

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(07/14/08)

CONTACT: Karel Minor  
Office: 610-921-2348, ext. 10  
kminor@berkshumane.org

## **Humane Society of Berks County Announces \$1,000 Reward for Information Leading to Conviction of Reported Cat Mutilator**

The Humane Society of Berks County, the leader in animal welfare, announced that it is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the person or persons responsible for the reported sadistic mutilation of a cat in Reading. The Humane Society offered the reward after receiving a report of the particularly vicious case of animal cruelty and mutilation. The report, received on Monday, July 14, via the Humane Society's internet cruelty reporting service, was provided by the person who found the body. "This is without a doubt one of the most disturbing reports we have received," said Karel Minor, Humane Society Executive Director. "The reported treatment of the cat was not only vicious and cruel but truly bizarre. We are concerned for both the animals and people of Reading."

According to the person reporting the incident, who wishes to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation, "...the cat was beheaded and legs were bound to its body with strips of cloth. In addition, bows (the type a dog groomer would use) were attached to fur on back near the neck. The animal was placed on its belly as if displayed." The cat was reportedly found at the intersection of Greenwich and Linden Streets. The person was directed to contact the Streets Department to have the body disposed of. The body was removed but the finder reported that no investigation was offered so the finder contacted the Humane Society.

The report was made several days after the animal was found on July 10, and there are no photographs or physical evidence. "Unfortunately, we have little or no information to go on beyond the report of the finder several days after the body had been disposed of," said Minor. "The Humane Society would normally seek more information and solid evidence before acting. However, given the gruesome nature of the alleged crime and the recent history of serial cat tortures and mutilations in the City we decided that we should act now."

In January and February of 2005 at least three cats were beaten to death, mutilated, and dumped at the Humane Society. A \$1,000 reward was offered at that time but no information was ever received. No further mutilated cats were found until now. “We don’t know if those cases and this reported case are related but if they are, the perpetrator has escalated his behavior significantly,” said Minor.

Animal abuse and torture are often associated with severe mental illness and the Humane Society hopes to identify the perpetrator for his own good, as well as to protect innocent pets. According to Minor, “This person may need immediate treatment as much as prosecution. We can only hope that someone knows or suspects something and comes forward so that we can get this person off the streets.”

Anyone wishing to make an anonymous report can do so by calling the Humane Society of Berks County at 610-921-2348 or via email at [www.berkshumane.org](http://www.berkshumane.org). If the information leads to an arrest and conviction, the caller will be eligible for the \$1,000 reward.

The Humane Society of Berks County serves all of Berks County and surrounding communities. It is a private, non-profit organization funded through donations and service fees. In addition to enforcing Pennsylvania’s animal cruelty laws for all of Berks County, the Humane Society provides adoption services, spay and neuter services, humane education, pet behavioral counseling, veterinary services to the general public, and helps stray, injured and mistreated animals. The Humane Society is located at 1801 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Reading, and 1201 Ben Franklin Highway, Douglassville.

###