

# Horse found slaughtered in Hialeah field

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HIALEAH, Fla. (WSVN) -- A slaughtered horse was discovered Thursday morning in a Hialeah field that was once used to protect animals.

The remains of the 3-year-old quarter horse were located in the grass at the former South Florida Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals facility. "They took possibly a machete or large oversized butcher knife, and put that knife into the heart area of the horse," said Animal Recovery Mission spokesperson Richard Couto.

The slaughtered horse was stolen from a nearby stable. The SFSPCA believes the animal was let out by someone who tied a rope around her and walked her into the nearby woods. "The gates were intact, and there was one that had been opened manually," said Jaquelyn Johnston, who found the horse, "and I just knew I wasn't going to find her alive."

Multiple agencies are working the animal cruelty case. "I'm sure it was painful for the horse," said SPCA spokesperson Laurie Waggoner, "like I said, you could see the blood trail going about 20 yards where the horse was trying to get up and get away, and get up and get away, and falling and bleeding, and falling and bleeding."

Couto believes the horse was butchered alive. "These guys start harvesting the meat well before these animals stop breathing," he said.

"Why? For what possible reason could they have done this?" said Johnston. "You know, they didn't even take everything they could have taken. They murdered her in such a cruel way and just left her there to panic. You could see the panic in her face, and someone knows who did this."

These violent slaughters are said to be all about the horse meat. There is a growing market, but what some people don't know is that often the meat is poisonous because of the drugs and medicine given to the horses. Whoever ends up eating the meat could be putting their own health at risk.