

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2013

Convicted Animal Abuser Fails to Appear
*Felony bench warrant issued for Charles Ferguson,
former owner J.R. Ewing Guard Dogs*

Los Angeles, CA –Charles Ferguson, former owner and operator of J.R. Ewing Guard Dogs, Inc. et al, who was convicted of 4 felony and 4 misdemeanor animal cruelty counts in September, failed to appear for the final portion of his sentencing today and a felony bench warrant has been issued for his arrest. Bail is set at \$60,000.

Ferguson was convicted as a 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 horrible mistreatment and agonizing deaths of working dogs at J.R. Ewing Guard Dogs, Inc. These findings and others resulted in Ferguson's November 2012 arrest and September 2013 conviction.

The felony bench warrant was issued by the Honorable Allen Webster. If you see Ferguson, please contact your local police or sheriff's department. If you have information about Ferguson's possible whereabouts, please contact Lieutenant Cesar Perea at spcaLA, (323) 816-9733. spcaLA has issued a Law Enforcement Bulletin (attached).

The facility at 1207 West El Segundo Blvd. in Gardena that formerly housed J.R. Ewing Guard Dogs now stands vacant. Ferguson's license to own and operate a guard dog business has been revoked by Los Angeles County.

spcaLA is the only private animal welfare organization that is also Law Enforcement in the city of 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.

For more information, please contact Ana Bustilloz at 323-730-5300 x252, cell 323-707-1271 or 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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