



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 27, 2018

LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST ILLEGAL SLAUGHTER FARMS IN LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR VIOLATING STATE ANIMAL CRUELTY AND SLAUGHTER LAWS.

FORT MYERS, FL - Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) announced that Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) along with Foley & Mansfield, Miami Florida, filed a nuisance lawsuit on July 26, 2018, to shut down black market backyard slaughter operations in Lee County, just outside of Fort Myers, Florida for violating state animal cruelty and slaughter laws.

In July of 2015, ARM received information regarding the torture and slaughtering of numerous animals for human consumption by an anonymous person. ARM immediately launched an investigation into the incident that eventually led them to identify several operators and owners of these illegal slaughterhouses. The undercover operation revealed Rancho Delicias, Rancho Cabrera, Rancho Santa Barbara and Anthony & Roman's Farm as running an illegal slaughterhouse where unsafe meat was butchered in filthy conditions before being sold to the public.

The shocking abuse, which depicted several owners and operators slicing into animals throats, violently stabbing, contorting and snapping animals spinal cords, skinning and boiling them alive causing the most excruciating pain and suffering ever witnessed. Many animals left without food or water were forced to drink the blood that saturated the ground of their torture chambers from other sick and slaughtered animals. Despite ARM taking steps in providing the evidence described above, Lee County Sheriff's Office, as well as State Attorney Amira Fox's Office, were unwilling to enforce state animal cruelty and slaughter laws by prosecuting or arresting known abusers.

"These backyard slaughter operations torture and illegally slaughter animals, including pigs, goats, horses, and chickens, and then sell the meat to the public," says Animal Legal Defense Fund Executive Director Stephen Wells. "The horrific cruelty occurring at the slaughter operations is an affront to compassionate Florida residents who demand that their state laws be enforced."

"Due to the lack of protection and justice shown to the animals by County and State Officials, ARM has teamed with ALDF and Foley & Mansfield," stated Richard "Kudo" Couto Founder of Animal Recovery Mission. He added, "We are hopeful through these added lawsuits justice will prevail to the animals of the up and running, illegal slaughter farms."

The Animal Recovery Mission is a Non-Profit animal cruelty investigative organization based in Miami Beach, Florida. ARM's mission is to be an uncompromising defending force for the welfare of animals in addition to putting an end to and preventing pain, suffering, and torture inflicted as a result of inhumane practices.

A copy of the complaint is available upon request at aldf.org or <http://bit.ly/2LnLd2C>. Media inquiries should be directed to Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) Natalia Lima, at 201-679-7088, nlima@aldf.org and or Animal Recovery Mission (ARM), Richard "Kudo" Couto, at 305-494-2225, kudo@arminvestigations.org or info@arminvestigations.org.

For additional information, photos, and video footage, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2NK8yID>
Animal Recovery Mission (ARM Investigations) PO Box 403344 Miami Beach, FL 33140
www.animalrecoverymission.org