

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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spcaLA teams up with United Airlines to send 500th Air Chihuahua™ ‘passenger’ to a new home

Air Chihuahua™ celebrates 5th year of flight

Los Angeles, CA – Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcaLA) sent its 500th ‘passenger’ to his new home in Houston today with help from United Airlines’ PetSafe program. Since 2009, spcaLA’s Air Chihuahua™ has worked to put puppy mills out of business, by matching the overwhelming supply of Chihuahuas in Southern California with the demand for them in other areas of North America.

spcaLA was the first organization to combat the puppy mill problem using economic principles of supply and demand, through air transport. The inaugural flight was on a now-defunct Airline specializing in pet-only travel. Since then, spcaLA’s Chihuahuas have flown to Texas, Washington, Colorado, Florida and even Canada on commercial and private planes. Today, Bubbles is the 500th pup to make the journey from spcaLA to his forever home.

“Air Chihuahua™ is 100% donor driven,” said Madeline Bernstein, spcaLA President. “The generosity of companies like United Airlines, private donors, and grants from groups like the Heigel Foundation has helped make this program an enormous success.”

At the program’s inception, spcaLA was confident that Air Chihuahua™ would change the way shelters looked at their populations. Why allow backyard breeders to fill a demand when there are pets available in shelters that can fill the needs of the adopters? Chihuahuas find new families in a matter of days, rather than weeks or months.

spcaLA’s next Air Chihuahua™ flight is September 30th to Miami. Go to spcaLA.com to view adoptable pets or donate to Air Chihuahua™.

Photos Available.

For more information, please contact Ana Bustilloz at 323-730-5300 x252, cell 323-707-1271 or abustilloz@spcaLA.com

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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