

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **spcaLA Teams with Salesian Boys & Girls Club to Teach Kindness to Animals**

*Shelter dogs teach kids empathy and compassion*

**Los Angeles, CA** – The Humane Education Department of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (**spcaLA**) is bringing its world renowned Teaching Love & Compassion (**TLC**)™ program to the Salesian Boys & Girls Club of Los Angeles. For the last two weeks, spcaLA’s Humane Educators and shelter dogs have been teaching kindness to animals, compassion, and empathy to the youth of this East Los Angeles club. This is the first time spcaLA has teamed up with the Boys & Girls Club for a program of this kind.

**TLC** is usually taught in schools for kids from at-risk communities. For this “special session” of **TLC**, the program focuses specifically on kindness to animals, animal behavior and positive reinforcement, spaying/neutering, and respect for all living creatures.

“Learning respect for an animal will translate into respect and kindness for all living creatures and their fellow human-kind,” said Madeline Bernstein, spcaLA President. “The TLC Program benefits everyone in the community.”

The kids, 11 to 13 years old, work in teams of three with a shelter dog. While they’re teaching their dog basic commands and tricks, they are also learning communication skills and teamwork. The hard work the kids put in ultimately make the dogs more adoptable.

For the last day of the program, the kids will be sharing what they have taught their dog during a talent show. Media is invited to attend.

In addition to the Teaching Love and Compassion program, spcaLA’s also runs jTLC for juvenile violence offenders.

The Salesian Boys & Girls Club’s TLC “talent show” is Thursday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:30-2:30 pm at 2228 E. 4th St., Los Angeles, CA 90033.

**spcaLA**  **»» PRESS RELEASE**  
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*For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Ana Bustilloz at 323.730.5300, x252 or cell 323.707.1271, [abustilloz@spcaLA.com](mailto:abustilloz@spcaLA.com). Photos available.*

**About Salesian Boys & Girls Club**

The Salesian Boys and Girls Club of Los Angeles was founded almost 50 years ago as the Salesian Community's outreach to the children of East Los Angeles. The Club operates from two clubhouses in Boyle Heights, the center of the Latino community on the East Side. The club is a portal to opportunity through education, fitness, and community involvement.

**About spcaLA**

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.

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