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Humane Society of Huron Valley Cruelty Investigation

(Ann Arbor) – The Humane Society of Huron Valley is offering an \$18,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for killing, decapitating and dumping dogs in Superior Twp.

On March 16, 2005 a female Rottweiler was found bound by her feet with duct tape and decapitated. By March 27 three other decapitated dogs, including another Rottweiler, a Terrier, and a Lab mix, plus 5 dogs whose cause of death is still undetermined. All of the dogs were found in close proximity to each in Superior Twp. To date, there has not been a match of pet owners to the dogs that have been found.

The issue of trapping and illegal dumping of wild animals, initially thought to be related to this case, is being separated out and handled by the Department of Natural Resources, who now has two suspects under investigation.

“In terms of the dogs that have been found, we do believe there is a serious case of animal cruelty going on. We have never had a case like this before. We have no reasonable explanation for what is happening to these dogs and are working as a team with the Sheriff’s Department of Washtenaw County and the DNR to find the person responsible.” says Julie Curtis, Cruelty Investigator.

“While this is a particularly strange and upsetting case, unfortunately, animal cruelty is a daily occurrence. Dog fighting, abuse and torture of innocent animals, animal neglect and abandonment is, in part, what keeps us in business. Most people love and treat their pets like members of the family. But there are those who see animals as objects without feeling and others who have a proclivity toward violence who view animals as the perfect voiceless victims. We’ve done over 1300 investigations of animal cruelty in Washtenaw County over the last 5 years, and help almost 9000 animals in our shelter each year--many who’ve been abandoned, abused, and neglected,” says Tanya Hilgendorf, Executive Director.

The mission of the Humane Society of Huron Valley is to find loving homes for all adoptable pets and to prevent animal cruelty.

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