



Why an On-Site Kennel?

Are you a pet owner? If so, could you ever leave your pet with someone who would harm, torture or kill them? Could you imagine leaving them forever, never knowing what happened to them in the hands of that dangerous person?

Every 15 seconds, a woman is battered by her partner in the United States. People often ask the question ...why doesn't she just leave? The answer is complex, but often, a woman in an abusive relationship is unable to make the heartbreaking decision to leave her beloved pet behind.

In a national survey of domestic violence survivors, 853 of women seeking safety in a domestic violence shelter reported pet abuse in their home. Of all survivors who enter shelters to escape abuse, 573 have had a pet harmed or killed by their abuser. In fact, up to 483 of domestic violence survivors delay leaving their abuser out of fear of what will happen to their pets.

That's why the movement toward on-site housing for domestic violence survivors' pets has garnered national attention. Harbor House of Central Florida has worked for the past several years to bring this innovative idea to our Emergency Shelter. We are thrilled to finally bring the Paws for Peace Kennel to life and provide the very best in care, protection and shelter for four-legged survivors of domestic violence.

Harbor House is the only shelter in Central Florida with an on-site kennel for pets, ensuring no family member is left behind in an abusive home.

About Our Kennel

The Paws for Peace Kennel officially opened December 6, 2012. The 1,500 square foot Kennel is located on-site at Harbor House's confidential Emergency Shelter. The Paws for Peace Kennel is a state-of-the-art facility that serves as a national model for on-site kenneling at domestic violence shelters. Operations of the Kennel will be supported by the Paws for Peace Walk and donor contributions.

The Kennel features an examination room, grooming area, 10 kennels for dogs and 10 for cats, as well as spaces for other pets, such as ferrets, birds, hamsters and other "pocket pets." Best practices and industry standards for sheltering/boarding are being implemented at all times. Ongoing consultations will be provided by Orange County Animal Services and our Paws Advisory Council of community experts.

Make your Paw Print Count!

Start a Paws for Peace wish list drive, create a pet tile for our kennel wall or make a donation to support kennel operations!

Then join us for our 6th Annual Paws for Peace walk next spring! Go to www.harborhousefl.com to get started!

24-Hour Crisis Hotline: 407-886-2856 | www.harborhousefl.com

