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## **Ypsilanti Township Woman Pleads Guilty to Two Counts of Animal Cruelty**

(Ann Arbor) – Twenty year old Daria Lewis of Ypsilanti Township pled guilty to two counts of misdemeanor animal cruelty on July 23, 2009 in Washtenaw County District Court.

Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) Animal Cruelty Investigators, Julie Curtis and Matthew Schaecher, discovered the remains of a dog that was kept locked in the closet of her apartment after receiving a report from a member of the maintenance crew of the apartment complex. The necropsy showed that the dog died of starvation. According to HSHV Investigators the 1 year old female spaniel mix lived in a small closet. The dog was initially found by maintenance staff and had been dead in the apartment for approximately one month.

According to HSHV Investigator Julie Curtis, this was not a case where the owner couldn't afford to feed the animal. "There is no good excuse for what happened. There was plenty of dog food in the cupboard. It appeared to us that the starvation was intentional."

"We are sickened by the suffering this animal went through and believe she could have been saved. It appeared that several people were aware that this was happening but no one stepped forward to report it," says Tanya Hilgendorf, Executive Director. "It takes a lot courage to speak out for those who can't speak out for themselves and this is an important reminder of exactly how important that is."

Sentencing will be held on September 17, 2009 in Washtenaw County District Court.

To report suspected animal cruelty in Washtenaw County, please call the HSHV Cruelty Investigation Line at (734) 661-3512. Outside of Washtenaw County please call your local law enforcement agency.

The Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving all of Washtenaw County and beyond, and relies solely on donations from businesses and individuals to support our community programs. The mission of HSHV is to promote responsible and compassionate care of all animals in our community. For more information, call (734) 662-5585 or visit [www.hshv.org](http://www.hshv.org).

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