



ahimsa house

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



“The only way we were able to reach safety was through your kindness and love for animals and their owners. .”

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 safehousing, 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 2017 yet another remarkable year for Ahimsa House! This year marked 13 years of service for the organization. Our dedicated staff has done an incredible job at expanding our outreach while strengthening our programs and services.

We have once again increased our service delivery. In 2017 we had a 33% increase in number of crisis calls and a 15% increase in number of clients served.

A few program highlights include:

- Answered 3,340 crisis calls
- Provided over 13,000 nights of safe shelter for pets escaping domestic violence.
- Helped 161 people escape violence with their 283 pets.
- Provided outreach services, including professional training, community presentations, and tabling at both public and professional events, at 121 events in 28 counties.

Our ongoing goal is to keep our overhead low while increasing our services, and you truly make this possible! Ahimsa House is stronger than ever due to our continually expanding community who comes together to donate time, resources, and talent in support of our important mission. This year alone Ahimsa House crisis line volunteers provided 555 hours of on-call time. Our transport volunteers logged 768 transports equaling over 52,000 miles, and our outreach volunteers staffed our booth at 28 community festivals.

Thank you for being a part of the Ahimsa House team. We could not do this important work without you. We are looking forward to 2018!

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.

A Survivor's Journey: Meet Mischa

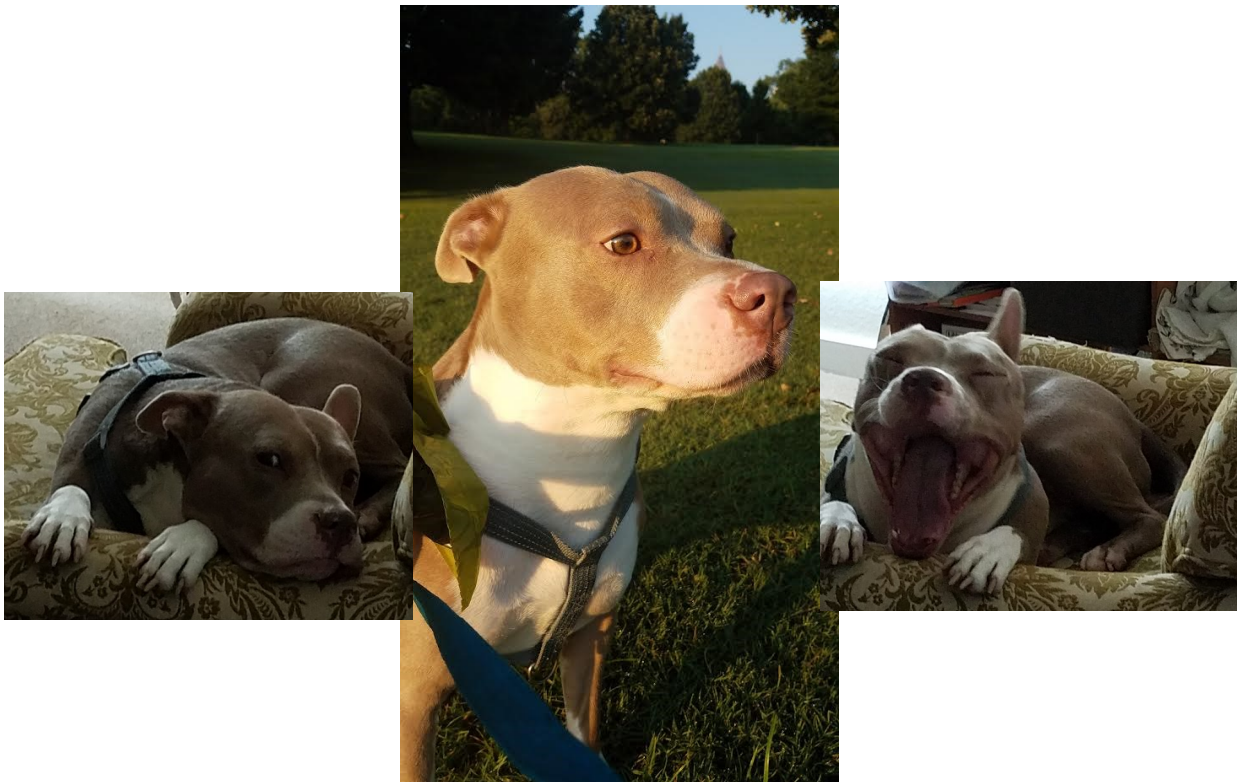
Lori fell in love with Mischa as soon as she laid eyes on her in the shelter. Having been rescued from an abusive environment, Mischa needed a home where she could gain weight, heal from her injuries, and most importantly, bond with a caring human. Lori spent the next few years doing just that. She brought Mischa back to health, forming a connection between the two that would ultimately save a life other than Mischa's.

When Lori later found herself in an abusive relationship with man she had only recently started dating, she first doubted her need to react to the violence by seeking safety. "How bad could it get?" she would ask herself. But with each day that passed, the abuse became more and more severe. One day, when the abuser became upset with Lori's desire to take Mischa to the vet to treat a worsening skin condition, Lori suddenly realized just how dangerous her situation was. Fueled by an intense drive to protect Mischa from ever having to live a life of violence again, Lori began to make plans to get away from the abuser.

As is commonly the case for clients in our program, escaping the relationship was one of Lori's biggest challenges. For weeks, she worked with an advocate and with Ahimsa House staff to come up with a plan to seek safety— both for herself and Mischa.

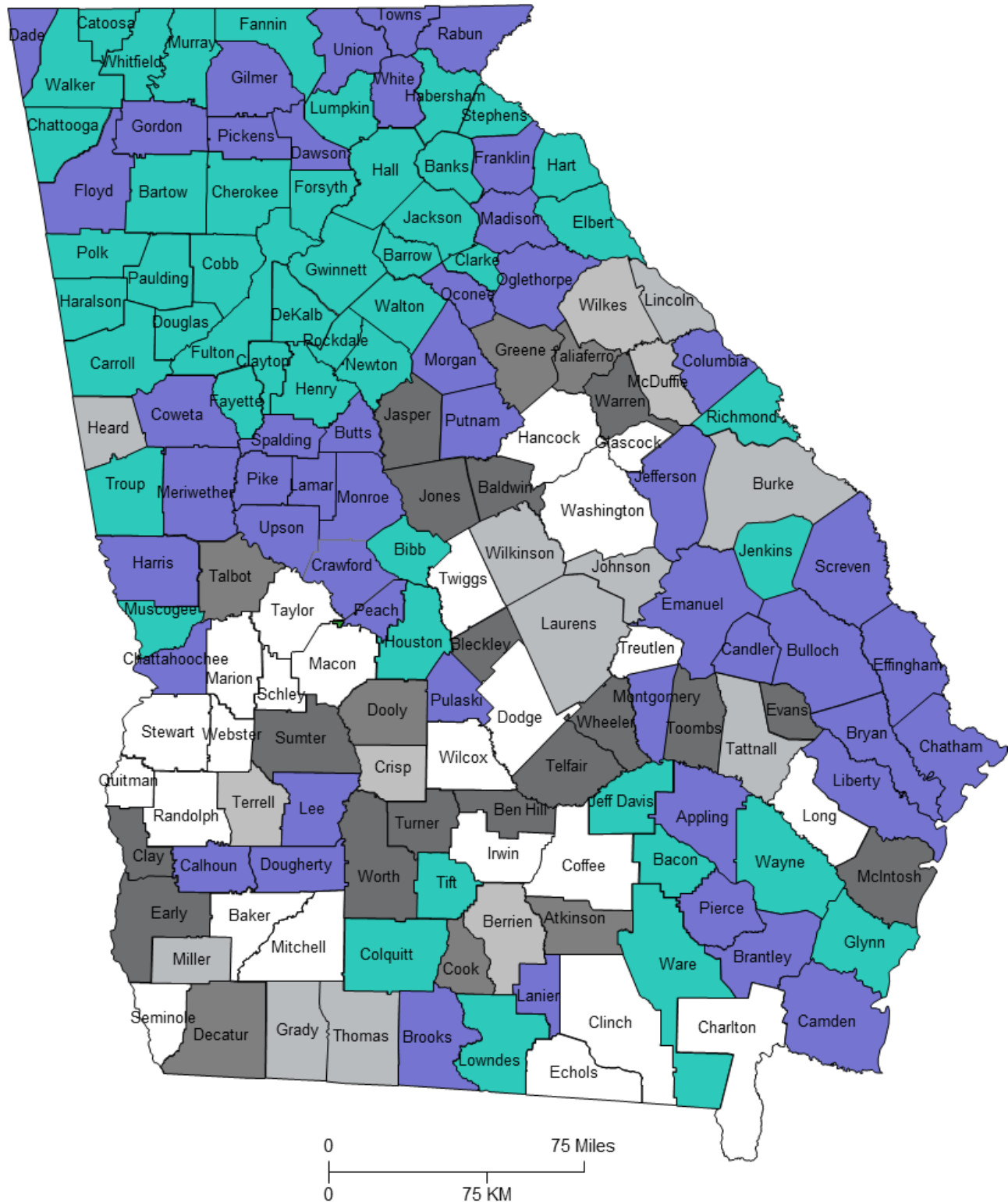
Lori was heartbroken that she would have to temporarily part ways with her beloved companion, but she was determined to do whatever was necessary to return to a peaceful life with her pet. Mischa was dropped off at our vet partner, where she received comprehensive medical treatment and preventative care. She then spent the next month in a foster home, with Lori checking in almost daily, both to ensure Mischa's wellbeing and to express her gratitude for the Ahimsa House program.

Lori worked day and night to set up protective legal boundaries against her abuser and to restore her home as a safe haven for Mischa. Once Lori had a new job and a place to live, Ahimsa House provided her with a pet deposit, a letter of temperament, and new pet supplies for Mischa. Three weeks after their reunification, Lori reached back out to Ahimsa House. She shared a picture of Mischa in her home with an adorable new rescue fursibling. She said that her story had come full circle. She wondered where she might be without her canine companion- "Although I saved Mischa's life in the beginning, my love for my dog ended up saving me in the end".



MAP OF SERVICES

- CRISIS CALLS RECEIVED
- OUTREACH SERVICES PROVIDED
- MOST RECENT CASE PRIOR TO 2017
- MOST RECENT CASE IN 2017



2017 STATISTICS

3,440

CRISIS CALLS

161

NEW DIRECT
SERVICE CLIENTS

283

TOTAL ANIMALS
ASSISTED

88

CATS ASSISTED

189

DOGS ASSISTED

6

OTHER ANI-
MALS ASSISTED
(INCLUDING 7
RABBITS)

13,644

SAFE NIGHTS
PROVID

88%

PERCENTAGE OF
CLIENTS REU-
NITED WITH
THEIR ANIMALS

1,143

TRANSPORTS
DURING PRO-
GRAM AND TO
SAFETY

256

PREVENTIVE
VETERINARY
VISITS

146

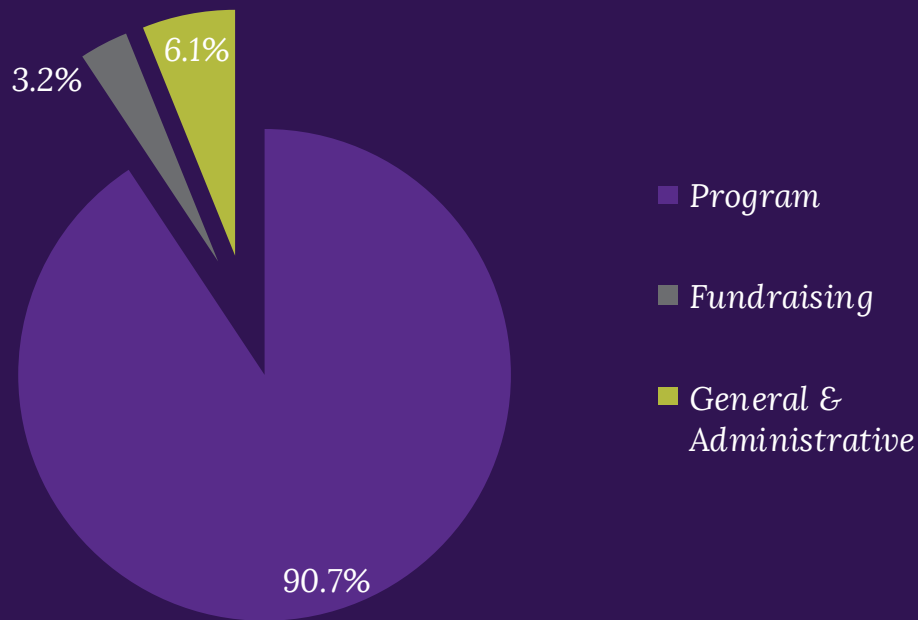
EMERGENCY
VETERINARY
VISITS

103

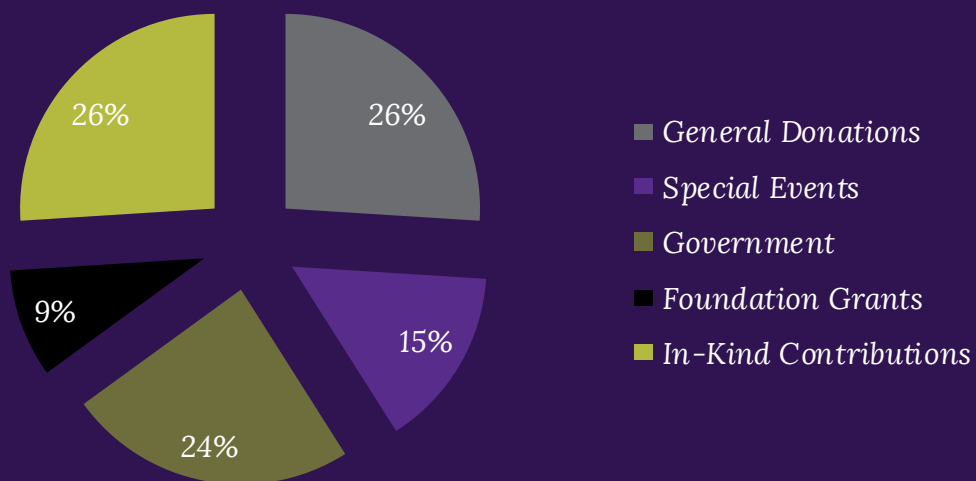
SPAY AND NEU-
TER SURGERIES

2017 FINANCES

Expenditures



Revenue



2017 HIGHLIGHTS

*75 new volunteers joined the Ahimsa House mission, assisting us with the crisis line, outreach efforts, and transporting and fostering pets.

*Ahimsa House worked with Atlanta-based organization Good Thinking to develop a new look and re-brand our logo and images.

*Morris, Manning & Martin became our corporate sponsor. Through this partnership, we raised over \$60,000.

*Ahimsa House covered the costs of seven emergency surgeries for the pets in our program.

*A record \$18,000 was raised during Georgia Gives on Giving Tuesday.

* Our staff grew from 5 to 6 by hiring a second Victim Services Advocate. We were also able to hire a part-time animal transporter to help get all of the pets safely around the state. Having exceeded our record number of clients and pets in the program in 2017, this additional advocate helps us offer more comprehensive services to all of our clients.

CORPORATE SPONSOR: MORRIS, MANNING & MARTIN LLP

In 2017, Ahimsa House was honored to have the support of Morris, Manning & Martin LLP as our first-ever corporate sponsor. During this year-long partnership, MMM:



sponsored both our Joining Hands & Paws Gala and Walk, Wag, N' Run 5K at the highest sponsorship levels;



held their 5th Annual MMM Cheers event, a beer and wine tasting to benefit Ahimsa House, which brought in over \$30,000;



stitched and donated 115 pet bandanas for us to sell at outreach and fundraising events;



and supported Ahimsa House in various other capacities, including pro-bono legal support and other in-kind and monetary contributions.

OUR NEW LOOK

With the help of Good Thinking, Inc., 2017 saw the unveiling of Ahimsa House's new branding. Good Thinking is a team of collaborative professionals, representing every creative discipline, that helps nonprofits achieve their goals on affordable budgets. They designed our new logo, filmed a video, and provided us with photos and other design elements to use in our communications.



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

Shari Margolin, designer

Toni Appling, project direction

John Meister, photography

Kathi Roberts, implementation

Neil Fried, film production

Angela Aquino, administration

JOINING HANDS & PAWS 2017 GALA

Thanks to our generous supporters and hard-working committee, the 2017 annual gala was able to raise over \$81,000 for Ahimsa House's statewide 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

Chair

Carol Neal-Rossi

Meghan Farley

Lauren Vickers

Amanda Rack

Shannon Oxford

Samantha Altfest

Myra Rasnick.

WHO WE ARE

2017 Staff

Myra Rasnick
Executive Director

Shannon Oxford
Director of Program Services

Taylor Chastain
Victim Services Coordinator

Justin Maslanka
Victim Services Advocate

Zachary Clifford
Victim Services Advocate

Samantha Altfest
Community Services Advocate

Judy Bradberry
Animal Transporter

Diego Altfest
Official AmbassaDOG



Board of Directors

President

Carrie Montagna-Ward
Marketing Manager
McKesson

Seslee Smith

Partner

Morris, Manning & Martin LLP

Treasurer

Heather Siler
Director of Operations
Guidant Group

Karen Swope

Senior Client Development Director

Ticket Master

Secretary

Carol Neal-Rossi
President
Issues Consulting

Kathryn Burmeister

Associate

The Mulholland Law Firm P.C.

Cheri Fulginiti
Vice President, Engineering
UPS

Benjamin Wiles

Intellectual Property Attorney

Troutman Sanders LLP

Courtney E. Quiros
Associate
Alston and Bird LLP

Mary Ann Downey

HR Metrics Coach

Shoot for the Moon Services
LLP

Advisory Council

David Bressman, DVM
Associate Veterinarian
Crabapple Animal Hospital

Melinda Merck, DVM
Owner
Forensics Consulting LLC

Joey Brooks
Animal Cruelty Investigator
Gwinnett County

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

Christy Showalter
Director of Training
Georgia Coalition Against
Domestic Violence

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

Emily Christie
Founder
Ahimsa House

Stephen Walker
Owner
S. R. Walker Designs

Christine Cox, Esq.
Attorney

Eddie Turner Improvement
Advisor, Community Solutions

Paul Ebbs
Field Supervisor
Fulton County Animal Ser-
vices

Meredith Ragains Executive
Director, GA Lawyers for the
Arts

Annamarie Keck
Community Member

Maya Gupta
Senior Director, Applied Re-
search at ASPCA

Hon. Shawn Ellen LaGrua
Superior Court Judge
Fulton County

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.

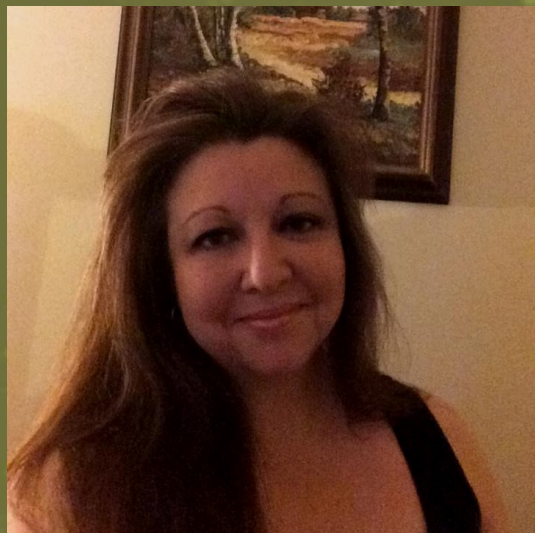


Crisis line volunteers represent Ahimsa House on our 24-hour crisis line on evenings, weekends, and holidays, providing crisis intervention and community referrals. Volunteers graduate from a 10-hour training and always have the support of on-call staff.



Community outreach volunteers assist Ahimsa House at outreach events like adoptathons, 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.

ANSWERING THE CALL: TESTIMONIES FROM CRISIS LINE VOLUNTEERS



“One night I listened to a caller tell me her story for 20 minutes. I could hear the defeat and sadness in her voice. I told her we would be able to help her and her furries, and that I’d send her the paperwork to get started. I don’t think she was expecting that we’d be able to help, I think she’d made many, many calls that night. At the end of the call she said maybe she’d sleep a little that night knowing she’d not have to leave or surrender her dogs. Giving someone even just a moment or two of peace about their lives is unbelievably rewarding.”

— Lynn C., Crisis Line Hero



“The most rewarding part of volunteering on the crisis line has been hearing the relief in clients’ voices when they know that we’re there for them, to help them in any way that we can. It’s such a humbling experience to know that just by picking up the phone and bearing witness to someone’s story and concerns (for themselves and their pets), you can offer them some hope where there might have been none. I love talking to clients and potential clients, knowing that we’re helping them to get to a safer and happier place.”

— AIMEE C. AND HER DOG, GUS

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 Mischa 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

Front-lead dog harnesses

Dental Hygiene treats

Martingale collars

Crate pads

Nylabones & Kongs

Heartworm and Flea Preventive

Slow-feed dog bowls

Break-away Cat Collars

Plastic Storage Bins

Pet Grooming Wipes

Gift Cards for General or

Pet Retailers



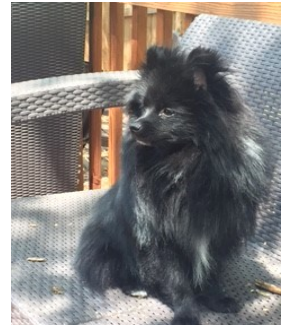
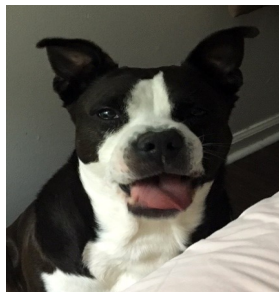
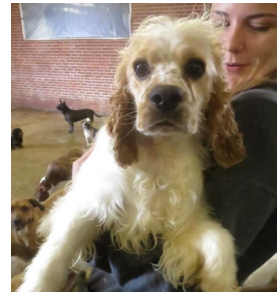
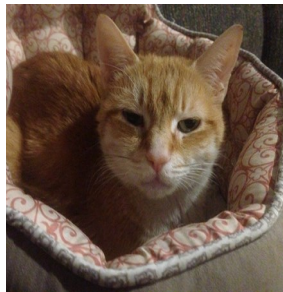
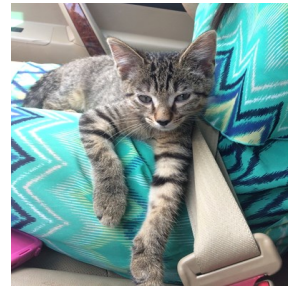
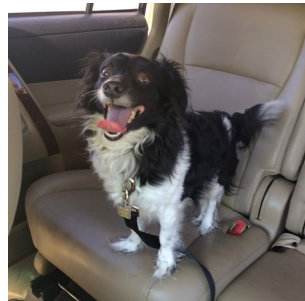
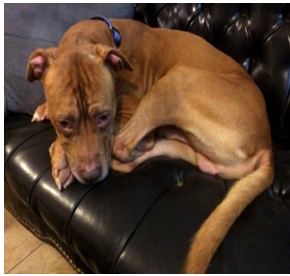
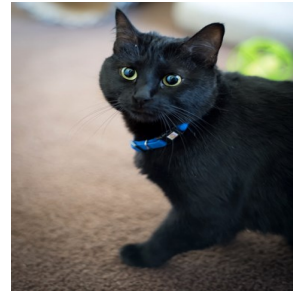
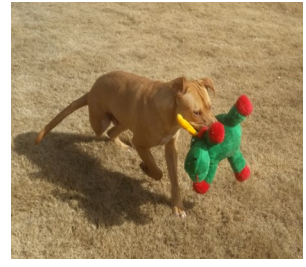
IN-KIND SUPPORT

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.





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