

## 2016 Candidate Questionnaire

Animals play an important role in our community and in the lives of many residents. Humane-minded citizens care deeply about the positions their elected officials take on animal issues. The Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) appreciates your input on this 2016 local candidate questionnaire. Please save and return this questionnaire to [humaneeducation@hshv.org](mailto:humaneeducation@hshv.org) no later than July 11, 2016.

Name:

Political Affiliation:

Political Office Sought:

Email:

Website:

**Please limit your comments to 50 words per question.**

1. **No-kill solutions:** Every year, tens of thousands of healthy cats and dogs are killed in shelters across Michigan. Do you support "no kill" strategies such as those used by HSHV, resulting in a 90%+ save rate and helping eliminate the unnecessary euthanasia of companion animals?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure/need more information

Additional Comments:

2. **Funding legal mandates:** Currently, state law requires local units of government provide housing, care and disposition for stray animals, animals involved in cruelty cases and animals that have bitten. Do you believe government has the responsibility to ensure legally mandated services are adequately provided?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure/need more information

Additional Comments:

3. **Don't ban the breed:** Many loving dogs and responsible dog owners face discriminatory bans based solely on what breed a dog **might** be. These laws are based on myths and media hype that do not effectively address concerns regarding aggression (most often resulting from conditioning and environment). Dangerous dog laws already exist to protect public safety. Breed bans wrongly judge dogs by their looks, not their behavior—separating pet guardians from their companions and making it difficult to adopt loving dogs. Do you support legislation that prevents bans/restrictions based **solely** on the breed of dog?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure/need more information

Additional Comments:

4. **Trap, Neuter and Return:** Over the years, animal welfare organizations have found that traditional “catch and kill” models are ineffective at addressing overpopulation. Do you support the Trap, Neuter, and Return of healthy outdoor living cats to humanely and effectively reduce the population of outdoor cats and to reduce nuisance complaints?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure/need more information

Additional Comments:

5. **Restrictions on pet stores and puppy mills:** To help ensure healthy, humane care of companion animals, do you support restrictions on pet stores that sell pets and large scale commercial breeders (“puppy mills”) that supply animals to those stores?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure/need more information

Additional Comments:

6. **Humane Treatment of Wildlife:** Most people enjoy nature. But as human population and development expand, more people find themselves frustrated with wildlife near their homes and not knowing how to address those frustrations. Do you support the use of effective, compassionate, nonlethal community strategies to manage human/wildlife conflict over shooting, trapping, poisoning or other killing of healthy animals?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure/need more information

Additional Comments:

7. **Anti-chaining:** Although dogs were bred to be companion animals, many still live their entire lives at the end of chain. Not only do chained or "tethered" dogs suffer from loneliness, boredom, and anxiety, they also can become dangerously aggressive. Would you support legislation that would restrict the constant tethering of a dog (excluding times for exercise, outdoor fun, or potty breaks)?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure/need more information

Additional Comments:

8. **Limits on use of harmful chemicals:** Mounting research shows that dogs, cats and wildlife are at risk from commonly used pesticides and herbicides (the EPA just announced that the second most commonly used herbicide is likely doing serious harm to animals even at low levels). A [recent study](#) found that a dog's risk of malignant tumors increases by 70% due to exposure to herbicides typically used to treat lawns and that such chemicals are found [even in dogs who live in homes with untreated lawns](#). Would you support restrictions on the use of harmful chemicals on lawns and in public parks?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure/need more information

Additional Comments:

9. **Limits on declawing:** Cat declawing is an elective surgery used to prevent scratching that requires the amputation of the last bone on each toe. It is considered highly painful and can cause chronic physical and behavioral problems. It is banned in several countries and a growing number of communities in the U.S., and is opposed by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Would you support limits placed on medically unnecessary declawing?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure/need more information

Additional Comments: