

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Foul Play Suspected In Rolling Hills Estates

First peafowl expected to survive his injuries found in ongoing spcaLA animal cruelty investigation

Los Angeles, CA – Responding to a tip, spcaLA Humane Officers discovered an ailing peacock in Rolling Hills Estates yesterday. With the help of Los Angeles County Animal Control’s Major Case Unit, spcaLA rescued the bird and took him to an animal hospital for treatment. The first bird of 50 in the ongoing spcaLA animal cruelty investigation found alive, the peacock is expected to recover and will be sent to a sanctuary.

The peacock, affectionately nicknamed “Flipper,” was found on Buckskin Lane by a member of the community. Flipper was flailing and unable to take flight. Flipper was found to be emaciated and suffering from an internal ailment caused by a human.

“The peacock’s injuries are such that he is unable to survive in the wild,” said Madeline Bernstein, President spcaLA. “Fortunately, spcaLA has strong relationships with a number of private and public entities, and he will be transferred to sanctuary once he is well enough.”

Since June 2012, 49 peafowl have been found dead in Rolling Hills Estates, prompting an investigation by spcaLA Humane Officers. Consequences of taking malicious action against any wild or domesticated animal – including peacocks and peahens – can include felony animal cruelty charges, the conviction of which can lead to imprisonment, \$20,000 in fines, both, and additional consequences.

Some of the dead peafowl were found to be accidental – involving birds unintentionally struck by passing vehicles. However, spcaLA’s investigation found a certain number were intentionally killed by firearms, crossbows, and slingshots (marble ammunitions).

Individuals with information regarding these crimes are urged to call the spcaLA Cruelty Tipline at 1-800-540-SPCA (7722).

spcaLA incorporated in 1877 to enforce California’s first animal cruelty statute. Today, spcaLA continues to investigate animal cruelty and prosecute offenders pursuant to California Penal Code Section 597.

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

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles, or 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.