

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Typhus threat in Manhattan Beach *spcaLA recommends flea prevention and tips to keep family and pets safe*

Los Angeles, CA – A recent case of Typhus in Manhattan Beach has prompted officials to flier the community with information about the spread of the disease. Information about how the individual contracted the disease was not disclosed, however, it is widely known that Typhus is transmitted by fleas, causing officials at the Los Angeles County Health Department to warn residents against interaction with feral cats (including feeding colonies).

“While feral cats can and do carry fleas, the recent case of Typhus should be used as precautionary tale, not a reason to demonize feral cats,” said spcaLA President, Madeline Bernstein. “Keep your pets inside, and make sure they are current on flea treatment.”

spcaLA recommends all Californians follow a few simple safety tips, to reduce their chances of being exposed disease and in the process, keep their pets and family happier and healthier.

- Keep your pets up-to-date on flea prevention and vaccines.
- Let your pets be indoor pets – this will not only reduce flea infestation, but also injury and disease transmission.
- Spay or neuter your pets – they will be less likely to escape looking for a mate, and their unwanted offspring will not become members of feral cat colonies or strays.
- Take your pets to the veterinarian regularly.
- Avoid contact with wildlife by:
 - Tightly screening all access holes in buildings;
 - Securing trash in sturdy plastic or metal cans with tightly fitting lids;
 - Eliminating any food sources – like fallen fruit or unattended pet food – that may attract wildlife;
 - Clearing brush, dense ground cover and other debris where rodents may be living.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Ana Bustilloz at 323-730-5300 x252, 323-707-1271 cell or by email at abustilloz@spcaLA.com.

About spcaLA

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles, or spcaLA, is an independent, nonprofit animal welfare organization serving Southern California since 1877. 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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