

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unwanted Backyard Chickens Dumped at Shelters

spcaLA Responds

Los Angeles, CA – MSNBC reported on July 7, 2013 that the growing trend of raising backyard chickens is yielding more than “free” eggs; it is also causing a rise in unwanted or dumped chickens. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcaLA) reminds individuals or communities that are considering backyard farming that animals are more than a novelty.

Organic, free-range eggs sound fantastic but there are realities that must be considered such as the cost of veterinary care, food, and shelter. Hens typically lay eggs for 2 years but can live up to a decade. Once they no longer produce eggs or the fun of a new trend wanes, these animals end up in sanctuaries or shelters sometimes with signs of malnutrition or mistreatment.

“Unfortunately shelters are no strangers to ‘trends’. When something becomes trendy-- like Dalmatians or Chihuahuas as the result of a movie or celebrity, the shelter is where they end up when the thrill is gone,” said Madeline Bernstein President of spcaLA. “People must remember raising chickens is not just a passing fad; they are living breathing beings that need food, water, shelter and medical care.”

For the unprepared, the commitment of time and money can quickly escalate. Before adopting a pet or animals for a backyard farm, consider that the responsibility is for the lifetime of the pet, not the lifetime of the trend.

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

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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