

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2014

**Copenhagen Zoo kills giraffe, feeds to lions**  
*spcaLA responds*

**Los Angeles, CA** -- As the BBC reported, the Copenhagen Zoo reportedly “put down” a “genetically inferior” giraffe, called Marius, and fed the carcass to the zoo’s lions, butchering him while onlookers (including children) watched. The zoo shot Marius with a bolt gun, instead of delivering a lethal injection.

The zoo chose to eliminate Marius in such a gruesome manner, despite an online petition signed by thousands of people, and offers from at least two zoos to rehome Marius. Zoo officials maintained that they were preserving the genetic integrity of giraffes, and offering an excellent anatomy lesson to onlookers as they dissected him and fed him to the lions.

“That shot took animal welfare back 100 years,” said spcaLA President, Madeline Bernstein. “Now, not only are the lives of giraffes reserved for our entertainment, but so too are their deaths. Had officials allowed Marius to live elsewhere, wouldn’t that lesson – empathy, respect, compassion – have been a better lesson for school children?”

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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