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## **Long Beach Man Pleads Not Guilty to Animal Cruelty Charges**

**Los Angeles, CA** -- A 23-year-old man accused of killing several cats pleaded not guilty today to animal cruelty charges, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced. Mr. Ullery was arrested as a result of a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcaLA) animal cruelty investigation. The Long Beach Police Department aided in bringing him into custody.

Steven Ullery (dob 05/22/1990), of Long Beach, was arraigned on four felony counts of animal cruelty in case NA098033 before Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Laura Laesecke.

During the court appearance, the judge also granted a protective order that prevents Ullery from being around cats that live at his residence. Additionally, he cannot own or care for any other animals.

"I commend the Judge for issuing a protective order that prevents the defendant from being around any animals," said Madeline Bernstein, President spcaLA. "Since 1877, spcaLA has been enforcing California's anti-cruelty laws, and we will continue to work with the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office and others to bring animal abusers to justice."

Deputy District Attorney Alexander Bott, who is assigned to the case, said at the time of the crime Ullery was living with his wife, who owned several cats. Between March and August 2013, five of the cats died, Bott said.

Two of the deceased cats were adopted from spcaLA by Ullery and his wife in July 2013. When these cats died in August 2013, they brought the bodies back to the spcaLA requesting a refund.

spcaLA began an investigation and learned that in March and May 2013, Ullery and his wife presented three additional dead cats to the Uptown Animal Hospital. One of these cats died from blunt force trauma to the face. Another was choked to death, according to the prosecutor.

Long Beach Police arrested Ullery on Jan. 23 in connection with the animal deaths. The defendant was later released on \$60,000 bail.

His next court appearance is scheduled for March 10 for a preliminary hearing setting. If convicted as charged, Ullery faces a maximum sentence of five years in county jail.

*For more information, please contact Ana Bustilloz at 323-730-5300 x252, cell 323-707-1271 or [abustilloz@spcaLA.com](mailto:abustilloz@spcaLA.com).*

**Since 1877, spcaLA has been the premiere independent, nonprofit animal welfare organization serving Southern California. 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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