



**KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
STATE ATTORNEY**



**ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ILLEGAL SLAUGHTERHOUSE YIELDS ARREST

Miami – March 26, 2014

The Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office and the Miami-Dade Police Department have undertaken an action that has led to the arrest of Raul Fernandez a/k/a "Freaky", the prime operator of an illegal slaughterhouse located in unincorporated Miami-Dade County.

The Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office and the Miami-Dade Police Department became aware of a site operating within Miami-Dade County that was illegally slaughtering animals, and was doing so in a cruel and painful manner. Undercover videos were taken on December 24, 2013 and on December 30, 2013. Witnesses to these incidents saw the shooting, stabbing, gutting while alive of animals, beating, sledge-hammering to the head, dragging by mouth, and other cruel behavior to which the animals were subjected. On video surveillance, a pig can be seen being dragged, hook-mouthed through the jaw, at distances of approximately 150 feet, all while the animal remained alive. Raul Fernandez is charged with 7 counts of Animal Cruelty which are third degree felonies. The investigation of this case continues.

"When the Florida Legislature created the animal cruelty statute, they intended to end such brutal activities as were occurring at this illegal slaughterhouse," commented Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle. "No legitimate slaughterhouse operator or any self-respecting farmer would treat his livestock in such a ghastly manner."

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FOR FURTHER
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