

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2013

**Alleged Animal Abuse Could Mean Nearly Two Decades of Prison Time**  
*Trial to start tomorrow for owner of J.R. Ewing Guard Dogs*

**Los Angeles, CA** –Charles Ferguson, owner and operator of J.R. Ewing Guard Dogs, Inc. et al, will stand trial tomorrow on multiple felony and misdemeanor animal cruelty charges, as the result of a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcaLA) animal cruelty investigation.

spcaLA led an interagency investigation which unearthed evidence of starvation and painful deaths of working dogs at J.R. Ewing Guard Dogs, Inc. These findings and others resulted in Ferguson's November 2012 arrest.

Ferguson is set to stand trial for five (5) felony and nine (9) misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty. If convicted, Ferguson could be sentenced up to 19.5 (consecutive) years in prison and/or \$280,000 in fines. County of Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney, Christopher Frisco is prosecuting the case.

“When our organization began in 1877, we prevented horses from being worked to death on the streets of Los Angeles,” said spcaLA President Madeline Bernstein. “135 years later, spcaLA continues to seek justice for abused and neglected animals in our community.”

Ferguson's trial is set to begin at 8:00am on Thursday, August 22, 2013 with the Honorable John J. Cheroske presiding. If the trial moves as scheduled, the jury will be selected on Thursday and witnesses may be on the stand as early Friday.

Court Case #TA125709  
8:00 AM, August 22, 2013  
Department D  
Compton Courthouse  
200 W Compton Blvd  
Compton, CA 90220

The investigation of Ferguson began when spcaLA Humane Officers responded to an anonymous tip from the spcaLA Animal Cruelty Tip Line. spcaLA is the only private animal welfare organization that is also Law Enforcement in Los Angeles.

To report animal cruelty, call the spcaLA Animal Cruelty Tip Line at 1-800-540-SPCA (7722) or report online at [www.spcaLA.com](http://www.spcaLA.com).

*For more information, please contact Ana Bustilloz at 323-730-5300 x252, cell 323-707-1271 or [abustilloz@spcaLA.com](mailto:abustilloz@spcaLA.com).*

**Since 1877, spcaLA has been the premiere independent, nonprofit animal welfare organization serving Southern California. There is no national SPCA, parent organization, or umbrella group that provides financial support to spcaLA. Donations run programs and services including Cruelty Investigation, Disaster Animal Response Team, Humane Education, and a variety of shelter services.**

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