



Luvernes Safe Haven, Inc. Women's Domestic Violence Abuse Shelter Home Pet Friendly Policies

To qualify applicants must first complete the application and be able to complete the checklist below. Qualifications outlines actions and processes that should be adhered to prior to the filling the application

- All applicants will be provided an equal nondiscriminatory pet-friendly accommodation process.
- Pets should legally belong the applicant who's applying for residency. If the pet is not legally owned by the applicant, they must have written permission from the owner to acquire the pet for the duration of residential occupancy.
- Pets are the sole responsibility of the applicant. Applicants should ensure that their pets have all legal requirements (legal documentation, shots, etc.) adhered to and are not a danger to other abuse shelter occupants.
- Applicants should be able to provide basic care needs for their pets, and if unable should provide assistance requests within the initial application portal.
- The addition of pets shall follow within the allowances of pets allowed in the state of Georgia [here](#). Additionally, Luvernes Safe Haven, Inc. will best determine allowable pets, and may limit the number of pets if determined to be an undue hardship to the organization.
- Pets that can be kept on a leash should always be and will be the task of the owner or legal guardian.
- Pets that can be kept within a caged area (example: glass tank) should always be.

- Upkeep of all legal requirements for pets is the sole responsibility of the owner or legal guardian.
- Pets that are not housed within the Women's Domestic Violence Abuse Shelter will have their outside designated area with 24-7 audio and video recording availabilities.
- Pets that are usually kept outdoors may be brought in upon unsafe weather conditions.
- Pet owners or legal guardians and all house occupants must comply with the O.C.G.A. 16-12-4 (2010) 16-12-4. Cruelty to animal laws at all times.

2010 Georgia Code

TITLE 16 - CRIMES AND OFFENSES

CHAPTER 12 - OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC HEALTH AND MORALS

ARTICLE 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 16-12-4 - Cruelty to animals

O.C.G.A. 16-12-4 (2010)
16-12-4. Cruelty to animals

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) "Animal" shall not include any fish nor shall such term include any pest that might be exterminated or removed from a business, residence, or other structure.

(2) "Conviction" shall include pleas of guilty or nolo contendere or probation as a first offender pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 42 and any conviction, plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or probation as a first offender for an offense under the laws of the United States or any of the several states that would constitute a violation of this Code section if committed in this state.

(3) "Willful neglect" means the intentional withholding of food and water required by an animal to prevent starvation or dehydration.

(b) A person commits the offense of cruelty to animals when he or she causes death or unjustifiable physical pain or suffering to any animal by an act, an omission, or willful neglect. Any person convicted of a violation of this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor; provided, however, that:

(1) Any person who is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this subsection shall be punished by imprisonment not to exceed 12 months, a fine not to exceed \$5,000.00, or both; and

(2) Any person who is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this subsection which results in the death of an animal shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than three months nor more than 12 months, a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00, or both, which punishment shall not be suspended, probated, or withheld.

(c) A person commits the offense of aggravated cruelty to animals when he or she knowingly and maliciously causes death or physical harm to an animal by rendering a part of such animal's body useless or by seriously disfiguring such animal. A person convicted of the offense of aggravated cruelty to animals shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, a fine not to exceed \$15,000.00, or both, provided that any person who is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this subsection shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, a fine not to exceed the amount provided by Code Section 17-10-8, or both.

(d) Before sentencing a defendant for any conviction under this Code section, the sentencing judge may require psychological evaluation of the offender and shall consider the entire criminal record of the offender.

(e) The provisions of this Code section shall not be construed as prohibiting conduct which is otherwise permitted under the laws of this state or of the United States, including, but not limited to, agricultural, animal husbandry, butchering, food processing, marketing, scientific, research, medical, zoological, exhibition, competitive, hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife management, or pest control practices or the authorized practice of veterinary medicine nor to limit in any way the authority or duty of the Department of Agriculture, Department

of Natural Resources, any county board of health, any law enforcement officer, dog, animal, or rabies control officer, humane society, veterinarian, or private landowner protecting his or her property.

(f)(1) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed as prohibiting a person from:

(A) Defending his or her person or property, or the person or property of another, from injury or damage being caused by an animal; or

(B) Injuring or killing an animal reasonably believed to constitute a threat for injury or damage to any property, livestock, or poultry.

(2) The method used to injure or kill such animal shall be designed to be as humane as is possible under the circumstances. A person who humanely injures or kills an animal under the circumstances indicated in this subsection shall incur no civil or criminal liability for such injury or death.

- Pet food assistance and healthcare services may be provided by the organization if and upon establishing such a request. Assistance may be provided unless it causes an undue hardship to the organization.

- Pets that encounter an attack they have enacted upon either the owner, any other pets, or any individual are considered dangerous and a liability. The organization considers pet attacks as violent offences that violates the women's domestic violence abuse shelter residency policy and thereby will ask to have the pet removed to a more substantiable location outside of the organization's premises for the duration of the applicant's residential stay. A recommended safer location would be determined by local animal shelters, the humane society, and or the police authorities.

Please submit all inquiries about our Women's Domestic Violence Abuse Shelter Residency Program " Pet-Friendly policies to info@luvernnessafehaven.org