ANIMAL RECOVERY MISSION



Established in 2010, The Animal Recovery Mission (ARM), is a non profit investigative organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM stands out as a vanguard and uncompromising defending force for the welfare of animals. In addition, ARM strives to put an end to, and preventing pain, suffering and torture as a result of inhumane practices.

The mission of the organization is to implement direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of extreme animal cruelty. The organization's primary goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and to educate the public regarding animal cruelty, the practices that contribute to animal cruelty and the illegal animal slaughter. Achieving these goals contribute to an increased awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

Animal cruelty investigations taken on by ARM operatives include, but are not limited to; animal slaughter farms, animal sacrifice operations, illegal horse sales and slaughter, and animal fighting operations. In addition, ARM is focusing upon the pressing issues and concerns of animal welfare within the animal agriculture and factory farming sector.

Since 2010, ARM's undercover investigations have led to the closure of up to 138 illegal animal cruelty operations in the state of Florida alone. The following report provides detailed findings gathered during ARM's investigation of a dairy farm located in Ockeechobee Florida-known as Larson Dairy.



ARM Investigator Sworn Statement

, had a scheduled meet by set with the business owner (Aymee Mesa) of Rancho Delicias on June 13, 2017 at approximately 12:00pm, to pick up 60 pounds of horse meat. This buy was to be conducted between ARM and the Undercover Narcotic Unit of the Lee County Sheriff's Office, along with the Agriculture Crimes Unit headed by Sgt. R. Hodges, who was present that day. Amyee, the business owner of Rancho Delicias, was contacted via text message prior to going to the Lee County Sheriffs department. This was requested by Sgt. R. Hodges so that a horse meat buy could be verified and conducted for state prosecution. Upon arrival to the Lee County Sheriff's Office, I met with an undercover agent who placed myself and another undercover ARM operative in his unmarked car to process paperwork enabling myself to make a horse meat buy in conjunction with the Lee County Sheriff's Department. The agent did not know how to fill out the proper paperwork, so he had to call in other undercover Lee County operatives to help him with the process. The other undercover ARM operative that accompanied me asked if her name would be quickly released to the defense and all parties. Some undercover narcotics operatives for Lee county said yes it would be quickly released, others entering the small car that we were in said no. This was very conflicting and confusing to both myself and the other ARM operative. Regardless of their statements, myself and the ARM operative agreed to go undercover to collect evidence of horse meat sales for Lee County.

As I filled in some personal information on one of the forms (without signing) the supervisor on duty told us to step out of the car and explained that we "no longer fit the criteria of the Lee County Sheriff's Office to go undercover to conduct the buy." I, in order to maintain a working relationship between myself and Aymee, needed to complete the purchase of horse meat that was already scheduled. The purchase of the horse meat also needed to be completed due to an active ARM investigation and to maintain the safety of our undercover operatives that visit the property without raising suspicion. In front of the other ARM operative and all the Narcotics Unit and Agriculture Crime Unit present, I confronted Randy Hodges on the lack of work and attention that he had given this violent case to date. I asked why arrests have not been made upon people torturing animals at Rancho Delicias in the past stemming from previous ARM video evidence that was collected. Randy quickly stated that we hadn't identified the parties properly, so he was unable to make arrests for the Lee County Sheriff's Department.

I left the Lee County Sheriff's Department, put on my hidden camera, and entered Rancho Delicias, located at 7161 Eastwood Acres Road, Ft. Myers FL, to conduct the already scheduled horse meat buy. Myself and the undercover ARM operative quickly saw Amyee, where she met us with hugs and kisses, welcoming us to her property in front of roughly 4-6 other customers and 5-6 other employees of hers. She requested her worker to go into the main freezer where the meats were stored and take out 60 pounds of horse meat for sale for us. It was very clear that this horse meat is being sold for human



consumption. I asked her how it should be cooked, and she explained. This explanation showed that they knew it was horse meat they were selling, and they knew it was for human consumption. In front of 6 people, I paid Amyee, for the horse meat. She promised us more horse meat when we want more, therefore continuing our working relationship with Amyee where we can later purchase horse meat with law enforcement present. I maintained possession of the horse meat from the point of purchase to the time it was sectioned at our headquarters. The meat was then sectioned on video and sent via FedEx overnight to Elisa Technologies, Inc in Gainesville, Florida for a raw meat species analysis. The meat sent to the lab came back positive equine and the laboratory took chain of custody for the portion of horse meat sent to the lab.

The above described purchase was recorded with several hidden surveillance cameras.

	I, (PRINT NAME)
	pages, each having been initialed by me, swear (or affirm) that the preceding statement is true and accurate to the
	best of my knowledge.
	SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this day of
	who is personally known to me or who has produced
	fication.
	3-7-2018 3:42
	Witness Signature Date Time
<	Notary Public, State of Florida
	Notary I dans, state 9.1 Joined
	Type/Printed Name of Notary





ELISA Technologies, Inc.



www.elisa-tek.com

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REPORT DATE:

June 19, 2017

REPORT TO:

Richard Couto

Animal Recovery Mission

PO Box 403344

Miami Beach, FL 33140 Tel: 305-494-2225

Email: kudo@arminvestigations.org

SUBJECT:

Raw Meat Species Analysis; RUSH ORDER; CHAIN OF CUSTODY

RECEIVED:

June 16, 2017; UPS Ground TRX#: 1% V96 6W9 03 6989 1860

ANALYTICAL RESULTS:

ANALYTICAL R		ANALYSIS IDENTIFICATION	RESULT
CONTROL#	SAMPLE DESCRIPTION	ANALISIS IDENTIFICATION	
1706121-1	Rancho Delicias Horse Meat #4	500550 Raw Horse Species ELISA	POSITIVE

RESULTS APPLY ONLY TO THE SAMPLES TESTED

* NOTE:

A POSITIVE result means antigens of the species indicated Were Detected in this meat or meat product by an Enzyme Linked ImmunoSorpent Assay.

A NEGATIVE result means antigens of the species indicated Were Not Detected in this meat or meat product by an Enzyme Linked ImmunoSorpent Assay.

Respectfully Submitted for ELISA Technologies, Inc.

Analyst Justin Bickford, Scientific Director

End of Report

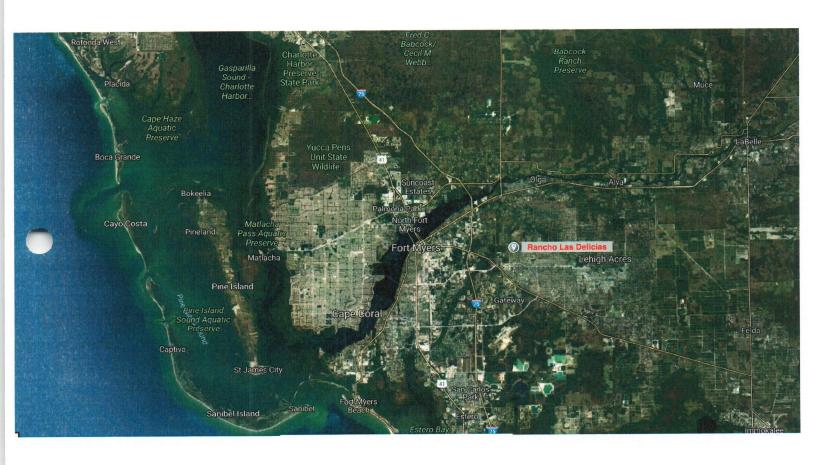
THIS REPORT SHALL NOT BE REPRODUCED EXCEPT IN ITS ENTIRETY AND WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF ELISA TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

2501 NW 66th Court, Gainesville, Florida 32653, USA Telephone: (352) 337-3929 Fax: (352) 337-3928 E-mail: info@elisa-tek.com

LOCATION









REFERENCES

500.451 Horse meat; offenses.

- (1) It is unlawful for any person to:
- (a) Sell in the markets of this state horse meat for human consumption unless the horse meat is clearly stamped, marked, and described as horse meat for human consumption.
- (b) Knowingly transport, distribute, sell, purchase, or possess horse meat for human consumption that is not clearly stamped, marked, and described as horse meat for human consumption or horse meat that is not acquired from a licensed slaughterhouse.
- (2) A person that violates this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. <u>775.082</u>, s. <u>775.083</u>, or s. <u>775.084</u>, except that any person who commits a violation of this section shall be sentenced to a minimum mandatory fine of \$3,500 and a minimum mandatory period of incarceration of 1 year.
- (3) In addition to any penalties provided in subsection (2), any license of any restaurant, store, or other business may be suspended as provided in the applicable licensing law upon conviction of an owner or employee of that business for a violation of this section in connection with that business.

History.—ss. 1, 2, ch. 21986, 1943; s. 11, ch. 25035, 1949; s. 454, ch. 71-136; s. 19, ch. 82-225; s. 27, ch. 94-180; s. 3, ch. 2010-87.

Note.-Former s. 500.33.

828.125 Killing or aggravated abuse of horses or cattle; offenses; penalties.—Any other provisions of this chapter to the contrary notwithstanding:

- (1) Any person who willfully and unlawfully, by any means whatsoever, kills, maims, mutilates, or causes great bodily harm or permanent breeding disability to any animal of the genus *Equus* (horse) or any animal of any registered breed or recognized registered hybrid of the genus *Bos* (cattle) commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, except that any person who commits a violation of this subsection shall be sentenced to a minimum mandatory fine of \$3,500 and a minimum mandatory period of incarceration of 1 year.
- (2) Any person who individually attempts or solicits, or jointly agrees, conspires, combines, or confederates with another person to commit, any act prohibited by subsection (1) and does an act in furtherance of said attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy shall be guilty of a felony of the second degree and is punishable as if the person or persons had actually committed such prohibited act as enumerated in subsection (1), notwithstanding any provisions found in s. 777.04. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit separate convictions and sentences for a violation of this subsection and any violation of subsection (1).
- (3) Any person who verbally or in writing threatens to commit any act prohibited by subsection (1) and has the apparent ability to carry out such threat and places the owner or custodian of said animal in fear that such an act as described in subsection (1) is about to take place shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082, s. 775.083 or s. 775.084.
- (4) In addition to any other fines or penalties authorized by law, a person found guilty of violating any provision of subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (3) may be ordered by the court to make restitution to the aggrieved party in an amount not to exceed twice the gross fair market value of the said *Equus* or *Bos* killed or abused in an aggravated manner, or up to twice the gross loss caused, whichever is greater, plus attorney's fees and any and all related costs. Upon notice the court shall hold a hearing to determine the amount of fines, restitution, or costs to be imposed under this section, if not agreed upon by the parties.
- (5) This section shall not be construed to abridge, impede, prohibit, or otherwise interfere in any way with the application, implementation, or conduct of recognized livestock husbandry practices or techniques by or at the direction of the owner of the livestock so husbanded; nor shall any person be held culpable for any act prohibited by this chapter which results from weather conditions or other acts of God, providing that the person is in compliance with recognized livestock husbandry practices.

PHOTOGRAPHS









