

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2013

**Three Dead Dogs Equal Felony Animal Cruelty**  
*Judge upholds felony charges in J.R. Ewing Guard Dogs case*

**Los Angeles, CA** – A preliminary hearing was held yesterday in the case involving Charles Ferguson, owner and operator of J.R. Ewing Guard Dogs, Inc. et al who was arrested November 12, 2012 on felony and misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty as a result of an investigation by spcaLA Humane Officers.

After the preliminary hearing, Senior Deputy District Attorney for Los Angeles County Christopher Frisco said the defendant “was held to answer to three felony charges and multiple misdemeanor charges for causing animals to suffer unnecessarily and not caring for his guard dogs, which caused two of the dogs to die of starvation; they were horribly emaciated. Another died of blood loss due to an organ that had been crudely severed.”

If convicted, Ferguson could be sentenced to up to 13.5 (consecutive) years in prison and/or \$240,000 in fines. The arraignment is scheduled for March 13, 2013.

spcaLA led an interagency investigation into Ferguson’s treatment of dogs in his care that he used in his business, J.R. Ewing Guard Dogs, Inc.

“In 1877, spcaLA was founded to protect animals forced to work in factories and carriages – animals much like the working guard dogs in Ferguson’s care,” said spcaLA President, Madeline Bernstein. “spcaLA takes our responsibility to enforce animal cruelty laws seriously, and will continue to seek justice for abused and neglected animals in our community.” spcaLA is the only private animal welfare organization that is also Law Enforcement in Los Angeles.

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.

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