

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 26, 2013

## **Give Thanks for Healthy Pets!**

*spcaLA's tips for a safe and stress-free Thanksgiving*

**Los Angeles** – As you prepare to give thanks, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (**spcaLA**) offers these reminders to ensure that everyone, including pets, has a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

- Never give your pets leftover bones; cooked bones splinter and can be fatal.
- Turkey skin and gravy are too fatty and long term ingestion could cause pancreatitis.
- Rather than serve your pet harmful leftovers, purchase a Thanksgiving dinner especially for dogs or cats, like Merrick's Thanksgiving Day Dinner (available at the [spcaLA Marketplace](#) in Long Beach).
- Chocolate is a great treat, but not for your pets.
- If you are serving a turkey, discard leftover bones and bits in a plastic bag, tie securely, and dispose in an outside dumpster with a secure lid to avoid stray animals from accessing it and becoming ill.
- Dogs and cats should wear I.D. tags with current address and/or phone number at all times, in addition to being micro-chipped. This is important throughout the entire year, but especially during the holidays as there may be a greater risk of your pet escaping due to increased visitors.
- Teach your pet to "come when called." This command is a fail-safe, should your dog get loose. spcaLA Animal Behavior & Training Department offers a [Come When Called class](#).
- Expecting a full house? Secure your pets in a separate room with favorite toys and a cozy pet bed. Soft music, like classical, helps them relax. Pets that have their own room will feel safer; less stressed and won't be able to accidentally escape out the front door.

Please help shelter pets this holiday season. While you are out shopping, spcaLA asks that you pick up an extra bag or can of dog, cat, kitten or puppy food for a shelter pet in need. Donations of unopened pet food are accepted at all [spcaLA locations](#), during business hours.

spcaLA's pet adoption centers will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday, reopening Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Meet your *Friend for Life*!

*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](mailto:abustilloz@spcaLA.com).*

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.

###