



NEWS RELEASE

City of Los Angeles □ Department of Animal Services
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, California 90012 / www.LAAnimalServices.com

CONTACT: Public Relations Office
213.792.4048

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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LA Animal Services Seizes Large Alligator

Los Angeles – Animal Control Officers went to a North Hollywood address and found a 5-6 foot long male alligator, named Ziggy. Ziggy's owner surrendered the alligator to the Officers without incident. The alligator appears to be in good health. He is approximately 5 years old and has been kept by his owner since the alligator was small. Animal Services went to the address because of a referral call from LA Police Department.

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 has contacted a local herpetology society member who has the proper permits and environment for Ziggy. Ziggy will be transported to their facilities today. LA Animal Services has also contacted California Fish and Game to inform them of the impoundment 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. 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 shelters in lieu of wild animals, whose care and containment can often be overwhelming. Worse, an escaped wild animal can be disastrous for all involved.

We ask all citizens to contact us regarding any wild 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!