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Michigan Humane Honors Senator Dayna Polehanki with Animal Advocate Award

Sen. Polehanki Recognized as a Champion for Animal Welfare Legislation in Michigan

Westland, Mich., -- On Thursday, Michigan Humane presented Sen. Polehanki with the Animal Advocate Award to honor her dedication to animal welfare legislation. During her time in office, Michigan Senator Dayna Polehanki (D-Livonia) has proved to be a steadfast advocate for animals in Michigan.

Sen. Polehanki, along with Sen. Paul Wojno, introduced Michigan Humane's bond-or-forfeit bills during the 23-24 legislative session. Senate bills 657 and 658 would prevent animals from being revictimized by improving the bond-or-forfeit process. The bills would force people being charged with animal abuse or neglect to post a cost of care bond or surrender their animals in a timely fashion. Sen. Polehanki will be re-introducing the bills during the 25-26 legislative session.

"At its core, policy and legislation are about ensuring our actions mirror the sentiment of our various communities," said Matt Pepper, President and CEO of Michigan Humane. "Pets are important to people and ensuring that appropriate safeguards exist for them is critical to Michiganders. Senator Dayna Polehanki is a powerful voice for animals and has championed some of the most impactful legislation protecting the pets we care so much about."

Pepper, Cruelty Investigators Mayron Golden and Rafel Pouncy, and Advocacy Director Ann Griffin presented Polehanki with the Animal Advocate Award Thursday afternoon at the Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland.

"I'm honored to be recognized as a champion for animal welfare policy by Michigan Humane. As lawmakers, we not only have a responsibility to protect our residents — we have a moral and ethical obligation to protect the animals of our state as well," said Sen. Polehanki. "From spearheading legislation to prevent survivors of animal cruelty from being victimized again to championing a bill to establish a new license plate to help fund spay and neutering initiatives, I'm committed to advancing policies that improve animal welfare here in Michigan. I appreciate Michigan Humane's shared passion and continued partnership in that effort."

Advocacy is part of Michigan Humane's mission to improve and save lives through compassionate care, community engagement and advocacy for animals. We believe that strong legislation that is effectively enforced can have a significant and lasting impact on animal welfare. Michigan Humane has a long

history of advancing positive animal welfare policy and legislation, like our current bond-or-forfeit initiative, and fighting against efforts to weaken legal protections for animals.

About Michigan Humane: Michigan Humane, founded in 1877, is the oldest and largest nonprofit animal welfare organization in the state. Michigan Humane is dedicated to helping the animals of southeastern Michigan, whether in our shelters, our veterinary clinics, or out in the community. Michigan Humane operates four facilities dedicated to caring for animals and their families throughout metro Detroit; adoption partnerships with Premier Pet Supply, Petco, and PetSmart; and a Cruelty Investigation Department and a Statewide Animal Response Team. Learn more at michiganhumane.org.

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