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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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spcaLA aids Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in the investigation of an alleged cockfighting operation

Authorities seize 279 birds and addition evidence

Los Angeles, CA – Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcaLA), at the request of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Community Oriented Services Bureau (COPS), Antelope Valley Team, in cooperation with Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control and the Los Angeles County Fire Department, assisted in conducting search warrant service at 34230 90th Street East, Juniper Hills at 11:30am on August 22, 2013, regarding an alleged cockfighting operation.

279 birds were found at the location – 239 of whom were found to have their combs, waddles and rear feathers removed, consistent with the preparation of fighting birds. The remaining 40 birds were hens, used for breeding. Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control seized all 279 birds. The case will be presented to the District Attorney for filing.

"Criminals treat blood sports, like cockfighting, as big business," said spcaLA President, Madeline Bernstein. "Last week, the cooperative efforts of COPS, spcaLA, Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department proved that the business of animal cruelty is not welcome in California. Further, spcaLA applauds and is happy to assist other law enforcement agencies in the prevention of animal cruelty."

Very often, animal cruelty complaints are intertwined with domestic abuse, gang, drug and other criminal activity interagency cooperation is essential. spcaLA is the only animal welfare organization in the city of Los Angeles that is also Law Enforcement, and spcaLA Humane Officers have jurisdiction across California to enforce anti-cruelty laws.

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Additional evidence seized as a result of the search warrant included a 20 gauge shotgun, shotgun ammunition, fighting gaffs (Razor blades), training gaffs and medicines used to treat roosters for fighting.

Promoters and spectators of the blood sport of cockfighting can have misdemeanor animal cruelty charges filed against them. If injured or mistreated birds are present; those responsible can be charged with felony animal cruelty. A conviction of misdemeanor or felony animal cruelty can mean jail time as well as a fine of up to \$20,000 per offense.

To report animal cruelty, call 1-800-540-SPCA or visit spcaLA.com.

To schedule an interview, please contact Miriam Davenport at 323.730.5300, x233 or cell 323.353.4658, mdavenport@spcaLA.com

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