



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Harbor Humane Society responds to Animal Hoarding Emergency

(West Olive, MI)- In the late night hours of May 26, 2009 Harbor Humane Society staff responded to a call of a possible animal hoarding situation. Together with Grand Haven Public Safety and the Ottawa County Sheriff's Animal Control officer, fourteen animals, including five dogs and nine cats were removed from one Grand Haven home.

The interior of the home was in deplorable condition. The animals were not being properly cared for. All of the dogs are suffering from neglect. Four of the five are being treated for urine scalding on their back ends and tails. Urine scalding occurs when an animal is forced to sit or lay in his own urine for prolonged periods of time and the ammonia in the urine actually burns the skin. All five of the dogs had toe nails so long they could hardly walk on the pads of their feet. The cats are all terrified, having little socialization other than their owner. All fourteen of the animals were filthy, some with fur encrusted with feces.

Harbor Humane Society is currently housing thirteen of the animals, all five dogs and eight cats. This is putting a severe strain on the already over crowded shelter and its resources. HHS is in dire need of special foster homes for these animals. Due to the severe abuse and neglect these animals have already suffered, certain foster parent conditions will be needed. **All interested parties must be willing to fill out a detailed foster parent application and submit to a home visit and evaluation.** Applicants should be aware that the animals will need much veterinarian care through the Humane Society veterinarian and they will be required to bring the pets back for appointments on a regular and consistent basis.

Each animal has a unique set of veterinarian needs. Poirot, a three legged, elderly yellow lab will need a home with minimal stairs. Trinity, a ten year old spaniel, has a cataract in one eye and advancing arthritis. She will need a home where she can be taken out for frequent walks. Higgins, a terrier mix, will need a quiet adult home to coax him out of his terrified shell. Cora, a beautiful calico cat, was so stressed from her surroundings she has licked all her own fur off her belly. She will require treatment for this and individual attention to reassure her. All dogs & cats will need much socialization once their physical health has improved.

Harbor Humane Society is seeking monetary donations to cover the cost of the specialized vet care these animals will need. Most will require antibiotics to heal their skin infections, flea and heartworm medications, arthritis medications, calming agents and of course high quality senior dog food and adult cat foods.

If you interested in fostering these animals and helping them to gain a second lease on life, please contact Lindsey Klomparens at [fosters@harborhumane.org](mailto:fosters@harborhumane.org). Monetary donations can be sent to Harbor Humane Society, 14345 Bagley Street, West Olive, MI 49464 or made online at [www.harborhumane.org](http://www.harborhumane.org).

HHS is located at 14345 Bagley Street in West Olive, MI or online at [www.harborhumane.org](http://www.harborhumane.org) Harbor Humane Society is Ottawa County's only animal shelter. We are a certified 501 © 3 non-profit organization. Harbor Humane Society's general operations are not funded through any tax payer dollars, state or federal compensations. We are primarily dependent on donations from the community, fundraising events and grants. Our Mission is to provide a safe harbor for animals entrusted to our care as we strive to secure their future through our outreach and educational programs. We have been helping people help animals since 1956. By increasing the literacy of the humane treatment of animals, promoting responsible pet ownership and serving as a care facility for lost and unwanted pets, Harbor Humane Society helps to ensure that people and animals make a lasting connection.

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