

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Take Extra Care for Pets as Temperatures Dip

**Los Angeles, CA** – Comedians enjoy poking fun at Southern Californian's reaction to cold weather, but in all seriousness, Angelenos are not accustomed to cold weather and neither are our pets. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (**spcaLA**) offers the following tips to keep your pets safe:

- Make sure your pet's identification tags and microchips are current.
- Pets should always have a warm, dry place to sleep and they are always safer inside.
- Dogs of all sizes can benefit from a sweater or jacket to keep them warm. Make sure the clothing is intended for dogs and is the right size.
- Wipe off wet paws after being outside.
- Don't leave a pet inside a car during cold weather. Just as in the summer, when temperatures rise inside cars, in the winter temperatures drop.
- Keep an eye on older or ill pets as they are more sensitive to colder weather.
- Brush your dog regularly to promote a healthier coat and circulation. Heaters make the air inside dry during the colder months, which depletes moisture from your dog's skin and fur.
- Add blankets to your pet's emergency preparedness pet kit.
- Be sure your pets are secured in a crate or with a seat belt harness when driving. Skidding with an unsecured pet could be catastrophic.
- If you are using a portable heater, do not leave it with an unattended pet. He may knock it over and start a fire.
- Feral cats or small wildlife may seek refuge in warm automobile engines. To avoid injuring hiding animals, bang on the car's hood to scare them off before starting the engine.

*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).*

**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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