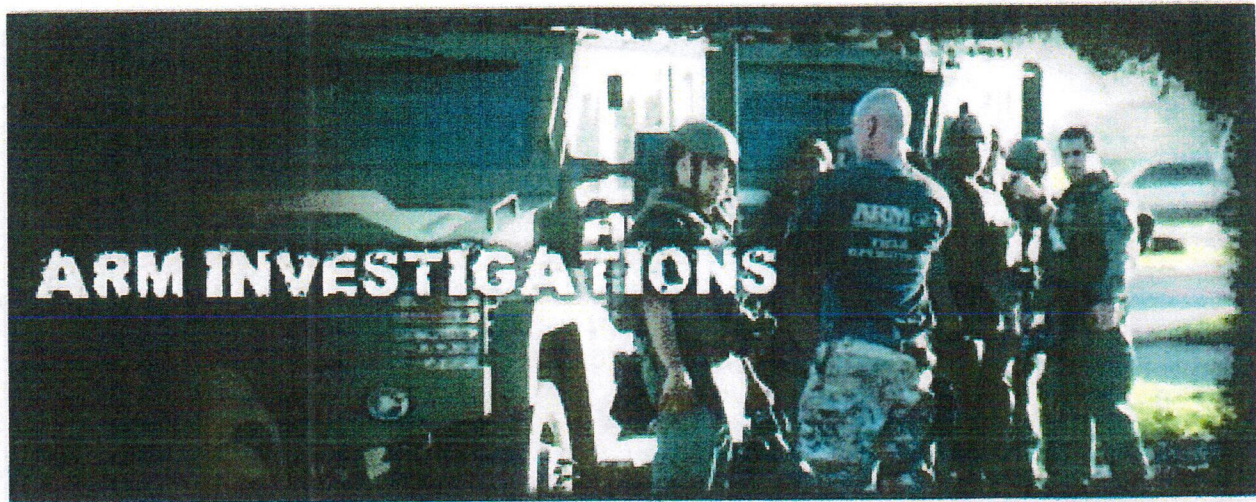


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# ANIMAL RECOVERY MISSION



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 Okeechobee Florida-known as Larson Dairy.

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## SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION



On February 28th 2018 at approximately 130pm the Animal Recovery Mission travelled to 7161 Eastwood Acres Rd, Ft. Myers FL. On this date, an ARM Investigator arrived at Rancho Las Delicias posing as a customer in order to purchase an animal for slaughter. When the investigator arrived, he immediately noticed that the business sign (Rancho Las Delicias) had been removed from the front of the property. At this time there are no identifying signs displaying the above property as a business.

As the investigator approached the residence located on the property, a hispanic male, who identified himself as Osmani, exited the front door of the residence. After making contact, Osmani called Aymee Mesa (business owner) on the phone and received permission to slaughter an animal for the ARM Investigator. Prior to slaughtering the selected goat, Osmani walked to the front gate and closed it so no one else could enter the property. During the time the investigator was on the property, it was immediately apparent that the property was not acting as a business. It appeared that the workers on the property were attempting to hide the process of slaughtering an animal from any other individual who be entering the property.

Once permission was given to choose an animal, the ARM Investigator is allowed to walk freely around the property so that an animal can be chosen for slaughter.

The ARM Investigator chose a goat to be slaughtered for it's meat. Osmani grabbed the goat by it's facial hair and forcibly dragged it to the slaughter barn. During this process, the goat showed obvious signs of discomfort by attempting to flee and screaming. While dragging the goat through the cantina, Osmani stopped and grabbed a hunting bow knife. It should be

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noted that next to the knife were firearms readily available. Once inside the slaughter barn, Osmani slammed the goat to the ground and stepped on it. Osmani used the blade of the knife to saw into the goats neck. At no time did Osmani attempt to make the goat insensible to pain by utilizing a gun shot or electronic device. Osmani cut into it's neck and allowed the goat to bleed out and struggle for it's life. The goat made loud screams as it laid on the ground bleeding out and showing signs of life for several minutes. When Osmani used a hose to clean the goat, it began to thrash and again show signs of life. Osmani then cut slits into the hind legs of the goat and began to hoist it. When the occurred, the goat again began to show signs of life by moving it's legs and raising it's head.

During the skinning process, Osmani made jokes and laughed pertaining to the obvious signs of pain the goat was displaying. The goat showed signs of life for approximately four minutes and far into the skinning process. After the goat was slaughtered, The Arm Investigator called Aymee Mesa on the phone to verify the \$280 slaughter cost. The ARM Investigator then made a cash payment to Osmani.

As with other slaughter farms located on Eastwood Acres Rd, at no time has this property adhered to the Humane Slaughter Act. Employees continue to allow needless suffering of all animals to occur on the property. Animals slaughtered for their meat are never rendered insensitive to pain and show clear signs of life and struggle after the initial lethal knife wound.

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 7th day of March, 2018, by [REDACTED], who is personally known to me or who has produced [REDACTED] identification.

Witness Signature [REDACTED]

Date

Time

Notary Public, State of Florida

Type/Printed Name of Notary



# LOCATION



Rancho Santa Barbara

Eastwood Acres Rd

Las Delicias Ranch

© 2016 Google

Buckingham Rd



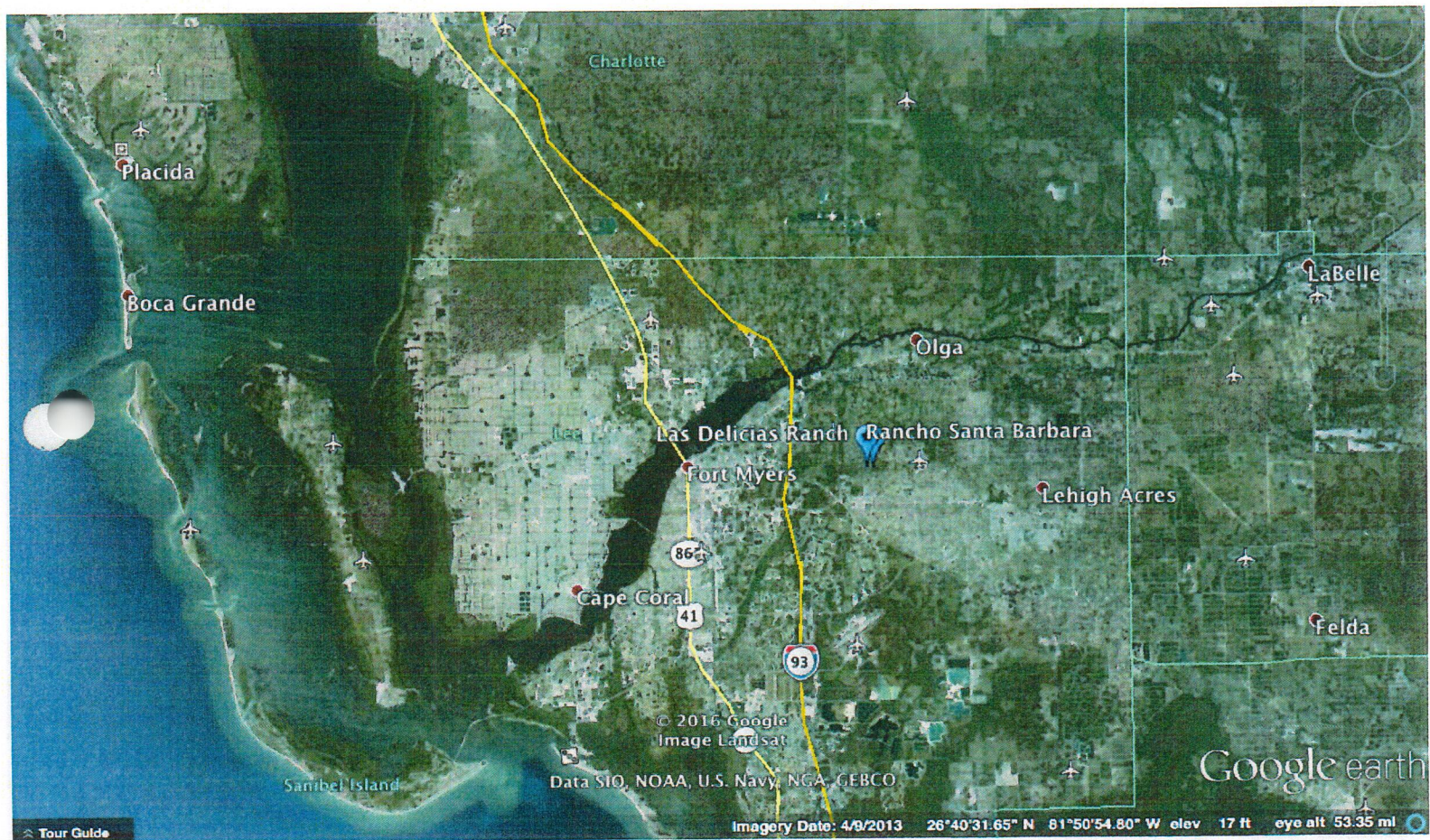




Las Delicias Ranch

Eastwood Acres Rd











# REFERENCES



# The 2017 Florida Statutes

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[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.



**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.

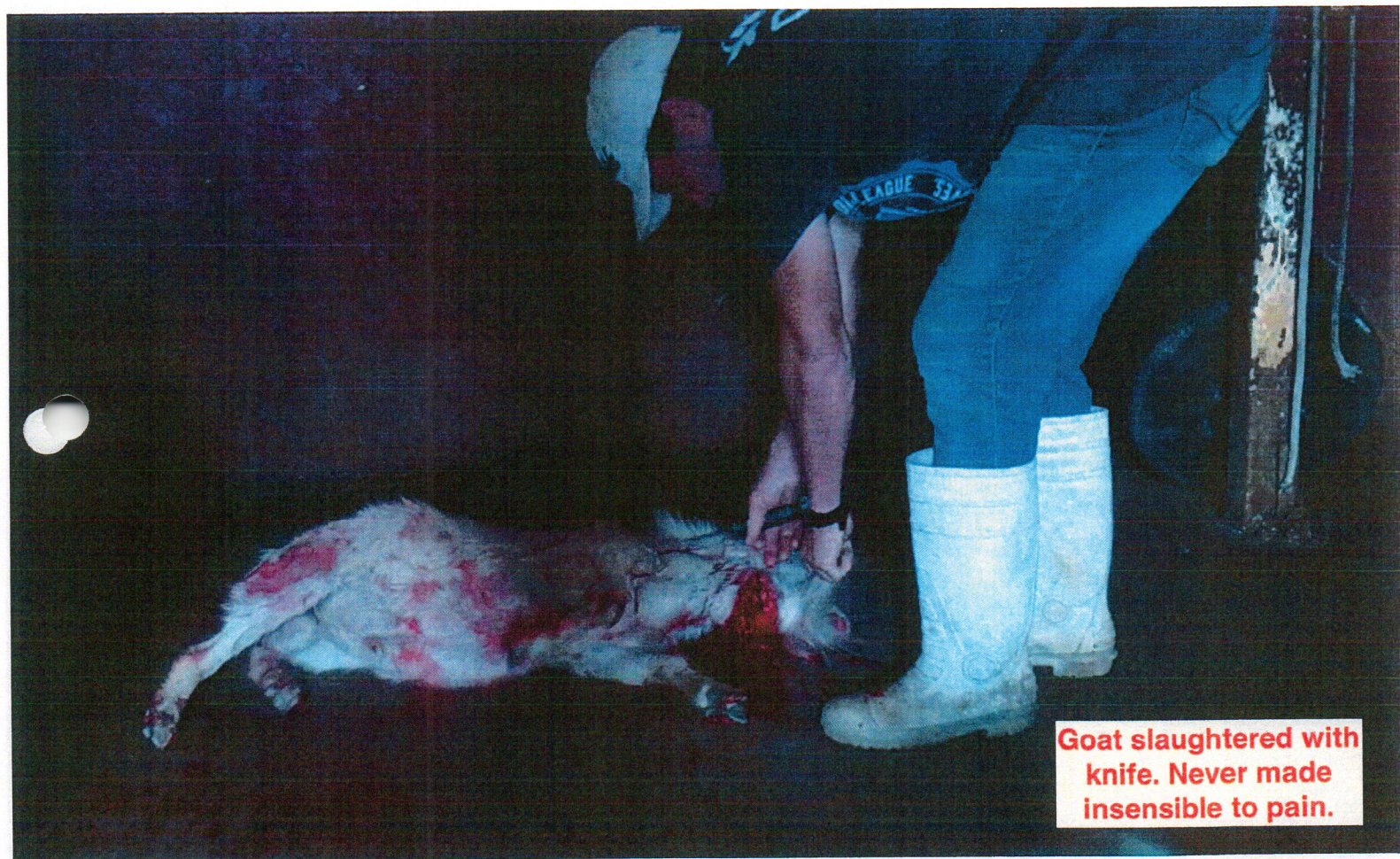


# **PHOTOGRAPHS**



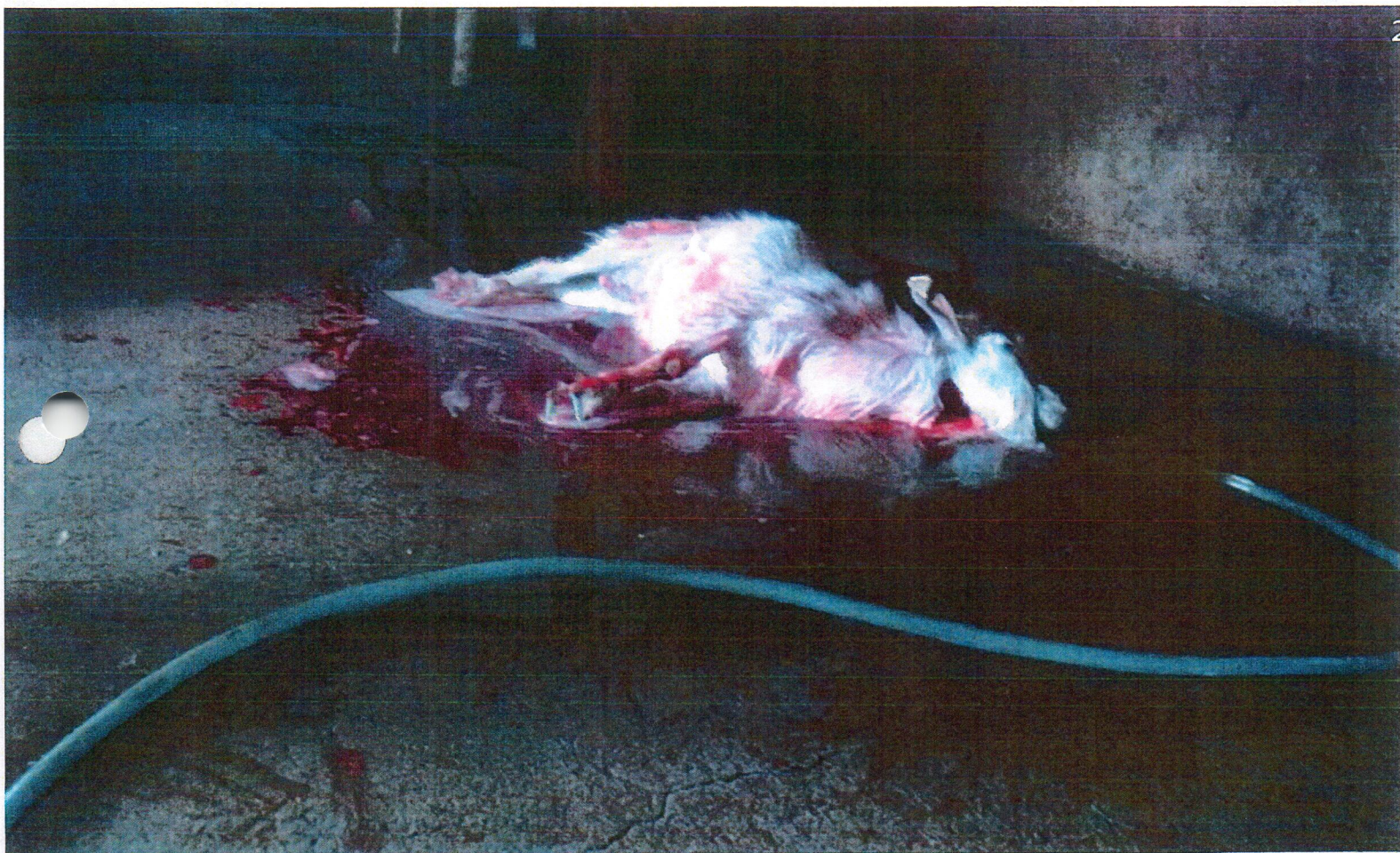






**Goat slaughtered with  
knife. Never made  
insensible to pain.**

















**Grabbing knife to conduct slaughter. No firearm used.**















# **SWORN STATEMENTS**



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I, (PRINT NAME) Richard Coto 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<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018, by

Richard Martin Coto, who is personally known to me or who has produced Florida ID as identification.

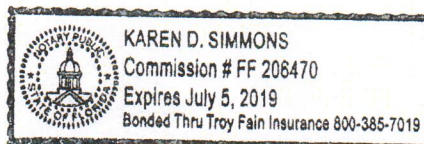
[Signature]  
Witness Signature

3-7-2018  
Date

3:47  
Time

[Signature]  
Notary Public, State of Florida

Karen D. Simmons  
Type/Printed Name of Notary



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