



Living with Our Wild Neighbors



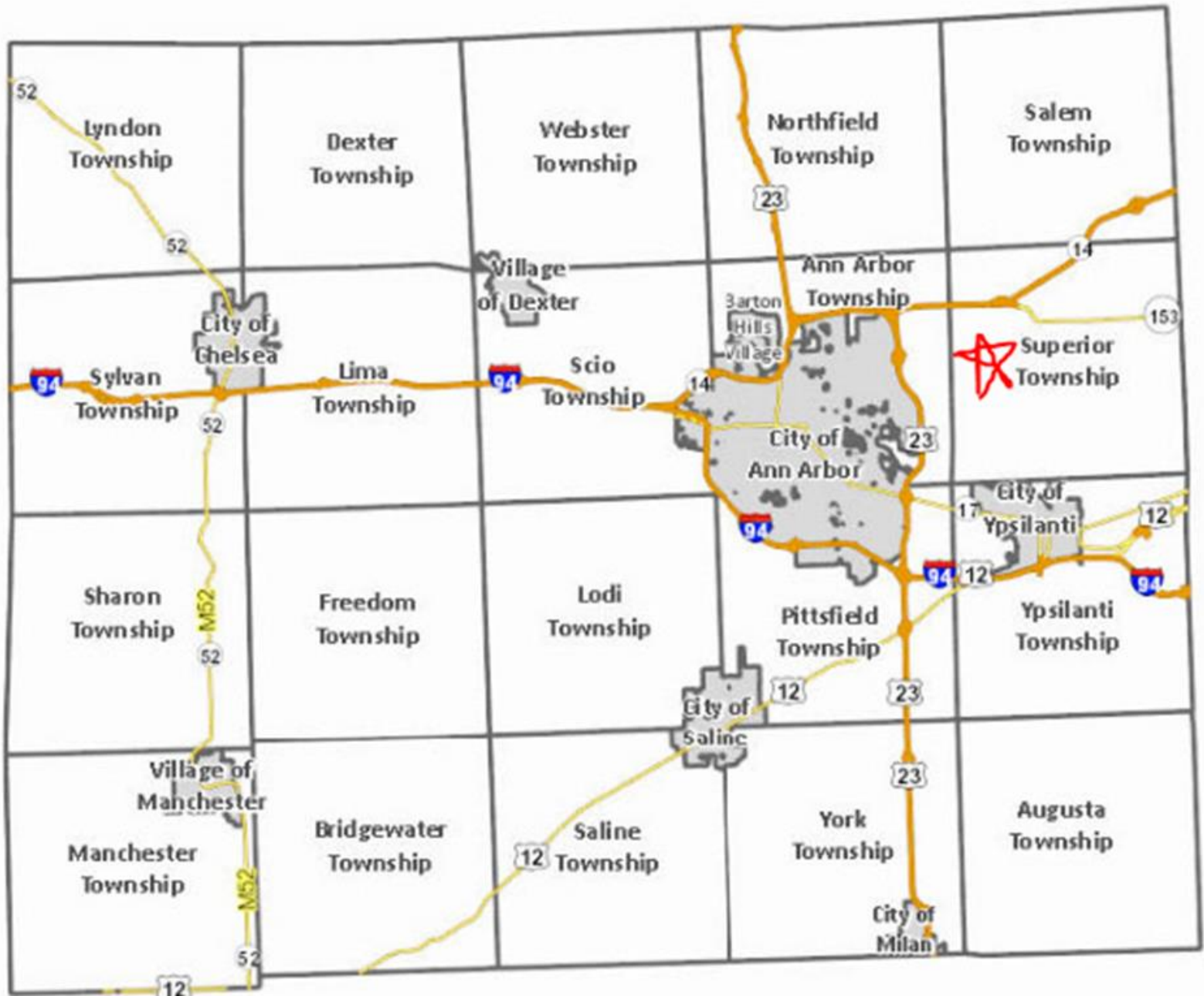
Humane Society of
Huron Valley

HSHV's Mission

To support the loving,
responsible care of all
animals in our community.

- **Adoptions**
- **Veterinary clinic**
- **Cruelty and Rescue**
- **People-focused support**
- **Humane Education and
Advocacy**





What animals are in your neighborhood?



Human-Animal Conflict

Struggles that emerge when the presence or behavior of wildlife poses an actual or perceived, direct and recurring threat to human interests or needs, leading to disagreements between groups of people and negative impacts on people and/or wildlife.

-International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



Common Conflicts

Denning

Damage to gardens/yards

Encounters with pet animals



Prevention is Key



Seal off holes and openings into the home and under decks and porches.

Do not leave garbage or food unsecured outdoors.

Always supervise pet animals in the yard.

Prevention is Key

Put fencing around gardens and other necessary plants.



Plant smart! Wildlife tend to avoid tough and strongly scented plants.



If Preventative Measure Didn't Work

Mild deterrents will encourage most wildlife to leave. The following may be used to make your home/yard/garden less appealing:

- **Bright lights**
- **Loud music**
- **Repellents (pepper-based work well)**

Keep in mind that many animals who den under porches/decks/etc. will only do so temporarily while raising their young.

Community Cats

Community (feral) cats are unowned cats that live outdoors in groups called colonies.

Like domestic cats, but they are not socialized with people.

Community cats live happy, healthy lives outside and generally do not want to live indoors as pets.



TNR



18,867

Cats served



56,601

Recorded hours spent trapping*



14,056

Est. hours of vet care provided*



283,005

Miles driven*

* Includes all TNR activity through July 2021



Babies!



In General

- **Be sure baby animals are truly orphaned before removing them.**
 - **Wildlife rehabbers are amazing at their work, but the mother is always best at raising her young!**
- **Do not offer food or water unless you have consulted a wildlife rehabber.**
 - **Cow's milk is not good for animals (unless they are a calf).**



Signs A Baby Needs Help



- Persistent crying
- Shivering
- Feces on the animal
- Maggots on the animal
- Animal lying on their side
- Approaching people
- Dead mother visible nearby

**Still unsure? Call
HSHV!**

734-661-3512

A Note on Birds



Courtesy of
slate.com

Fledglings found on the ground do not need help!

Common Myths

Nocturnal animals seen out during the day must be sick.

False

Nocturnal animals sometimes go out in the daytime to forage or to move location. Simply being out in the daytime is not cause for concern.





Common Myths

If a wild animal appears sick they must have rabies.

False

Not likely. While rabies can affect any mammal, it is not common in Washtenaw County. Sick animals are more likely affected by Distemper.

Common Myths

Mother birds will abandon their babies if touched by humans.

False

Most birds don't actually have a good sense of smell and will not be able to pick up human scent on a baby handled by people.





Common Myths

Opossums are vicious and scary.

False

While opossums may be a bit odd looking, they are generally harmless. It is highly unlikely for an opossum to attack humans or other animals.

Common Myths

Coyotes frequently kill and eat small dogs.

False

Coyotes are hunters that feed on smaller animals, but dogs are not common prey.

Supervising companion dogs while outside can prevent any potential run-ins with coyotes.





Common Myths

Skunks will spray at the slightest provocation.

False

A skunk's spray is a limited resource, so they generally will reserve it, and not use as their first line of defense. Warning signals like hissing or stomping feet are generally given first.

Common Myths

I can humanely get rid of wild animals on my property by trapping and relocating them.

False

Unfortunately, this is generally untrue. Most animals have a small home range and being relocated can actually limit their ability to survive.

In some cases, it is also illegal to relocate wild animals.





Benefits of Coexisting

All wildlife have an important role in the local ecosystem.

Some animals, like opossums, eat grubs, snails and insects.

Enjoy the beauty of nature in your own backyard.

How Can You Help?

- **Volunteer**
- **Donate**
- **Attend events**
- **Educate others**
 - **share social media posts**
 - **Animal Defenders group**
 - **promote coexistence**





Q&A

Eric Wright
Cruelty and Rescue Manager

B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife

Thank You!

Cruelty/Rescue Department: 734-661-3512

Jessie: jessieh@hshv.org

Eric: ericw@hshv.org

Text DEFENDER to 734-662-5585 or visit hshv.org/advocacy

