

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **spcaLA Hosts Interagency Disaster Response Training**

**Los Angeles, CA** – Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (**spcaLA**) Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) is hosting an interagency presentation on mutual aid animal response in a disaster.

spcaLA's Director of Animal Protection Services Law Enforcement Division and DART, Lieutenant Cesar Perea has brought together agencies across the southland to begin a new partnership of cooperation. The guest speaker is Dan DeSousa, Deputy Director San Diego County Department of Animal Services, whose presentation will cover animal response with a focus on interagency mutual aid. spcaLA's DART Mobile Command Center and related disaster response equipment will be on display for presentation.

"This meeting gives all the animal control agencies and SPCAs the opportunity to get to know one another and train together, prior to a disaster deployment," said spcaLA President Madeline Bernstein. "Mutual aid is essential when coping with big challenges. The work we do now will only better facilitate a successful disaster response."

In attendance will be humane officers and animal control officers from Culver City, El Segundo, Long Beach, Huntington Park, Burbank, Lawndale, Manhattan Beach, Monrovia, Hawthorne, Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAACA), Los Angeles County, Ventura County, and San Bernardino County. Members of the City of Los Angeles Specialized Mobile Animal Response Team (SMART), San Diego Humane Society & SPCA, and spcaLA will also attend.

spcaLA's DART has deployed to assist people and animals in times of disaster including wildfires in Los Angeles, San Diego and San Bernardino Counties and hurricanes Katrina and Ike.

spcaLA encourages Californians to include pets when preparing for disaster by creating a "kit" that includes items like food, medicines, leash, collar, soft muzzle, treats, and first-aid. For a complete list of kit items, please visit [www.spcaLA.com](http://www.spcaLA.com).

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Ana Bustilloz at 323-730-5300, ext 252, 323-707-1271 cell or by email at [abustilloz@spcaLA.com](mailto:abustilloz@spcaLA.com).

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**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.**