

Illegal Miami-Dade Slaughterhouse Demolished

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NORTHWEST MIAMI-DADE, Fla. (WSVN) -- What used to be a scene of animal cruelty is now a scene of demolition in Northwest Miami-Dade.

Crews have begun to tear down a slaughterhouse, once called Coco Farm, which was shut down thanks to the Animal Recovery Mission. The non-profit animal rescue group led a six-month investigation in this case and wanted to make sure there was nothing left on this property after demolition.

The efforts to bulldoze the slaughterhouse began Friday morning at 11800 N.W. 41 St., and was taken down one structure at a time.

This was the location of a massive animal rescue operation in March, when the Miami-Dade Police Department and the State of Attorney's Office and the Animal Recovery Mission shut it down.

Investigators said it was an illegal farm. It was once the site where more than 9,000 animals were rescued. According to investigators, animals were found in sick, diseased and starving conditions, while others were slaughtered in horrific manners.

Two men were arrested and face a list of charges in this case.

Richard Couto, who is with the Animal Recovery Mission, said that bringing the slaughter house down saved countless animals from a life of torture. "[We're saving] over a million a year. If this farm went on for another 20 years, we're looking at millions and millions of animals that were saved from really entering this farm and a life of torture and being butchered alive, so it's a great day for us," said Couto.