
OPERATION ANTHONY & ROMAN

AN ANIMAL RECOVERY MISSION UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION



Presented By: Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)

December 23rd, 2017



Contact Information

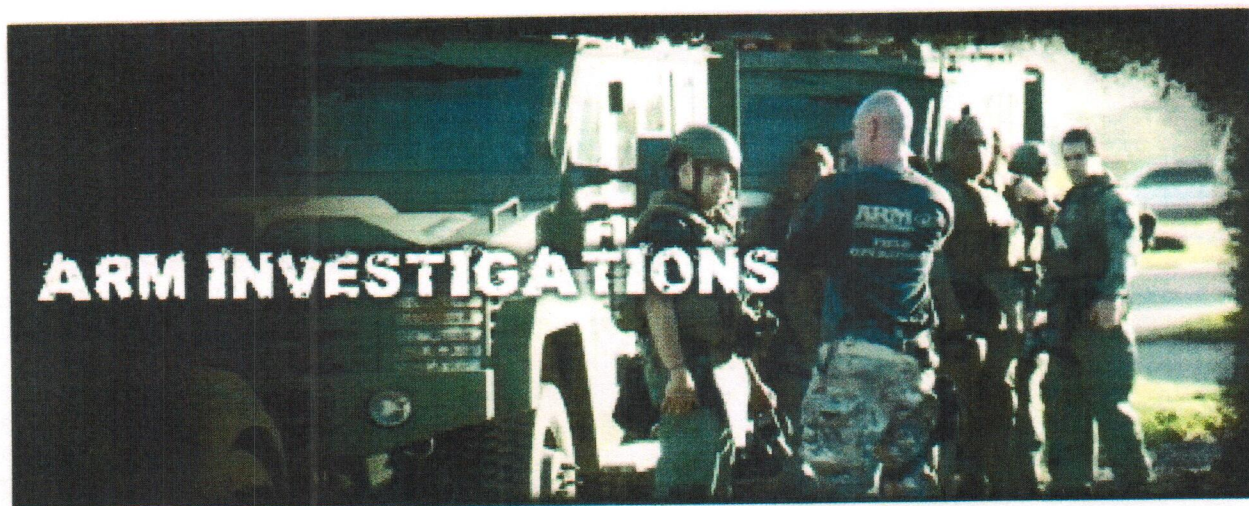
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ANIMAL RECOVERY MISSION



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.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION



On December 23 2017, between 12pm and 330pm, three ARM Undercover (UC) Investigators traveled to Lee County to investigate the illegal slaughtering of animals. Three separate slaughter farms were entered on this date; Rancho Las Delicias, Rancho Anthony & Roman and a third location which did not have a business name and was operated from a private residence. The third location is directly across the street from Rancho Anthony & Roman.

ARM Investigators arrived at Rancho Anthony & Roman (7300 Eastwood Acres Rd, Fort Myers, FL 33905) and observed several customers on the property along with several farm animals. Once on the property, you are able to walk freely and choose what animal you would like slaughtered. While walking around, it was immediately noticeable that all of the holding pig enclosures contained no food or water.

On this date, ARM Investigators observed several animals being slaughtered. Pigs were shot in the head with a small caliber rifle with the exception of one pig. Every pig shot was not killed instantly. On multiple occasions an employee would shoot a pig from several feet away and at times only graze the pig in the head with a .22 caliber round. The pig would not fall to the ground and the employee would have to then stab the pig in the chest/neck area. During this process, the pig would scream in pain and

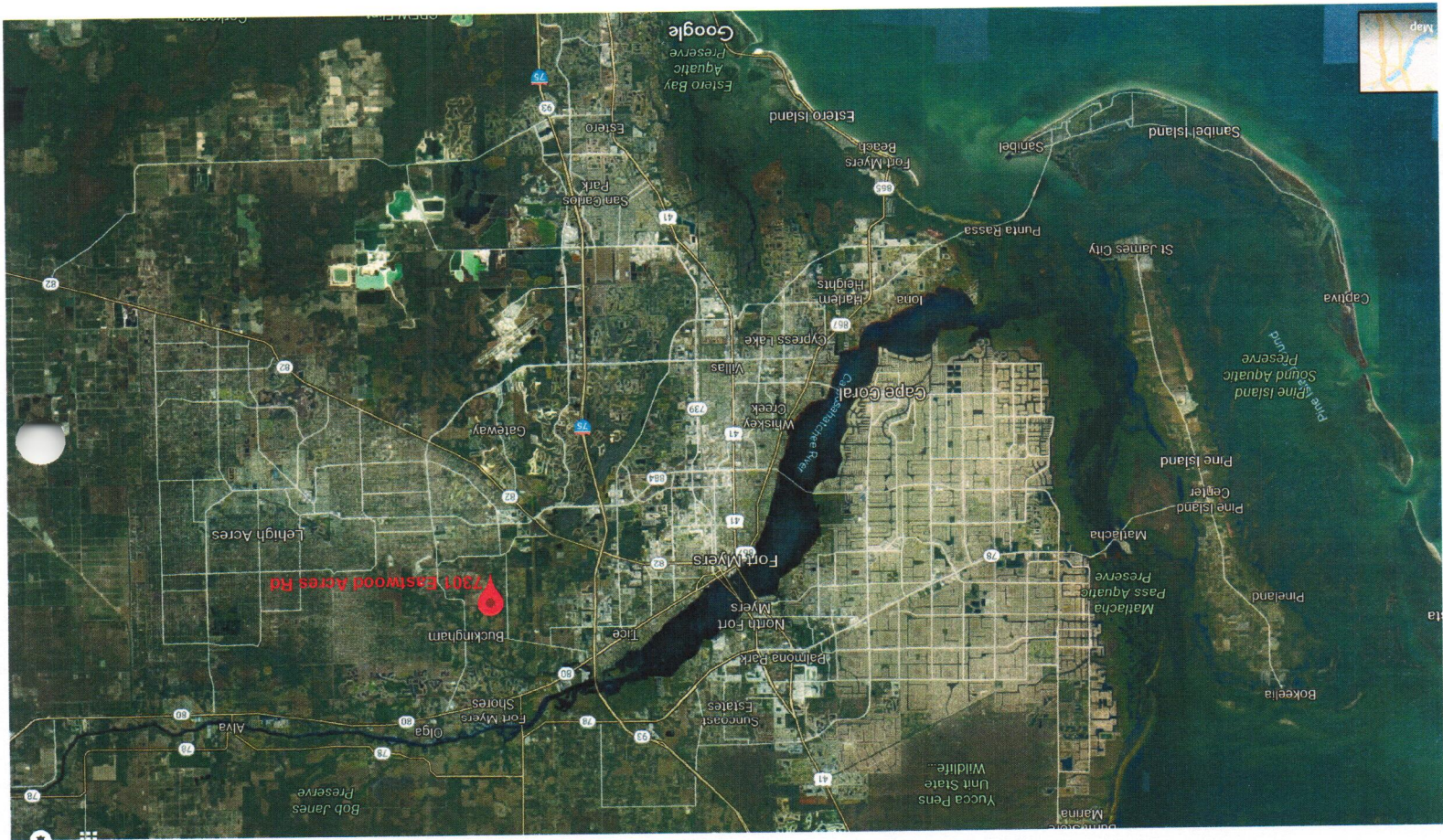
show obvious signs of life for several minutes. At times, while the pig is still alive (kicking and moving), the employee would place a gaff hook into the pigs face and drag it to the slaughter area.

At one point an elderly hispanic male, went into a pig holding area. He grabbed a pig by it's legs and began to stab it in the chest/neck area. At no point did he attempt to make the pig insensible to pain. After stabbing the pig multiple times, he dragged it by hand to the gate. He then placed a gaff hook into the mouth of the pig and dragged it the remainder of the way to the slaughter area. Throughout this process. The pig moved its body and showed clear signs of life as it struggled for it's life.

All goats and sheep purchased for slaughter were not made insensible to pain either by gun shot or electronic device. An employee (hispanic male, approx. 5'9" and approx. 22 yoa), was observed on multiple occasions, slicing into the goats neck and allowing it to bleed out. The goats would show clear signs of life for several minutes as they struggled for their life. Slits were made into their hind legs so they could be hoisted into the air. While the goat/sheep are hoisted in the air, they begin to kick and rotate showing clear signs of life as they continued to bleed out. One sheep was again cut with a knife in the neck by an employee as it hung in the air due to it still being alive. Multiple goat kills were conducted in the presence of Roman Hernandez, who is the owner of the slaughter farm. At one point, one of the goat kills utilizing only a knife, was conducted directly in front of him (approx. 2 feet away) as he sat in a chair watching. At no time did he try and correct his employees actions. It should be noted that rifles were readily available for use.

The above described incidents were recorded with several hidden surveillance cameras.

LOCATION





7300 Eastwood Acres Rd
Fort Myers, FL 33905
26.637706, -81.745935



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REFERENCES

828.22 Humane Slaughter Act; humane slaughter and livestock euthanasia; requirements.

(1) Sections 828.22-828.26 may be cited as the “Humane Slaughter Act.”

(2)(a) The Legislature of this state finds that the use of humane methods in the killing of livestock prevents needless suffering, results in safer and better working conditions for persons engaged in the slaughtering industry or other livestock operations, brings about improvement of products and economy in slaughtering or other livestock operations, and produces other benefits for producers, processors, and consumers which tend to expedite the orderly flow of livestock and their products.

(b) It is therefore declared to be the policy of this state to require that the slaughter of all livestock and the handling of livestock in connection with slaughter shall be carried out only by humane methods and to provide that methods of slaughter shall conform generally to those employed in other states where humane slaughter is required by law and to those authorized by the federal Humane Slaughter Act of 1958, and regulations thereunder.

(3) Nothing in ss. 828.22-828.26 shall be construed to prohibit, abridge, or in any way hinder the religious freedom of any person or group. Notwithstanding any other provision of ss. 828.22-828.26, in order to protect freedom of religion, ritual slaughter and the handling or other preparation of livestock for ritual slaughter are exempted from the terms of ss. 828.22-828.26. For the purposes of this action the term “ritual slaughter” means slaughter in accordance with s. 828.23(3).

History.—s. 1, ch. 61-254; s. 37, ch. 2001-279.

828.23 Definitions; ss. 828.22-828.26.—As used in ss. 828.22-828.26, the following words shall have the meanings indicated:

(1) “Department” means the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

(2) “Person” means any individual, partnership, corporation, or association doing business in this state, in whole or in part.

(3) “Slaughter” means the act of killing one or more livestock animals for any purpose.

(4) “Slaughterer” means any person other than a licensed veterinarian, or an employee of a humane society or animal control agency, who kills livestock.

(5) “Livestock” means cattle, calves, sheep, swine, horses, mules, goats, ostriches, rheas, emus, and any other domestic animal that can or may be used in the preparation of animal products. For the purposes of ss. 828.22-828.26, “livestock” does not include poultry and aquatic species.

(6) “Humane method” means:

(a) A method whereby the animal is rapidly and effectively rendered insensitive to pain by electrical or chemical means or by a penetrating captive bolt or gunshot with appropriate caliber and placement; or

(b) A method in accordance with ritual requirements of any religious faith whereby the animal suffers loss of consciousness by anemia of the brain caused by the simultaneous and instantaneous severance of the carotid arteries with a sharp instrument.

History.—s. 1, ch. 61-254; ss. 14, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 282, ch. 71-377; s. 4, ch. 92-206; s. 38, ch. 2001-279.

828.24 Prohibited acts; exemption.—

- (1) No person shall kill an animal in any way except by an approved humane method.
- (2) No person shall shackle or hoist with intent to kill any animal prior to rendering the animal insensitive to pain.
- (3) Nothing in this section precludes the enforcement of s. 828.12 relating to cruelty to animals.

History.—s. 1, ch. 61-254; ss. 14, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 241, ch. 77-104; s. 39, ch. 2001-279; s. 2, ch. 2002-51.

828.26 Penalties.—

- (1) Any person who violates the provisions of ss. 828.22-828.26 and any rule associated with these sections shall be subject to an administrative fine of up to \$10,000 for each violation.
- (2) Unless otherwise provided, any person who violates any provision of ss. 828.22-828.26 commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (3) Nothing in this section precludes the enforcement of s. 828.12, relating to cruelty to animals.

History.—s. 1, ch. 61-254; ss. 14, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 958, ch. 71-136; s. 43, ch. 2001-279; s. 2, ch. 2002-51.

The 2017 Florida Statutes

Title
XLVI
CRIMES

Chapter 828
ANIMALS: CRUELTY; SALES; ANIMAL ENTERPRISE
PROTECTION

[View Entire
Chapter](#)

828.12 Cruelty to animals.—

(1) A person who unnecessarily overloads, overdrives, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance or shelter, or unnecessarily mutilates, or kills any animal, or causes the same to be done, or carries in or upon any vehicle, or otherwise, any animal in a cruel or inhumane manner, commits animal cruelty, a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both.

(2) A person who intentionally commits an act to any animal, or a person who owns or has the custody or control of any animal and fails to act, which results in the cruel death, or excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering, or causes the same to be done, commits aggravated animal cruelty, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

(a) A person convicted of a violation of this subsection, where the finder of fact determines that the violation includes the knowing and intentional torture or torment of an animal that injures, mutilates, or kills the animal, shall be ordered to pay a minimum mandatory fine of \$2,500 and undergo psychological counseling or complete an anger management treatment program.

(b) A person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this subsection shall be required to pay a minimum mandatory fine of \$5,000 and serve a minimum mandatory period of incarceration of 6 months. In addition, the person shall be released only upon expiration of sentence, is not eligible for parole, control release, or any form of early release, and must serve 100 percent of the court-imposed sentence. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for purposes of this subsection.

(3) A person who commits multiple acts of animal cruelty or aggravated animal cruelty against an animal may be charged with a separate offense for each such act. A person who commits animal cruelty or aggravated animal cruelty against more than one animal may be charged with a separate offense for each animal such cruelty was committed upon.

(4) A veterinarian licensed to practice in the state shall be held harmless from either criminal or civil liability for any decisions made or services rendered under the provisions of this section. Such a veterinarian is, therefore, under this subsection, immune from a lawsuit for his or her part in an investigation of cruelty to animals.

(5) A person who intentionally trips, fells, ropes, or lassos the legs of a horse by any means for the purpose of entertainment or sport shall be guilty of a third degree felony, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. As used in this subsection, "trip" means any act that consists of the use of any wire, pole, stick, rope, or other apparatus to cause a horse to fall or lose its balance, and "horse" means any animal of any registered breed of the genus *Equus*, or any recognized hybrid thereof. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply when tripping is used:

828.13 Confinement of animals without sufficient food, water, or exercise; abandonment of animals.—

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) “Abandon” means to forsake an animal entirely or to neglect or refuse to provide or perform the legal obligations for care and support of an animal by its owner.
 - (b) “Owner” includes any owner, custodian, or other person in charge of an animal.
- (2) Whoever:
 - (a) Impounds or confines any animal in any place and fails to supply the animal during such confinement with a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome food and water,
 - (b) Keeps any animals in any enclosure without wholesome exercise and change of air, or
 - (c) Abandons to die any animal that is maimed, sick, infirm, or diseased,

is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both imprisonment and a fine.

(3) Any person who is the owner or possessor, or has charge or custody, of any animal who abandons such animal to suffer injury or malnutrition or abandons any animal in a street, road, or public place without providing for the care, sustenance, protection, and shelter of such animal is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both imprisonment and a fine.

History.—ss. 2, 4, ch. 3921, 1889; RS 2510; GS 3396; RGS 5245; CGL 7364; s. 950, ch. 71-136; s. 1, ch. 81-17; s. 3, ch. 82-116; s. 203, ch. 91-224.

PHOTOGRAPHS























SWORN STATEMENTS

ARM Investigator Sworn Statement

On December 23, 2017 at approximately 12:00 pm, I, Noberto delaPaz, and Rodrigo Mello entered an illegal slaughterhouse named Rancho Anthony Ramon located at 7300 Eastwood Acres Rd, Ft. Myers FL. The sign outside the property stated Rancho Anthony and Roman, and the sign advertised that there were animals for sale. We arrived at the property working in an undercover capacity for the Animal Recovery Mission posing as customers and attempting to purchase an animal for slaughter

Upon entering the property, there was already 20-30 customers with people of all ages including many children. Animal parts were scattered everywhere, with blood covering the floors. A worker asked what I needed, and I told them I was looking to buy a goat. He then walked to the office and asked the owner for the pricing, which he came back to report was \$220 for the goat butchered and cleaned. The worker took a knife to the goat's neck, slicing it five time, and then drilled holes in the back of both legs to hang the goat. As the goat was lifted to be hung upside down, the goat was still showing signs of life and spins himself to try to get free. The goat took approximately four minutes to die from the cut on the neck to the goat stopping movement on the hook. At 2:15pm, I then witnessed a worker shoot a pig in the head with a .22 rifle, which seemed to have little effect. The worker then used a hook to snare and pull the pig to the butcher area, with it thrashing and still alive. The pig continued to kicking and squeal while being dragged past the customers, including parents and children. The pig took 3 minutes to die.

Before leaving the property, we purchased a live duck for \$30. The workers loaded the goat into our truck, and gave us the live duck, and we exited the property. The above described incident was recorded with several hidden surveillance cameras.

I, (PRINT NAME) [REDACTED] present the foregoing statement/document, consisting of 1 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 7th day of March, 2018, by

[REDACTED], who is personally known to me or who has produced [REDACTED] identification.

Witness Signature

3-7-18

Date

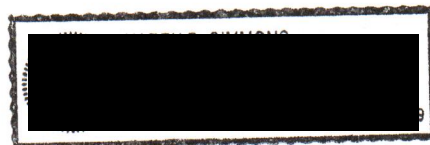
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Time

Notary Public, State of Florida

Type/Printed Name of Notary

COPY



ARM Investigator Sworn Statement

On December 23, 2017 at or around 1:30pm, I, [REDACTED] visited Rancho Anthony Roman, located at 7300 Eastwood Acres Rd, Ft. Myers FL. The sign outside the property advertised a business for Rancho Anthony and Roman, and the sign also stated that there are animals for sale. I arrived at the property working in an undercover capacity for the Animal Recovery Mission posing as customers and attempting to purchase an animal for slaughter.

Upon arriving to the property, I accompanied a customer to the back of the property where he picked out a small pig. The employee attempted to shoot the pig but missed the headshot, so he proceeded to stab the animal in the neck and chest area, stabbing mostly out of frustration. It was stabbed multiple times and dragged with a hook through the mouth. The pig was still alive while being dragged.

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

COPY

I, (PRINT NAME) [REDACTED] present the foregoing statement/document, consisting of 1 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 7 day of March, 2018, by

[REDACTED], who is personally known to me or who has produced
[REDACTED] identification.

[REDACTED]
Witness Signature

Date

Time

[REDACTED]
Notary Public, State of Florida

[REDACTED]
Type/Printed Name of Notary



ARM Investigator Sworn Statement

COPY

On December 23 2017, between 12pm and 330pm, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and myself traveled to Lee County to investigate the illegal slaughtering of animals. Multiple farms were entered on this date. We arrived at the property working in an undercover capacity for the Animal Recovery Mission posing as customers and attempting to purchase an animal for slaughter.

When we arrived at Rancho Anthony & Roman (7300 Eastwood Acres Rd, For Myers, FL 33905) we observed several customers on the property. This was one of the busier days I observed while investigating this slaughter farm. Once you are on the property, you are able to walk freely and choose what animal you would like slaughtered. While walking around, I noticed that all of the holding pig enclosures contained no food or water.

On this date, I observed several animals being slaughtered. Pigs were shot in the head with a small caliber rifle with the exception of one pig. Every pig shot is not killed instantly. On multiple occasions an employee would shoot a pig from several feet away and at times only graze the pig in the head with a .22 caliber round. The pig would not fall to the ground and the employee would have to then stab the pig in the chest/neck area. During this process, the pig would scream in pain and show obvious signs of life for several minutes. At times, while the pig is still alive (kicking and moving), the employee would place a gaff hook into the pigs face and drag it to the slaughter area.

All goats and sheep purchased for slaughter were not made insensible to pain either by gun shot or electronic device. An employee (hispanic male, approx. 5'9" and approx. 22 yoa), was observed on multiple occasions, slicing into the goats neck and allowing it to bleed out. The goats would show clear signs of life for several minutes as they struggled for their life. Slits were made into their hind legs so they could be hoisted into the air. While the goat/sheep are hoisted in the air, they begin to kick and rotate showing clear signs of life as they continued to bleed out. One sheep was again cut with a knife in the neck by an employee as it hung in the air due to it still being alive. Multiple goat kills were conducted in the presence of Roman Hernandez, who is the owner of the slaughter farm. At one point, one of the goat kills utilizing only a knife, was conducted directly in front of him (approx. 2 feet away) as he sat in a chair watching. At

(P)

no time did he try and correct his employees actions. It should be noted that rifles were readily available for use.

The above described incidents were recorded with several hidden surveillance cameras.

I, (PRINT NAME) [REDACTED] present the foregoing statement/document, consisting of 2 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 7 day of March, 2018, by [REDACTED], who is personally known to me or who has produced [REDACTED] identification.

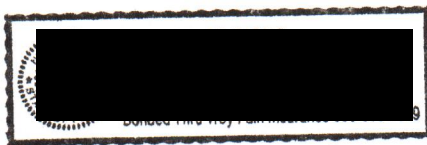
[REDACTED]
Witness Signature

03.07.18
Date

3:20 pm
Time

[REDACTED]
Notary Public, State of Florida

[REDACTED]
Type/Printed Name of Notary



COPY

ARM investigative Sworn Statement

On February 16, 2018 at approximately 1:00 pm, I, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] entered an illegal slaughterhouse named Rancho Antony Ramon located at 7300 Eastwood Acres Rd, Ft. Myers FL. The sign outside the property stated Rancho Anthony and Roman, and the sign advertised that there were animals for sale. I arrived at the property working in an undercover capacity for the Animal Recovery Mission posing as customers and attempting to purchase an animal for slaughter.

After I went into the property I met with a Spanish worker. I told the worker I would like to buy a goat, and he instructed me to pick one out. I then saw the worker drag the goat to a golf cart and get loaded in. Once at the butcher area, the owner held a .22 rifle to the top of the goat's head while a worker held the goats horns, and shot it in the head. The goat was then cut in the throat by the worker, while still showing signs of life. The owner then turned and urinated in the butcher area after shooting the goat.

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

I, (PRINT NAME) [REDACTED] present the foregoing statement/document, consisting of 1 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 7 day of March, 2018, by [REDACTED], who is personally known to me or who has produced [REDACTED] identification.

[REDACTED]
Witness Signature

3-7-18
Date

3:36
Time

[REDACTED]
Notary Public, State of Florida

[REDACTED]
Type/Printed Name of Notary



COPY

ARM Investigator Sworn Statement

On Feb. 16th 2018, at approximately 1pm [REDACTED] and myself arrived at 7300 Eastwood Acres Rd, Ft. Myers FL. The sign outside the property states Rancho Anthony and Roman. The sign also stated that there are animals for sale. We arrived at the property working in an undercover capacity for the Animal Recovery Mission posing as customers and attempting to purchase an animal for slaughter.

On the above date and time we were invited onto the property and asked what type of animal we wanted to purchase. After speaking to a hispanic male we selected a goat for slaughter. The employee grabbed the goat from within the enclosed animal holding area and took him to the slaughter area which is located to the rear of the property.

I maintained visual contact of the employee throughout the entire process described above. At this point, business owner Roman Hernandez was present and with the other employee. Roman Hernandez retrieved a .22 caliber rifle and held it to the goats head. Once shot, the goat fell to the ground but continued to struggle. The employee then cut into the goats neck as it continued to move around. It kicked and moved for several minutes. During this time, Roman turned around and urinated right next to the goat. Roman was approximately 2 feet away from the animal as he urinated. After the goat was slaughtered, a cash payment was made to the employee.

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

I, (PRINT NAME) [REDACTED] present the foregoing statement/document, consisting of 1 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 7 day of March, 2018, by
[REDACTED] who is personally known to me or who has produced
[REDACTED] identification.

[REDACTED]
Witness Signature

03-07-18
Date

3:20 pm
Time

[REDACTED]
Notary Public, State of Florida

[REDACTED]
Type/Printed Name of Notary

COPY

