

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Man Responsible for Killing Family Dog Pleads Guilty**  
*spcaLA investigation leads to felony animal cruelty conviction*

**Los Angeles, CA** – A Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcaLA) investigation and supporting evidence led to a felony animal cruelty conviction against Terrance Hawkins of Los Angeles, after he threw his girlfriend's dog out of a 5<sup>th</sup> story window during an argument. Hawkins pleaded guilty (no contest) to PC 597a and was sentenced to 16 months in custody. Restitution hearing, probation and sentencing scheduled for March 12th.

Bizzie, the beloved American Eskimo dog of Hawkins' girlfriend, succumbed to his injuries and perished after twelve days in intensive veterinary care.

"Where domestic violence is present, animal cruelty and child abuse can usually be found - we call it 'The Link,'" said spcaLA President, Madeline Bernstein. "The cycle of violence continues until it is broken by law enforcement, education or other intervention."

spcaLA offers the Animal Safety Net (ASN)™ program which provides free boarding and veterinary care for the animals of domestic violence victims at an undisclosed location, so they may flee a dangerous situation without fear for the safety of their pets. Case workers and victims can call 888-527-7722 for more information about ASN.

spcaLA also offers internationally recognized violence-prevention programs – like Teaching Love and Compassion(TLC)™ for at-risk youth and jTLC™, a court-mandated condition of probation for some juvenile offenders. spcaLA's Humane Education initiatives are aimed at breaking the cycle of violence and restoring empathy where it is lacking.

For more information about the Link, Teaching Love and Compassion (TLC)™ or Animal Safety Net (ASN)™ visit [www.spcaLA.com](http://www.spcaLA.com).

Humane Officers responded to an anonymous tip from the spcaLA Animal Cruelty Tip Line. To report animal cruelty, call the spcaLA Animal Cruelty Tip Line at 1-800-540-SPCA (7722) or report online at [www.spcaLA.com](http://www.spcaLA.com).

*For more information, please contact Ana Bustilloz at 323-730-5300 x252, cell 323-707-1271 or [abustilloz@spcaLA.com](mailto: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.