



NEWS RELEASE



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services
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LA Animal Services Rescues Another Alligator

Los Angeles – For the second time in less than six months LA Animal Services was called to assist LA Police Department in Venice to rescue an alligator who had reportedly been walking loose in a residential area. LA Police Department confined the alligator in a trash can at the corner of 4th and Rose until Animal Control Officers arrived at the scene. The alligator is between 2-3 feet long and appears to be in good health. No previous reports of a loose alligator or a lost alligator had been received by LA Animal Services in the Venice area.

Alligators are a restricted species in California and require a State Permit for possession. An average male alligator can grow to 13 feet long. They are generally found in the Southeastern United States, primarily in Florida, where alligators thrive in Florida's wetlands.

LA Animal Services contacted the Southwest Herpetology Society who has the proper permits and environment for alligators. The alligator will be transported to their facility today. LA Animal Services also contacted California Fish and Game to inform them of the rescue and subsequent transfer to the herpetology society.

"Wild animals, such as alligators, are beautiful creatures that should be carefully handled and cared for by well trained, experienced and properly permitted agencies to insure both the public's safety as well as the humane treatment of the animal involved", said Ed Boks, general manager of LA Animal Services. "Our local Zoo is an excellent venue for viewing wild animals in habitats conducive to their species. Residents are urged to adopt traditional pets, such as dogs, cats and rabbits, from our Animal Care Centers instead of wild or exotic animals, whose care and containment can often be overwhelming. Worse, an escaped wild animal can be disastrous for all involved."

LA Animal Services asks all citizens to contact the Department regarding any wild or exotic animals that are illegally kept in their neighborhoods in order to protect both our neighbors and the animals involved.

For more information or assistance call LA Animal Services at
1-888-452LA-PET1/1-888-452-7381
(TTY Hearing impaired: 877-875-8205) or visit the website at www.LAAnimalServices.com.

We create happiness by bringing pets and people together!