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Humane Society of Huron Valley Receives \$10,000 from PetSmart Charities for Behavior Helpline

(Ann Arbor) – The Humane Society of Huron Valley received a \$10,000 grant from PetSmart Charities to operate a Behavior Helpline for pet owners in our community.

The Behavior Helpline will be answered by volunteer experts trained to help pet owners who are experiencing behavior problems with their dogs and cats. "It is our aim to help find effective solutions to behavior problems-anything from litter box issues to destructive chewing or separation anxiety. We know how overwhelming behavior problems can be, especially for busy families. We want people to know they don't have to go it alone." says program creator and coordinator, Helen DePinto.

"Pets bring joy, companionship and unconditional love to our lives. But let's face it; they can also bring a good deal of aggravation. It is estimated that 63% of households in Washtenaw County have one or more companion animal – that's a lot of pets. Behavior problems are the number one reason people surrender their pets to animal shelters. Our goal is to prevent that from happening by offering needed help and support before people have given up. We also want to offer effective solutions to those people who would never give away their animal, but instead choose to adapt to problems that are disrupting the harmony in their households," says Tanya Hilgendorf, Executive Director.

To get help, call the HSHV Behavior Helpline at (734) 662-5545 and your pet's problems become our problems. The line is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. One of our Helpline volunteers will respond within 48 hours. You can also visit www.HSHV.org for more information.

The mission of the Humane Society of Huron Valley is to find loving homes for every adoptable pet and prevent cruelty to animals. We are open to the public from noon until 6:00 pm, seven days a week and are located at 3100 Cherry Hill Road in Ann Arbor. The full-service HSHV Veterinary Clinic is open 8:00 am until 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. For more information, call (734) 662-5585 or visit www.hshv.org.

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