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### **Humane Society of Huron Valley Responds to Numerous “Skinned Dogs” Calls**

(Ann Arbor) – The Humane Society of Huron Valley Cruelty Investigation Department has responded to three calls since January 17 regarding skinned and decapitated dogs.

A total of 12 animals have been found so far. On two separate occasions two animals were found in a dumpster on EMU’s campus, another time 5 animals were spotted by a family thrown into bushes along Leforge Rd. in Superior Twp., and today 5 animals were found at Geddes and Harris, also in Superior Twp.

The animals turned out to be coyotes and foxes. Trapping season for these animals is from October 15 to March 1. The animals were likely caught by leghold or snare traps, and then skinned by part-time trappers who sell the fur to make clothes and other commercial items.

HSHV would like to remind trappers that there are State laws regarding proper disposal of the bodies of dead animals, and those caught violating the law can be fined or imprisoned. (More information can be obtained at the Michigan Department of Agriculture.)

Even though HSHV does not take a formal stance on hunting, the Humane Society of the United States considers trapping to be inhumane as it is known to cause great pain and suffering. For instance, animals in leghold traps often chew off their own limbs to get free. In addition, family pets can also be unintentional victims of these traps. In fact, last month the Humane Society of Huron Valley helped rescue a family dog who lost a front paw in a leghold trap.

“Numerous people, including children, have been traumatized by seeing these animals. The witnesses believed it was Fido and Fluffy, and were obviously very upset by the sight. They were also worried that the animals were tortured by some satanic cult or Jeffrey Dahmer want-to-be,” says Tanya Hilgendorf, Executive Director.

“Nobody wants to see this. I’ve been doing this job for 6 years, and this sickens me every time I have to go out on a call like this. Obviously, the Humane Society exist to promote the humane treatment of animals, we are not in the business of cleaning up after hunters or to enforce hunting laws. The trappers are profiting off of the death and the hide of these animals. The very least they could do is dispose of the bodies in a proper and respectful manner,” says Julie Curtis, Cruelty Investigator.

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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