

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2014

When “no kill” becomes abuse

Hoarders condemn animals to suffer starvation and untreated ailments

Los Angeles CA – A rise in reported cases of animal hoarding, [like the recent case out of Rosamond, CA](#), by 501(c)(3) animal “rescues” leads Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcaLA) to urge caution to animal shelters, both public and private, when releasing animals for “rescue.”

“Pressure by out-of-state organizations with deep pockets and misguided ideology can lead well-meaning, but unknowledgeable, city and county officials to release animals to hoarders in an effort to save them all so that they may create ‘happier’ statistics,” said spcaLA President, Madeline Bernstein. “But, the reality of releasing animals to such groups is all-too-often a slow, lingering death sentence.”

In its over 135 year history serving greater Los Angeles, spcaLA has investigated, arrested, and worked to convict countless animal hoarders and other animal abusers of felony and misdemeanor animal cruelty. In recent decades, more hoarders have self-identified as animal “rescuers,” often connected to or incorporating as a 501(c)(3), with “pull” privileges at local animal care and control facilities or private shelters.

Animal hoarding is defined as keeping higher-than-normal numbers of animals without the ability to properly house or care for them, while at the same time denying this inability. Part of the problem is the hoarder’s inability to part with any animal and thus, contrary to their representations will not work to find animals in their care new homes.

--- MORE ---

spcaLA **>> PRESS RELEASE**

Friends for life.™

2-2-2-2-2

spcaLA urges shelters to perform regular inspections of rescue-partner facilities and to investigate the background of the heads of these groups. Very often, hoarders convicted of animal cruelty will move to a different city or state, create a new 501(c)(3), and begin their cruel enterprise anew. Further, spcaLA urges donors to give locally and to do their homework before simply responding to a Facebook post or the very convincing pleas of the hoarder.

There are few organizations with the money and facilities to keep an animal that is ill or unsafe around people. In fact, keeping such animals while thousands of healthy, adoptable animals are euthanized because there is no place to keep them could be considered an unconscionable decision. Additionally, there is a responsibility to the safety of the public, to be mindful of the dangers of vicious animals, as well as zoonotic and contagious diseases.

While “no kill” was a popular phrase 15 years ago in the animal welfare environment, spcaLA, and most other legitimate entities, do not find its use responsible. spcaLA discourage the use of the phrase “no kill.” It hides the problem. spcaLA instead wants to be very clear to the community what its choices are and how its decisions are made.

“There are responsible and heroic partners that provide a real service to overcrowded shelters and our community,” said spcaLA President, Madeline Bernstein. “We need to ensure that we only work with such groups.”

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.

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.

###