

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **spcaLA is committed to the safety of pets and Law Enforcement**

**Los Angeles, CA** – Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (**spcaLA**) was overwhelmed with calls, emails, letters and social media posts regarding the Hawthorne Police officer who shot and killed Leon Rosby's companion animal, Max on June 30th. spcaLA's response was clear and immediate: let's ensure that law enforcement receives proper training to keep officers as well as animals safe.

Following the incident, spcaLA President Madeline Bernstein contacted the Hawthorne Police Department Chief, Robert Fager asking for an investigation into the incident and offered the services of spcaLA, as Los Angeles' original animal welfare organization.

Today, Chief Fager responded. In addition to launching two independent-agency reviews of the incident, he will look to spcaLA as "not only a resource but a barometer of best-practice methodology" as the department reassesses its treatment of animals during police actions.

As a law enforcement agency tasked with preventing cruelty to animals, spcaLA is committed to making ours a safer community for both pets and Law Enforcement.

While opinions of the incident and how it was handled may vary, spcaLA believes we can all agree that a beloved pet did not deserve such a violent end.

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](mailto: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 Investigation, Disaster Animal Response Team, Humane Education, and a variety of shelter services.

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