

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**A dead shark in the swimming pool**  
*Are the waters muddied in protecting animal actors?*

**Los Angeles, CA** – *The Los Angeles Times* reported yesterday that a white-tipped shark died on set at a commercial TV shoot for the retailer Kmart. A representative from the American Humane Association (AHA), the organization responsible for protecting animals on TV and film sets, was reported to be present. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (**spcaLA**) is dismayed to hear, that despite advances in technology, computer animation, and the efforts of the AHA, animals are still dying on set.

“It seems evident to many that there are fundamental flaws in the way animal actors are protected,” said spcaLA President Madeline Bernstein. “Instead of entrusting the safety of animal actors to a private agency whose services are paid for by the very industry that would exploit them, let us simply call for an end of using animals as living, breathing props for our entertainment.”

Given the current system, AHA does not appear to be able to monitor animals on set at all times, and often injuries and illness are caused to animal actors during pre-shoot training or transport. In fact, spcaLA has been called to numerous production sets to investigate the alleged mistreatment of animals. In one such case, during the filming of “Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman,” spcaLA Humane Officer’s had to step in to stop the mistreatment of horses on set, though AHA was represented.

*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](mailto: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.

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