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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **A Humane Society of Huron Investigation Leads to Warrant in the Death of Cows in Washtenaw County**

Ann Arbor, MI. A call from a concerned citizen passing a farm field in Dexter led to the Humane Society of Huron Valley's (HSHV) investigation of animal cruelty. HSHV animal cruelty investigator's Matt Schaecher and Julie Curtis responded to the tip and immediately found six deceased cows scattered around the pasture and barn area. "We knew the situation was bad," said Matt Schaecher. "The pasture was mostly mud, no hay or vegetation was present. Our main concern became for the lives of the other five cows and one calf that also appeared to be in very poor condition."

The owner of the cattle said he believed that the cows died from some illness but he was not financially able to pay for any veterinary care so did not call for medical assistance. HSHV did call in a large animal veterinarian but he was unable to determine the exact cause of death because the bodies were in such poor condition. The remaining cows were in horrible shape. It appears they had been suffering over a long period of time and were basically skin and bones.

"It took a couple of days for us to get the cows turned over to HSHV because the owner refused to cooperate at first," stated Julie Curtis of HSHV. "Tragically, during that time, the mother of the calf died. When we got to the scene the calf was huddled next to her downed mother. Some people joke about this case because it involved agricultural animals. But cows, like any other animal, have feelings and do suffer. There is no excuse for this kind of treatment. We understand that people are having financial trouble in these tough economic times, but a phone call for help could have spared the suffering of these poor cows. If you find yourself unable to care for your livestock or pets, please call HSHV and allow us look for an answer together."

The owner of the cows has a warrant out for his arrest on one felony count of animal cruelty and one count of improper burial of livestock.

"We are indebted to Sasha Farm for their help and expertise in this case. They helped transport the cows and are now providing them with the care they need to thrive. They are a wonderful community resource for rescued farm animals", said Tanya Hilgendorf, HSHV Executive Director.

If you would to help pay for their care, please go to [www.Sashafarm.org](http://www.Sashafarm.org) to make a donation.

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 in our community. 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).