
VETERINARY REPORT

Operation "Rancho Delicias" – ARM investigations

Feb 29th, 2016

Evaluation of undercover footage: videos presented by ARM.

The AVMA approved euthanasia guidelines state the "importance of the use of humane techniques to induce the most rapid and painless and distress-free death possible" and the "ability to induce loss of consciousness and death with a minimum of pain and distress". These guidelines also clearly mention that "exsanguination can be used to ensure death subsequent to stunning but the animals have to be unconscious and non sensitive to pain, which is clearly not the situation seen in the undercover images at this location."

We have several examples of inappropriate methods of euthanasia performed at this location. All of them are unnecessary, inhumane and increase suffering to the animals. Any method of euthanasia performed with no respect to the approved guidelines is considered illegal.


Aug 27, 2015

Case #1: 1 pig was stunned and did not instantly lose consciousness and is seen clearly reacting after being stabbed (exsanguination) because he was still sensitive.

Case #2: 1 chicken is seen with incomplete cut of the throat and main vessels and therefore remained alive for a longer (unnecessary) period of time

Dec 23, 2015

Case #3, 4, 5 and #6: 4 pigs shown separately, being stunned and immediately stabbed without being properly desensitized and showing clear reaction to the penetration of the knife. Which means that the desensitization was not done properly and therefore they were exposed to unnecessary suffering.



Case #7: 1 Sheep not completely desensitized and reacting to stabbing.

Case #8: Rabbit was strongly hit by the blade of a knife while still alive. Even if done correctly, which is not the case, the technique of applying blunt force trauma to the head is not an approved method of euthanasia for an adult rabbit and the use of it in this case caused unnecessary stress and suffering to the animal.

The AVMA guidelines for euthanasia state: "Manually applied blunt force trauma to the head can be a humane method of euthanasia for neonatal animals with thin craniums if a single sharp blow delivered to the central skull bones with sufficient force can produce immediate depression of the CNS and destruction of brain tissue. When properly performed, loss of consciousness is rapid.

Case #9: 7 Chickens are seen at different moments being brought to a holding area, put in a barrel to lately be grabbed and have their throats sliced while completely awake. According to guidelines "exsanguination of a conscious bird is an unacceptable method of euthanasia, unless they are fully anesthetized or otherwise unconscious". These birds should have been unconscious thru a correctly done cervical dislocation before being bled.

Case #10: 1 pig is seen moving, already bleeding and having acute movement for a very long (abnormal) period of time demonstrating an incorrect process of euthanasia and prolonged suffering.

Case #11: 1 pig was stunned without instantly losing consciousness and is seen clearly reacting to being stabbed (exsanguination) because he was still sensitive.

Case #12: Sheep is seen being stabbed on the leg to expose the tendon used to hang them for the skinning process, while still sensitive and reacting to it. This is inhumane and should never be performed while the animal is conscious.

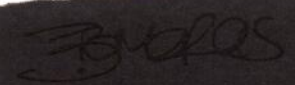
Case #13 and #14: 2 Pigs in same area showed being stunned and then stabbed. Both had clear reactions to the puncture by the knife showing they were not fully desensitized.

Jan 29, 2016

Case #15: 1 juvenile cow is shown being brought to a separate area, secured with a rope that was being hold by an individual and then shot by another at a short distance. The cow falls immediately and the throat is cut. A couple of minutes later handlers start to skin the cow and at that point the animal is clearly responding to stimuli, showing that the cow is being skinned while still sensitive! The ammunition used for this animal was most likely not appropriate to cause immediate unconsciousness and the cow should have never been skinned while still sensitive.

Conclusion

It is my understanding that these handlers are not using appropriate methods of euthanasia and they are not concerned with animal well being. According to guidelines, a properly placed gunshot has to cause **immediate** insensibility to the animal, decreasing suffering. That is clearly not happening in this situation.


Barbara Tomaras, DVM
license# VM1835
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(305) 330-4429

exoticcareinfo@gmail.com