137

NEW DIRECT
SERVICE CLIENTS

225

TOTAL ANIMALS
ASSISTED

76

CATS ASSISTED

167

DOGS ASSISTED

11

OTHER ANI-
MALS ASSISTED
(INCLUDING 7
RABBITS)

11,022

SAFE NIGHTS
PROVIDED

91%

PERCENTAGE OF
CLIENTS RE-
UNITED WITH
THEIR ANIMALS

975

TRANSPORTS
DURING PRO-
GRAM AND TO
SAFETY

210

PREVENTIVE
VETERINARY
VISITS

150

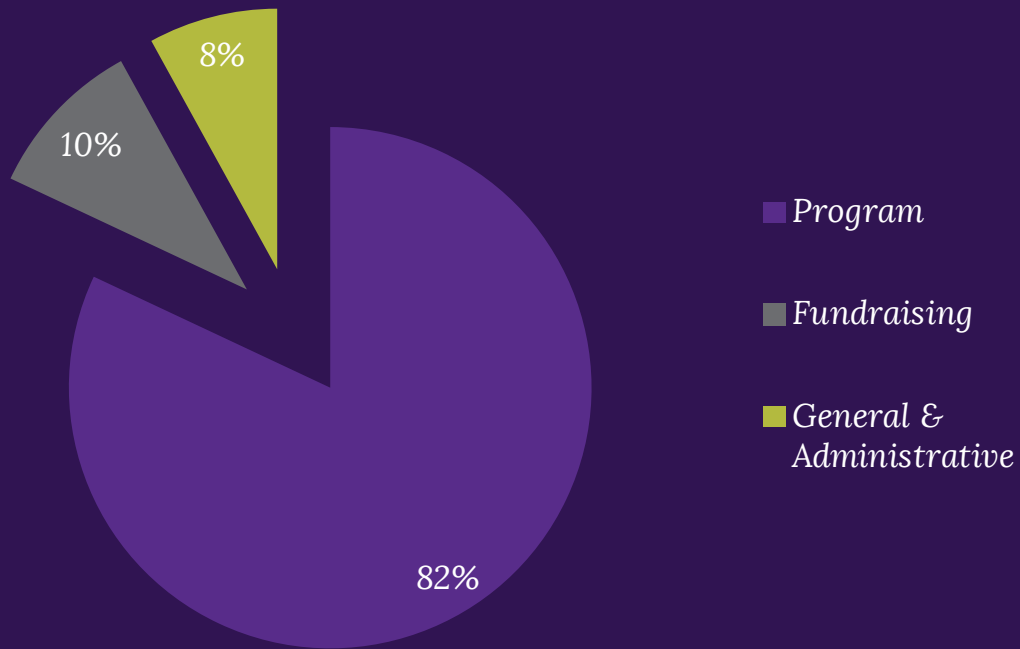
EMERGENCY
VETERINARY
VISITS

74

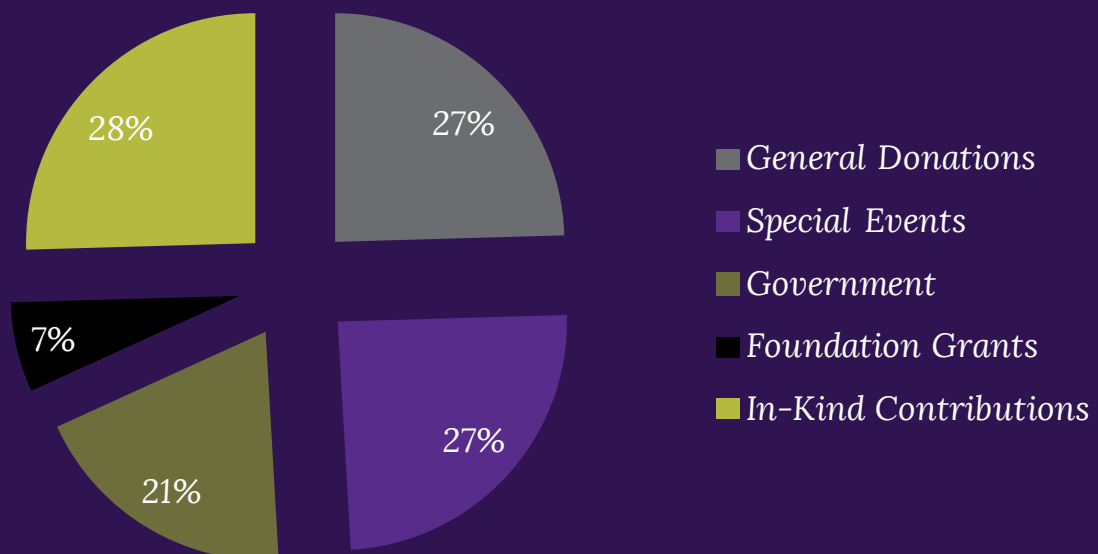
SPAY AND NEU-
TER SURGERIES

2016 FINANCES

Expenditures



Revenue



2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Overall: Had the busiest program year to date, with our number of crisis calls and safe nights provided each increasing by 14% compared to 2015. We also saw a huge spike in the number of pets assisted— a 26% increase!

April: McKesson, who employs over 76,000 employees, chose our very own Board President, Carrie Montagna-Ward, as Volunteer of the Year and generously donated \$5,000 to Ahimsa House.

November: Achieved our all-time record earnings for Georgia Gives Day, raising \$14,245 thanks to our incredible supporters.

January: Expanded to a team of 5 after hiring an additional victim advocate.

April: Executive Director Myra Rasnick was the keynote speaker along with Jessica Rock and Maya Gupa at the Crescent House Child Abuse Symposium in Macon.

August: Ahimsa House received a grant from the Atlanta Pride Committee and partnered with the Georgia Commission on Family Violence and the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence to hold “It Happens To Us Too,” a discussion about intimate partner violence in the LGBTQIA community. In October we followed up with participating in Pride as a vendor and in the parade.

WHO WE ARE

2016 Staff

Myra Rasnick
Executive Director

Shannon Oxford
Director of Program Services

Sally Terrell
Victim Services Coordinator

Sarah Overton
Victim Services Advocate

Samantha Altfest
Community Services Advocate

Diego Altfest
Official AmbassaDOG



Board of Directors

President

Carrie Montagna-Ward
Marketing Manager
McKesson

Treasurer

Heather Siler
Director of Operations
Guidant Group

Secretary

Lauren Vickers
Executive Assistant to Chief
Client Officer & Chief Finan-
cial Officer
22squared

Cheri Fulginiti
Vice President, Engineering
UPS

Carol Neal-Rossi
President
Issues Consulting

Courtney E. Quiros
Associate
Alston and Bird LLP

Seslee Smith
Partner
Morris, Manning & Martin LLP

Karen Swope
Senior Client Development Di-
rector
Live Nation

Kathryn Burmeister
Associate
The Mulholland Law Firm P.C.

Benjamin Wiles
Intellectual Property Attorney
Troutman Sanders LLP

Mary Ann Downey
HR Metrics Coach
Shoot for the Moon Services
LLP

Advisory Council

David Bressman, DVM
Associate Veterinarian
Crabapple Animal Hospital

Joey Brooks
Animal Cruelty Investigator
Gwinnett County

Christy Showalter
Director of Training
Georgia Coalition Against
Domestic Violence

Emily Christie
Founder
Ahimsa House

Christine Cox, Esq.
Attorney

Paul Ebbs
Field Supervisor
Fulton County Animal Ser-
vices

Annamarie Keck
Community Member

Hon. Shawn Ellen LaGrua
Superior Court Judge
Fulton County

Melinda Merck, DVM
Owner
Forensics Consulting LLC

Merrie Rennard, LMSW
Ph.D. Fellow, Veterinary Social
Work
University of Tennessee

Kelly Trogdon, DVM
Owner
Faithful Friend Mobile Veteri-
nary Clinic

Stephen Walker
Owner
S. R. Walker Designs

JOINING HANDS & PAWS 2016 GALA

Thanks to our generous supporters and hard-working committee, the 2016 annual gala was able to raise over \$60,000 for Ahimsa House's state-wide services in the beautiful Venetian Room in downtown Atlanta.



Planning Committee

Co-Chairs

*Cheri Fulginiti
Cathy McMahon-Fowlkes*

*Carol Neal Rossi
Karen Swope
Meghan Farley
Lauren Vickers
Myra Rasnick
Shannon Oxford
Samantha Altfest*

WALK WAG N' RUN



With over 400 attendees, this year's Walk, Wag, N' Run 5k and Fun Run was the busiest yet! Runners, pets, and families enjoyed a challenging race as well as a diverse field of vendors at the beautiful Lenox Park in Brookhaven.

Planning Committee

Carol Neal-Rossi
Cathy McMahon-Fowlkes
Meghan Farley
Lauren Vickers
Amanda Rack
Shannon Oxford
Samantha Altfest
Myra Rasnick.

VOLUNTEERING



Foster volunteers provide a safe place for a pet to rest and recuperate for stays ranging from 5 to 60 days. Fosters pick which pets work best for their family, have no out-of-pocket costs for veterinary services or pet supplies, and have 24-hour support from Ahimsa House staff.



Transport volunteers assist driving pets to foster homes, veterinarians and boarding facilities, and back to their owners for reunifications. Transports occur during business hours, evenings, and weekends, all over Georgia and Metro Atlanta, and transporters make their own schedules.



Crisis line volunteers represent Ahimsa House on our 24-hour crisis line on evenings, weekends, and holidays, providing crisis intervention and community referrals. Volunteers graduate from a 10-hour training and always have the support of on-call staff.



Community outreach volunteers assist Ahimsa House at outreach events like adoptions, festivals, and community events across the state, helping spread the word about our services to potential clients and other volunteers. Spring and summer are especially busy times for outreach.

Why do you drive?: Transporter stories



“I’m a smooch-a-pooch or chat -with-a-cat type person. Driving for Ahimsa House gives me the opportunity for extra love while providing quiet support to our furry friends who are going through mental stress and emotional trauma. Being away from Mom and the family and sleeping in 1, 2 or even 3 new places is scary. My wish is to ease these furry hearts and minds during the transports and help them settle into temporary transitions. It’s the least I can do.”

— CHRISTINE B. AND HER PETS,
MARGHERITA AND SUSIE



“The smallest gesture can have the greatest impact. I volunteer transport because it allows me to give back to causes that are very near to my heart: domestic violence and the love of furbabies. I look out for transports that are scheduled in the evening so I can volunteer after work.”

— RICHARD O.



"I'm always glad to help Ahimsa House. Ahimsa House not only fills a vital need but is one of the best run non-profits I have worked with. One of my favorite transports was one where I took a pit bull back to her owner after a separation of a few months. I left them at their vehicle and returned to my car to get supplies to find a grinning happy pooch who's face was covered with lipstick prints. Ahimsa House is providing a vital service to people who otherwise would have to choose between possibly losing their life staying in a dangerous situation or abandoning their pet either with animal control or their abuser, and transport is essential to achieving that."

— MARK S. AND HIS DOG, RADAR



"My cat Amanda likes two raw almonds every morning and grudgingly performs a couple of stunts to get them. If I were ever in a situation in which Amanda's well-being was jeopardized, I'd thank my lucky stars for Ahimsa House. That's why I am a transporter and why I am honored to be entrusted with the beloved pets who need a means of travel to safety. And there isn't much more gratifying than being the transporter who can return a pet (or pets) to the family when the family is free from abuse."

— LYNDEL G. AND HER CAT, AMANDA

GIVING BACK

Donations from compassionate people help us continue our life-saving work. Ahimsa House relies heavily on our donors to provide care for the pets in our program. Your donation ensures that pets like Espresso can be with their owners for a fresh start, that their owners don't have to make the dangerous decision to delay leaving or even stay in an abusive situation for their pets' sakes, and that victims of domestic violence across the state of Georgia have a resource that they can count on to keep their family safe and together. There are lots of different ways to give back to Ahimsa House!

Wish List

Paper Office Supplies

Printer Cartridges

Cat Scratching Posts

Folding Wire Crates (All Sizes)

Allergy-Free Food

Heartworm and Flea Preventive

Litter and Litter Boxes

Break-away Cat Collars

Plastic Storage Bins

Pet Grooming Wipes

Gift Cards for General or
Pet Retailers



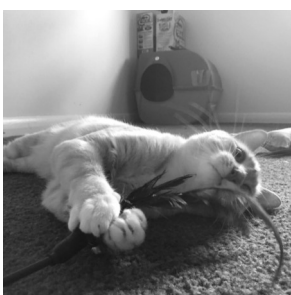
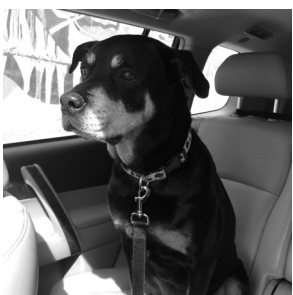
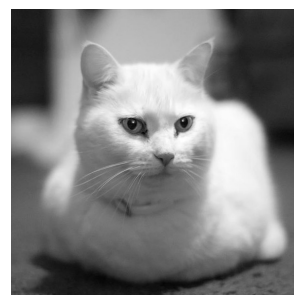
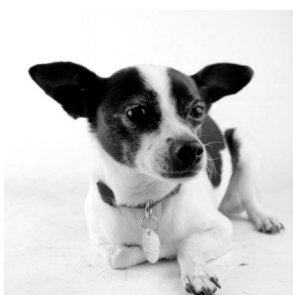
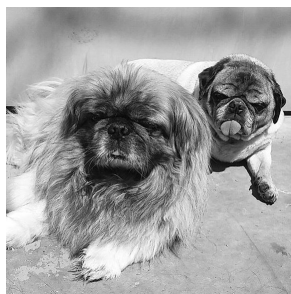
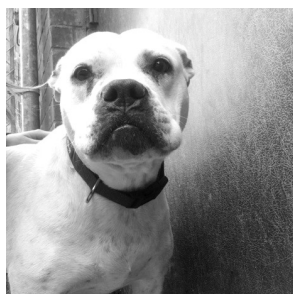
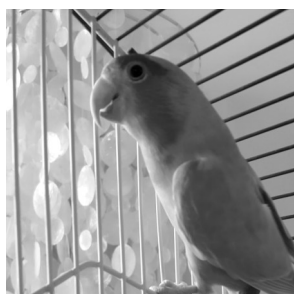
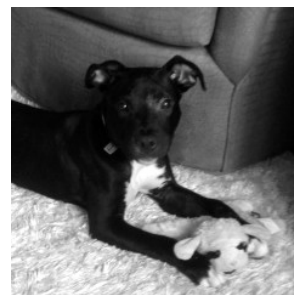
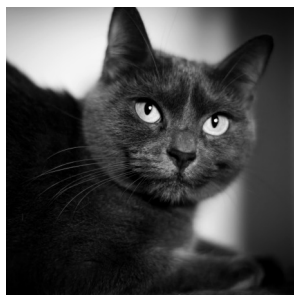
In-Kind Support

Ahimsa House is proud to partner with veterinary, boarding, and pet supply businesses across the state of Georgia. We are always seeking additional partners who can assist as our program grows! Help us connect with new partners by speaking with your own vet about the valuable work that we do, or sign up to be part of our brochure brigade to disseminate our information in your community!

Honorary Tributes

Wondering what kind of gift to purchase for those hard-to-shop for people on your list? Consider a special contribution to Ahimsa House to honor the caring and generous spirit of your friends and family. This is a unique gift that makes a lasting impact throughout the year.

Tribute donations can be made in honor or in memory of a special person, pet, or occasion. It may be a member of your family, a friend, a business associate, or a neighbor. These donations not only show how much you care about your special someone or pet, but they also show how much you care about the important work we do here at Ahimsa House. Honorary and Memorial gifts to Ahimsa House can express sympathy, love, appreciation, congratulations or best wishes to those you honor or remember.



Special thanks to Good Thinking, Inc. (501c3) for providing Ahimsa House with a brand identity and standards guide.

*Shari Margolin, designer
John Meister, photography
Neil Fried, film production*

*Toni Appling, project direction
Kathi Roberts, implementation
Angela Aquino, administration*



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