



Miami horse stolen from stall and slaughtered while her colt looks on

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Raquel Torres' beloved horse Destiny was slaughtered for her meat Tuesday night.

Someone stole Raquel Torres' beloved horse named Destiny from her stable at 18250 Northwest 137th Ave. on Tuesday night, chained her to the rear of the barn, and then slaughtered her for her meat.

According to Animal Recovery Mission's Richard Couto, who has continued to investigate more than 50 similar heinous crimes similar to this in the Miami area, states the horses are often still alive as their bodies are hacked for their meat.

In a heartbreaking interview with wsvn.com, Torres said her seven-year-old horse was part of her family:

"What people don't understand is that we have had this horse for seven years. Seven years for some people is nothing, but to us it's a lifetime. This is just not an animal. This is a family member. Everybody would ride her, bathe her, brush her and everything else like that."

Even more tragic was Destiny's three-year-old colt Lucero who probably saw his mother murdered.

The illegal horse black meat market attracts buyers who believe horse meat contains magical powers that increase virility and cure diseases. In reality however, horse meat commonly contains carcinogenic drugs banned from United States food animals to be used for human consumption.

Criminals found guilty in Florida of illegal horse slaughter face a mandatory minimum sentence of one year in prison and a \$3,500 fine.