



3 arrested in raid of suspected illegal slaughterhouse in Loxahatchee Groves



From left to right: Ricardo Cabrera, Chico Allen Cabrera, Roberto Llorente (PBSO)

LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, Fla. (CBS12) —

****Warning-story contains graphic content and may be unsuitable for some eyes.****

Investigators with the Animal Recovery Mission said the torture its undercover investigators witnessed at a farm in Loxahatchee Groves is second to none.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office arrested three people in connection to an **illegal slaughterhouse investigation**. They arrested Ricardo Cabrera, 57, Chico Allen Cabrera, 29, and Roberto Llorente, 65. Their charges include felony cruelty to animals, conspiracy to commit felony cruelty to animals, kill animals inhumane methods, conspiracy to commit killing animals inhumane methods and cruelty to animals.

ARM identified the farm as the Cabrera Farm on 43rd Road North.

Richard Cuoto with ARM said two of his members went undercover posing as customers to expose the abuse for several months.

“This is a very extremely violent illegal slaughterhouse that we basically received a tip on of their brutality of animals for human consumption and ritualistic sacrifice. Selling animals for Santeria, black magic, and voodoo,” Cuoto said.

In the video given to us by ARM, chickens, goats, pigs, and sheep can be seen being butchered alive.

“They were putting meat hook holes un-stunned in goats and sheep legs, hanging them from meat hooks alive,” Cuoto said. “Letting them struggle and then stab them to death and slowly sawing off their heads.”

Cuoto claims the butcherings were in violation of the Humane Slaughter Act.

“We are looking at roughly anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000 animals a week being butchered alive on sight, and this property has been up and running for decades, so do the math,” Cuoto said.

The meat was then distributed to restaurants and businesses throughout South Florida, often being brought to restaurants, boat yards and other businesses.

Cuoto said the farm violated many USDA food safety protocols and the meat could've made people very sick.

“People have been eating toxic, diseased, unsanitary meat, not knowing it from Cabrera,” Cuto said.

Cuto said the farm will now be shut down for good.

He said the farm had six employees and is hopeful there will be more arrests.