



Investigators say illegal slaughterhouses are prevalent.

by Al Pefley



LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, Fla. (CBS12) — The neighborhood is buzzing one day after what authorities say was an [illegal slaughterhouse](#) in Loxahatchee Groves.

Neighbors take a dim view of the suspected illegal slaughterhouse operation.

Some said it sickens them.

“It’s a travesty, especially for anyone that loves animals,” resident Cathy Giliberti said.

Giliberti is a horse owner who lives not far from the property at 15729 43rd Road North that investigators raided on Thursday.

She hopes law enforcement keeps up the pressure.

“People are afraid to come forward. We know that there are more,” Giliberti said.

According to investigators with Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)—a non-profit group based in Miami Beach that investigates alleged animal cruelty — their undercover staff observed and got video of what they describe as the inhumane slaughtering of chickens, goats, pigs and sheep, saying it amounted to torture and excruciating pain for the animals.

On Friday, 24 hours after the raid, the farm appeared to be mostly quiet.

CBS12 News knocked on the door, but didn’t get very far.

“Hello,” CBS12 reporter Al Pefley said.

“Yes,” said a woman who came to the door.

“I’m a reporter from... Get the f--- off my property,” the woman said as she went back inside and slammed the door.

Hundreds of chickens seized in the raid are now at Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control. A spokeswoman for ARM says these illegal slaughterhouses are very prevalent.

“There are hundreds, hundreds of these illegal slaughterhouses, there’s, especially in Florida,” said Tracy Horton, Animal Recovery Mission director of political affairs. “It’s devastating, it’s disturbing.”

