



Animals saved from slaughter farms recovering in West Palm Beach

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WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (WSVN) -- Hundreds of animals that were saved from being inhumanely slaughtered are now residing in an animal sanctuary in Palm Beach County.

The rescued animals are getting the care they need at an undisclosed location in West Palm Beach, Wednesday. The crews allegedly involved in animal cruelty faced a judge.

After being rescued from the slaughter farms Tuesday with the help of the Animal Recovery Mission, animals like goats, birds and cows can rest easy. "It was the largest tactical operation on the extreme animal cruelty operations in the history of the United States," said ARM founder Richard Couto.

Couto spent months undercover to capture evidence, including videos of animals being slaughtered alive, from chickens, cows, goats and even horses. Early Tuesday morning,

three Palm Beach farms were raided. At least six people were arrested for their involvement in this case, and hundreds of animals were saved.

The animals were transported to the animal sanctuary to live the rest of their days and recover. "A lot of them are sick," Couto said. "They have respiratory issues and parasites."

The ducks are now free from cages, and cows are free to roam. "This is the first time all of these ducks have even swum in water," Couto said.

The men charged now face the possibility going to prison. Couto has a message for anyone in the animal slaughtering business. "Stop now. Go get another job and leave the animals alone, because if you don't, ARM is coming after you," he said. "We're gonna find you, we're gonna go undercover with you, we're gonna investigate you, and law enforcement is gonna bring down the hammer."

ARM investigators said there have been six arrests thus far, with the possibility of more to follow.