

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Typhus Cases Reported in Burbank and Downey

*spcaLA recommends flea prevention and tips to
keep family and pets safe*

Los Angeles, CA – Cases of flea born Typhus have been reported in Burbank and Downey, confirmed by Los Angeles County Vector Control and Los Angeles County Animal Care Services respectively. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles urges pet owners to take precaution and keep their pets current on flea treatments.

A case of Typhus in Manhattan Beach was also reported in December of last year.

“To pet owners, I urge you to keep your pets inside, and make sure they are current on flea treatment,” said spcaLA President, Madeline Bernstein. “Be sure to treat your house and yard for fleas, to eliminate the risk brought in by area wildlife.”

The recent cases of Typhus should be used as precautionary tale, not a reason to demonize feral or “community” cats, or their caretakers. Feral cats can and do carry fleas, and spcaLA urges those managing feral colonies to take precautions.

spcaLA recommends all Californians follow a few simple safety tips to reduce their chances of being exposed disease and in the process, keep their pets and family happier and healthier.

- Keep your pets up-to-date on flea prevention and vaccines.
- Let your pets be indoor pets – this will not only reduce flea infestation, but also injury and disease transmission.
- Spay or neuter your pets – they will be less likely to escape looking for a mate, and their unwanted offspring will not become members of feral cat colonies or strays.
- Take your pets to the veterinarian regularly.
- Avoid contact with wildlife by:
 - Tightly screening all access holes in buildings;
 - Securing trash in sturdy plastic or metal cans with tightly fitting lids;
 - Eliminating any food sources – like fallen fruit or unattended pet food – that may attract wildlife;
 - Clearing brush, dense ground cover and other debris where rodents may be living.

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

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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