

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rolling Hills Estates Peafowl Deaths Prompt Animal Cruelty Investigation

Los Angeles, CA – Since June 2012, more than 40 peafowl have been found dead in Rolling Hills Estates, prompting an investigation by Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcaLA) Humane Officers. A number of the birds were found to be intentionally killed.

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.

“Animal cruelty isn’t limited by species of animal, neighborhood, or the socioeconomic status of the abuser,” said spcaLA President, Madeline Bernstein. “It doesn’t matter if you think an animal is a pain or a pet, maliciously injuring or killing an animal is criminal.”

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).

“spcaLA is employing all investigative tools at our disposal, including DNA, fingerprint, surveillance camera analysis, and necropsy, to discover the perpetrator or perpetrators of these crimes,” said Lieutenant Cesar Perea, Director of spcaLA Animal Protection Services. “spcaLA is working with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and the Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control’s Major Case Unit to further the investigation.”

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 will continue to investigate animal cruelty and prosecute offenders, including those who intentionally maim, mutilate, torture or wound a living peacock or peahen, or who maliciously and intentionally kill peafowl, as 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.