



PRESS RELEASE

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Unprecedented Rooster Seizure Moves to Next Phase of Probe Animal Care and Control Officials Praise Multiagency Effort

LONG BEACH, Calif. – Fifty employees from the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) have completed their work at the scene of the largest seizure of fighting birds in U.S. history.

During the May 15 raid in Val Verde, nearly 7,000 birds were discovered in a remote canyon area. The seizure involved representatives from the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (SPCALA), the Humane Society of the United States, and Pasadena Humane Society. All evidence collected will be provided to the County District Attorney's Office.

"We are extremely proud of our staff and support team," said DACC Director Marcia Mayeda. "We hope this sends a powerful message to those engaging in cockfighting that this crime is taken very seriously. If you observe any animal abuse or neglect, please contact us at (562) 940-6898. If you would like to report a fight in action, please call 911."

Because of serious public health concerns and the aggressive nature of birds bred for fighting, all were euthanized. In situations like this, animal control and humane agencies take this preventative action to prevent the very serious risk of the spread of disease such as Avian Flu or Exotic Newcastle Disease. These are serious concerns that could have consequences that could impact the poultry industry as well as public health. This has occurred in 2003 when Exotic Newcastle Disease was found in fighting roosters brought into California from Mexico. Thousands of chickens in the state had to be euthanized to prevent devastation of the poultry industry.

Thirteen dogs and one cat seized during the operation are available for adoption on a first-come, first-served basis. They can be found at the Castaic Animal Care Center

located at 31044 N. Charlie Canyon Rd., Castaic, CA 91384. Breeds available include German Shepherd, Belgian Malinois, Pomeranian, Labrador Retriever, Queensland Heeler, and more.

To search for animals available for adoption, visit <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov> .

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