

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Humane Society of Huron Valley  
3100 Cherry Hill Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
[www.hshv.org](http://www.hshv.org)

## **Contact:**

Tanya Hilgendorf  
Executive Director  
(734) 662-5585 x108  
[tanya@hshv.org](mailto:tanya@hshv.org)

For Immediate Release – June 7, 2007

### **A Furry Special Delivery**

ANN ARBOR, Michigan— When you open your mailbox it's always nice to get a surprise package – maybe photos of the family reunion from Aunt Millie, or homemade fudge from an out-of-state friend. It's nice to know that someone cares isn't it? It's not such a nice surprise to open your mailbox and see wee baby kittens left with no note and obviously not being cared for.

A resident in Ypsilanti recently had just that experience when she found three, two-week-old kittens in her mailbox instead of mail. Luckily, she cared enough to bring them right to the Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) so that they could get the care they needed.

Ann Arbor resident and volunteer bottle-feeder, Sally Eskilsen-Bush, got a call soon after the kittens arrived at HSHV. The Eskilsen family is used to caring for neglected and abandoned kittens. In 1997 Sally and her sister, Amy, volunteered at the Zimmer Foundation where they learned how to care for infant kittens. Now 10 years later, Sally and her family, husband Mike, and sons Nate and Daniel have weaned an average of 140 kittens each year since.

Kittens spend an average of six to eight weeks at a foster home. During that time, baby kittens not yet weaned will need to be bottle-fed 4 times each day, bathed so they learn to groom, and stimulated so they learn to go to the bathroom.

"It's a rewarding experience," said Sally. "We love to watch them grow and develop their own personalities. It's also been a gift for me to be able to teach my children about caring for and loving animals."

June is National Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month and currently HSHV has 90 kittens in foster care, all expected to be ready for adoption over the next three weeks. "Kitten Season" starts in early spring, peaks in summer and ends in fall. This presents many challenges for our shelter staff and the cats in our care. Our already stretched cage space gets pushed past its limit with homeless cats and their young. Our shelter and vet clinic staff struggle to handle the demands of caring for the volume of cats. Lastly, our older cats often get overlooked and wait longer to be adopted.



**To celebrate National Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month we will be hosting a "Kitty-Palooza" on Saturday, June 23 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.** Join us for special events and visit all the kittens and cats at HSHV located at 3100 Cherry Hill Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. For more information please visit [www.hshv.org](http://www.hshv.org).

**Here's how you can help celebrate Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month:**

- **Adopt**  
Consider opening your home to a new kitten or cat and remember that our adult cats all need homes too. *HSHV is offering a cat adoption special. Adopt one cat and get the second cat at half the adoption price. Adult cats (over 6-months-old) are now only \$40 to adopt!*
- **Spay or neuter your cats**  
Kittens as young as two months and weighing two pounds can be safely sterilized. HSHV offers low cost spay and neutering. Call our vet clinic to schedule an appointment. (734) 662-4365
- **Contact us about homeless or wild cats in your area**  
If you are caring for feral or stray cats please give us a call. We are currently starting a trap, neuter and return (TNR) program. (734) 662-5585
- **Become a foster parent**  
HSHV offers a quick training program for anyone willing to make a six to eight week commitment to foster mother cats with kittens or abandoned kittens. (734) 662-5585
- **Donate**  
Donate to or sponsor our low cost spay/neuter program. (734) 662-5585 x 125

The Humane Society of Huron Valley is a completely independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving all of Washtenaw County, and relies solely on the generosity and donations of businesses and individuals in our community to keep our doors open.

For more information, please contact the Humane Society of Huron Valley at (734) 662-5585, or visit [www.hshv.org](http://www.hshv.org).

###