

**FOR IMMEDIATE *Rottweiler Shot and Killed by Hawthorne Police
While Owner is Taken into Custody***

spcaLA Responds

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Los Angeles, CA – Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles(**spcaLA**) is dismayed to learn that while Hawthorne Police officers arrested Leon Rosby for obstructing a police action, Rosby’s companion animal was shot and killed by officers, according to The Daily Breeze. A spectator captured the incident on video, which has over half a million views on YouTube.

The video shows Rosby, who was filming a blockade by police with his phone, being approached by Hawthorne PD officers. Rosby then puts his Rottweiler into the backseat of his vehicle and presents himself to officers. He is handcuffed and his dog, Max, begins barking. Max jumps out of the back window of Rosby’s car to aid his owner. Max is seen on the video barking at officers, who draw their guns and shoot the dog several times after he advances.

spcaLA asserts that an investigation should be conducted into the procedures and training protocols required for safely interacting and subduing companion animals. “Understandably, the safety of police officers is important, however with the proper training, these kinds of situations can be diffused or avoided,” said Madeline Bernstein, President of spcaLA. “This dog did not have to die in such a violent manner. Deadly force should be used only as a last resort. The citizens and animals of our community deserve better.”

spcaLA has been protecting the animals of Southern California for 135 years and is the only animal welfare organization in the city of Los Angeles that is also law enforcement. spcaLA works regularly with local, state and national authorities to provide training in properly handling and subduing animals during highly-charged actions, such as the incident with Rosby, Max and the Hawthorne Police Department. While difficult calls sometimes need to be made to protect the citizens and animals of Southern California, training will allow officers to realize their options concerning animals.

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.

About spcaLA

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

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