OPERATION GENESIS
ILLEGAL SLAUGHTERHOUSE DEALING IN THE INHUMANE KILLING OF ANIMALS, ANIMAL FIGHTING, NARCOTICS, GUNS AND HORSE MEAT

Presented By: Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)

A VANGUARD DEFENSE ORGANIZATION

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The Animal Recovery Mission (ARM), is a vanguard investigative animal welfare organization that was developed in 2010 by Richard Couto, shortly after he was exposed to one of Miami's darkest and most brutal animal cruelty operations. Upon this discovery of illegal animal slaughter farms and the black market horse meat trade, Couto, also known as ‘Kudo,’ invoked his vision of exposing and implementing solutions for extreme criminal acts towards animals into reality and created an unstoppable team who are dedicated to our organizations cause.

ARM Investigations has been carefully constructed as a direct-action organization. We conduct innovative investigative tactics to gather compelling evidence. ARM collaborates with local law enforcement, State attorneys, environmental protection agencies and The Animal Legal Defense Fund to produce concrete evidence to put an end to criminal acts involving animal torture.

ARM has since become the foremost expert organization in illegal horse slaughter. We specialize in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States. Our investigations, however, are not limited to slaughter farms as we are also actively investigating the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, underground animal fighting rings, fox & coyote penning games, and bear bile farms, to name a few, as well as the preservation of Wild Mustangs.

Succeeding in our investigations and exposing the truth as well as the eradication of these illegal practices have produced life changing results and permanent solutions. ARM's goals and vision is to constantly strive to raise the bar for the welfare of animals and to prevent and reduce their pain, fear and suffering.

As an organization we strive to be the defending force for destitute animals and to make significant improvements in how they are treated by exposing the truth, implementing laws to protect and educating the public on these illegal and barbaric practices. ARM prides it self on taking up the challenges that no one else will.

Our 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.
During this investigation, ARM investigators were able to obtain evidence of animals inhumanely slaughtered, contraband sales, horse meat, animal fighting, narcotics, and guns.

ARM Investigators discovered an illegally operated slaughter farm within the C9 Basin. The slaughter far was located at 13600 NW 178th St, Hialeah FL 33018, from now on referred to as "Location 1". There were no posted signs or marking near the property to show that it was an active business. The slaughter farm was located NW 178th St on the Northside of the road, and the property was enclosed by a chain-link fence with a black tarp to mark the presence of the farm. This slaughter farm later moved 13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196, from now on referred to as "Location 2". It was located about 39 (29.2 Miles) minutes south off of State Road 997 AKA Krome Avenue. A third location visited during this investigation was Northwood Apartments situated in 1055 W 68th Street, Hialeah, FL 33014, from now on referred to as "Location 3".

Location Addresses :
- Location 1 - 13600 NW 178th St, Hialeah FL 33018 (Google Maps Address)
  13920 NW 182nd St, Hialeah FL 33018 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)
- Location 2 - 13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196 Google Maps Address)
  13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)
- Location 3 - 1055 W 68th Street, Hialeah, FL 33014 (Google Maps Address)
  1035 W 68 ST, Hialeah, FL 33014 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)
Operation Genesis "Location 1" is in the C9 Basin. It has been the primary source of horse carcasses and butchered remains dumping in the C9 Basin, which has been investigated by ARM and Miami-Dade Law Enforcement. ARM investigators have found multiple horse carcasses and butchered remains near this location. Local and national media have highlighted many of these finds. After Operation Genesis moved to "Location 2", no horse carcasses and butchered remains have been spotted in the C9 Basin.

Operation Genesis is not only selling horse meat in Miami-Dade (which ARM purchased for evidence purposes) but that they are also breaking into properties, stealing and butchering people's horses. There is also a link between Operation Genesis and the West Coast Florida horse killings.

On December 23, 2018, at approximately 230 pm, ARM investigators posing as customers entered "Location 1" through an open gate and made contact with a Hispanic male, the Hispanic male identified himself as Sergio, the farm owner. Investigators observed multiple animals on the property. There were also approximately 15 customers gathered in the fenced-in lot waiting to purchase an animal to slaughter. Costumer and workers alike were consuming alcohol.

Investigators walked throughout the property and observed several pigs living within a small wooden enclosure. On the West end of the property, there was a large fenced area containing multiple cows, sheep, and one horse. Animals appear to be sick and malnourished.

Investigators, acting as customers, spoke to Sergio and picked out one pig to be slaughtered. Sergio explained that it would be approximately 45 min until he could get their pig. In the meantime, investigators observed several animals being slaughtered for other customers.

Sergio and his workers slaughtered nine animals (one cow and eight pigs) in front of investigators, and at no time did employees attempt to make the animals insensible to pain as defined in the humane slaughter act either by gunshot or electric prod. The workers tied a small cow to a fence post. A Hispanic male pulled its tale back so that its neck could be exposed and to restrict its movement. A second Hispanic male used a knife to slice into the neck of the cow. The cow then began to struggle for its life by moving inward and outward. The cow showed clear signs of life for approximately 7 min.

The eight pigs the investigators witnessed being killed, including the one purchased by them on this date, were all killed in the same manner. An unknown Hispanic male, and the owner (Sergio), entered into the pigpen with a knife. After capturing the pigs by hand, they would thrust the knife into the pig’s stomach or neck. They would then release the pig and allow it to run free within the pen as they grabbed the other pigs and continued the process.
On multiple occasions, the two males would have to catch a pig, which they had already stabbed and delivered a new stab to the stomach or neck area to kill the animals. Each time the pigs would scream in pain as they bled out.

On December 30, 2018, at approximately 130 pm, ARM investigators returned to the illegal slaughter farm on “Location 1” to purchase an additional animal for slaughter. On this date, there were only approximately four customers inside the property.

Investigators spoke to Sergio and requested a goat for slaughter. Sergio, along with another Hispanic male, entered into the large fenced-in area and retrieved a small goat. They carried the goat by lifting it by its horns and tail and moved the to the slaughter area behind the wooden pens. At this point, The goat exchanged hands to a third Hispanic employee.

The unknown Hispanic male used a large knife to cut into the neck of the goat. The goat immediately screamed in pain as the blade continued to slice into his throat. As the goat bled out on the ground, it showed clear signs of life as it continuously moved its legs and body. At no time did the Hispanic male attempt to make the goat insensible to pain.

On this date, investigators also witnessed the killing of an additional pig for a customer. An unknown Hispanic male retrieved a small pig from a white transport trailer and used a knife to cut into the neck of the pig. The pig screamed in pain and continued to show clear signs of life as it moved its body. At no time did the Hispanic male attempt to make the pig insensible to pain.

Costumers and workers were consuming alcohol, and Sergio offered cocaine to the ARM investigators.

On September 19, 2019, at approximately 1 pm, two ARM investigators posing as customers returned to “Location 1” to find a fighting rooster boarding facility, with around 30 roosters belonged to several costumers. There were also two horses, one cow, three large pigs, and approximately seven small pigs. An unidentified Hispanic male greeted the ARM operatives. He wore a bright green/yellow long sleeve shirt after this refereed to as “The Kid,” who was clearing greenery off the fence and cleaning/rearranging the rooster cages. “The Kid” showed pigs living in complete darkness on their feces to the ARM investigators. Sergio and The Kid confirmed animals are still being sold/slaughtered. The Kid tried to sell the ARM operatives .45 Caliber gun for around $500.

On this date, there were six people at “Location 1”. Sergio (the owner), The Kid (Sergio’s Worker), a previous customer, an unidentified male #1 working on a horse’s hooves, unidentified male #2 smoking a cigar who had his roosters boarding there, and unknown male #3 knows as Gallero Cubita who operates of another fighting rooster boarding/sparring/
On November 14, 2019, at approximately 130 pm, two ARM investigators posing as customers returned to "Location 1". We were greeted through the gate by an unidentified Hispanic male (UM #1) and The Kid, whom both look sweaty and had visible blood on their clothes and body, appearing to be in the middle of slaughtering an animal. The Kid called Sergio, who then spoke to one of the ARM investigators and confirmed the Thanksgiving sale of animals for slaughter. On this date, ARM investigators also found out "Location 1" would be moving to "Location 2" due to the "city" ordering "Location 1" to be vacated because the city discovered their fighting rooster boarding and breeding operation.

On the afternoon of November 23, 2019, two ARM investigators posing as customers returned to "Location 1" to find the place empty with burned down structures and no signs of animals. ARM investigators believed the slaughter farm had moved to "Location 2".

On the afternoon of December 23, 2019, two ARM investigators posing as customers went to "Location 2". Upon arriving, we met a beige gate. An ARM investigator called Sergio, a woman picked up (Sergio's wife) and instructed the investigators to slide the gate open and come in. There were about a dozen costumers gathered waiting to purchase an animal for slaughter.

There were also 3 or 4 (Check) workers, one of them being Sergio, the owner, and The Kid. Sergio was wearing a red shirt with a large white logo on the front. The costumers and workers were consuming alcohol. There was also what appeared to be contraband sales in the form of sneakers and fireworks. This property has two living quarters.

Investigators walked around the property and observed approximately 20 to 30 pigs and about a dozen sheep and goats, one cow, and three horses. The animals appeared to be sick and malnourished.

The small pigs were in two different trailers with no visible signs of food or water. One of the trailers had visible blood splatter on the inner walls, leading the ARM investigators to believe the killing took place inside. The other trailer had a small round hay bale feeder boarded with some plywood. The walls created by the plywood also had visible blood splatter, again leading ARM investigators to identify another kill site. Sergio kept the large pigs in a big chain-link cage located behind the only house on the property at the time in a cage.

The ARM operatives, acting as customers, spoke to Sergio and picked out one pig to be slaughtered. Sergio explained it would be a while. In the meantime, the investigators observed that workers kill other customers' animals. The workers killed four pigs in front of the investigators, and at no time did the workers attempt to make the pigs insensible to pain.
Also, the workers butchered one large cow in front of the investigators.

Sergio shot one large pig with a single shot of a .22 caliber rifle from outside the cage where the large pigs were. The pig was still alive when The Kid stabbed the pig in the neck with a knife. The Kid brought the pig to the butchering area located next to the house as it bled out.

The investigators witnessed the slaughter of three small pigs, including the one little pig purchased by them on this date, in the same manner. Sergio entered into the round hay bale feeder with a knife. After capturing the pigs by hand, Sergio would thrust the knife into the pig's neck. Sergio would then release the pig and allow it to run free within the small round hay bale feeder as he grabbed a different pig. On one occasion, Sergio grabbed a pig, which he had already stabbed and delivered a new stab. Afterward, Sergio let the pig run free throughout the property as it bled out. This one pig was roaming for approximately 10 minutes when The Kid went to it and delivered an additional third stab to the pig.

The investigators witness all four pigs screaming in pain as they were stabbed and bled out.

On the afternoon of December 30, 2019, one ARM investigators posing as customers returned to "Location 2". There were fewer people than on the previous visit on December 23, 2019. Sergio was wearing a red shirt with dark blue stripes and had one worker, an unidentified Hispanic male wearing an orange shirt and cowboy hat after this referred to as "The Cowboy." The Kid did not show up until later in the investigators' visit. Customers and workers were consuming alcohol, and children around the age of 10 to 15 were present.

The small pigs were in one trailer, and the trailer with the little round hay bale feeder was unused. The larger pigs were in a makeshift pen to the left of the house, in front of a fence.

The ARM operatives, acting as customers, spoke to Sergio and picked out one sheep to be slaughtered. The investigator observed the slaughter of other customers' orders. The workers killed four animals (two pigs and one sheep) in front of the investigator and at no time were the animals made insensible to pain. The Cowboy killed two large pigs, in the same manner, Sergio killed the pigs on December 23, 2019. The Cowboy entered the makeshift pen with a knife. After capturing the pig, he thrust the knife into the pig's neck. The Cowboy would then release the pig, and the pig would thrash around the muddy wet ground, blood and mud thrashing everywhere.

The investigator heard what appeared to be the slaughter of one small pig, as the little pig screamed. Whereafter, the investigator observed the body of said small pig. Sergio shot the sheep with the same .22 caliber rifle he used on the large pig on December 23, 2019, visit. The investigator observed as Sergio, and The Kid chased the sheep around the property. Sergio shot at the sheep twice. It is uncertain whether both shots were a hit, but after the second shoot, the investigator observed blood coming out of the sheep's mouth.
The Kid proceeded to drag the sheep to a large tree in the kill/butcher area on the left side of the house. The Kid, with the help of two other unidentified males, tied the sheep that was still alive and fully conscious by one hind-leg and hung it on a branch of the tree. The investigator sees the sheep thrashing around when The Kid thrust a knife into the sheep's neck.

On January 30, 2020, at approximately 130 pm, two ARM investigators posing as customers returned to "Location 2". Sergio was not there to meet us, but the investigators observed two horses roaming the property.

On January 31, 2020, at approximately 230 pm, two ARM investigators posing as customers returned to "Location 2". There were four visible persons on the property; Sergio, The Kid, one boy and girl both around ten years of age. "Location 2" continued to grow as Sergio, and The Kid were putting up a new chain-link fence behind the house with a greenish tarp to mask the presence of animals. The investigators walked throughout the properer and observed two pigs, two puppy dogs, two horses, and one cow. Posing as customers, the investigators picked out a small pig for slaughter. "The Kid" then followed in slaughtering the pig with the help of the ten-year-old boy in the same manner as in the investigator's previous visits. The ten-year-old boy hands the knife to The Kid, and The Kid proceeds to thrust the knife in the pig's neck. The pig was then allowed to bleed out as it thrashed around the two puppies. The pig was not made insensible to pain, something apparent by the screams. The Kid later dragged the pig to the butcher area now located behind the new prefabricated house.

On this date, Sergio recommended horse meat as a way to combat anemia. Sergio bragged about the health benefits and told the investigator that he and his six-year-old daughter eat it regularly.

On March 4, 2020, at approximately 630pm, one ARM investigator visited "Location 3" to pick up horse meat from Sergio. The investigator parked outside "Location 3" called Sergio and waited for him to come out. Sergio was holding a grey garbage bag and approached the investigator's car and gave the investigator the bag. The amount of horse weighed in at about 6.4 pounds.

On March 10, 2020, a sample of the horse meat sent to ELISA Technologies, Inc for testing.

On March 12, 2020, ELISA Technologies reported a "Positive" result for their 500550 Raw Horse Species Elisa analysis.

On September 11, 2020, One ARM investigator returned to "Location 2" and found a whole new fighting rooster operation in addition to the continuation of illegal animal slaughter. The investigator saw some large rooster fight organizers such as Gallero Cubita from "Operation Cubita" on the property.
LOCATIONS

Organized By Date
Miami-Dade Property Appraiser

SEARCH: 13600 NW 178th St, Hialeah FL 33018

Location 1 - 13600 NW 178th St, Hialeah FL 33018 (Google Maps Address)
13920 NW 182nd St, Hialeah FL 33018 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)
Google Maps

Location 1 - 13600 NW 178th St, Hialeah FL 33018 (Google Maps Address)
13920 NW 182nd St, Hialeah FL 33018 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)
Location 1 - 13600 NW 178th St, Hialeah FL 33018 (Google Maps Address)
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Location 1 - 13600 NW 178th St, Hialeah FL 33018 (Google Maps Address)
13920 NW 182nd St, Hialeah FL 33018 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)
Location 1 - 13600 NW 178th St, Hialeah FL 33018 (Google Maps Address)
13920 NW 182nd St, Hialeah FL 33018 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)
Miami-Dade Property Appraiser

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property Address
13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196

Lot Size
217,800 Sq Ft

Lot Size
1,328 Sq Ft

Adjusted Area
1,328 Sq Ft

Adjusted Area
1,560 Sq Ft

Living Area
1,560 Sq Ft

Living Area
1,671 Sq Ft

Actual Area
1,671 Sq Ft

Bedrooms
1

Bedrooms
0 / 1 / 0

Baths / Half Baths
1

Baths / Half Baths
1

Floors
1

Floors
1

Year Built
2003

Year Built
2003

Location 2 - 13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196 (Google Maps Address)
13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)
### Miami-Dade Property Appraiser

**SEARCH:**

13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196

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### PROPERTY INFORMATION

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**Featured Online Tools**

- Comparable Sales
- Report Discrepancies
- Value Adjustment Board
- Glossary
- Report Homestead Exemptions
- PA Additional/Online Tools
- Special Taxing Districts and Other Non-Ad valorem Assessments
- Property Record Cards
- Tax Comparison
- Property Search Help
- Tax Estimator
- Property Taxes
- PITI Index

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**Location 2 - 13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196 (Google Maps Address)**

**13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)**
Location 2 - 13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196 (Google Maps Address)
13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)
Location 2 - 13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196 (Google Maps Address)
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Location 2 - 13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196 (Google Maps Address)
13000 SW 194th Ave, Miami FL 33196 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)
### Miami-Dade Property Appraiser

**SEARCH:**
1055 W 68th Street, Hialeah, FL 33014

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**Property Information:**
- **Follow:** 04-2015-08-0012
- **Sub Division:** SUB OF PB 2-17
- **Property Address:** 1055 W 68 ST
- **Owner:** NORTHWOOD APT LLC
- **Mailing Address:**
  - 2718 N SPRING GLEN AVE, 201
  - CHICAGO, IL 60647
- **PA Primary Zone:**
  - 03303 MULTIFAMILY 12 UNITS PLUS - MULTIFAMILY 2 OR MORE UNITS
- **Primary Land Use:**
  - 4800 MULTI-FAMILY - 5 STORY &
- **Bed / Bath / Half:** 3 / 5 1/2
- **Floors:** 2
- **Living Units:** 26
- **Actual Area:**
- **Adjusted Area:** 54,773 Sq Ft
- **Lot Size:** 60,720 Sq Ft
- **Year Built:** Multiple (See Building Info.)

**Featured Online Tools:**
- Comparable Sales
- Report Disposition
- Value Adjustment Board

**Location:**
- **3 - 1055 W 68th Street, Hialeah, FL 33014 (Google Maps Address)**
- **1035 W 68 ST, Hialeah, FL 33014 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)**
**Location 3 - 1055 W 68th Street, Hialeah, FL 33014 (Google Maps Address)**

1035 W 68 ST, Hialeah, FL 33014 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)
Google Maps

Location 3 - 1055 W 68th Street, Hialeah, FL 33014 (Google Maps Address)
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Location 3 - 1055 W 68th Street, Hialeah, FL 33014 (Google Maps Address)
1035 W 68 ST, Hialeah, FL 33014 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)
Entrance

Location 3 - 1055 W 68th Street, Hialeah, FL 33014 (Google Maps Address)
1035 W 68 ST, Hialeah, FL 33014 (Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Address)
Daymi Rivera, wife of Sergio
Sergio Rivera
Sergio's wife
Facebook friends w/ Corbo Martinez
2020 FLORIDA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ANNUAL REPORT

DOCUMENT# L19000261373

Entity Name: RANCHO PALO DURO LLC

Current Principal Place of Business:
1055 W 68 ST APT. 204
HIALEAH, FL 33014

Current Mailing Address:
1055 W 68 ST APT. 204
HIALEAH, FL 33014

FEI Number: 84-3541471

Name and Address of Current Registered Agent:
RIVERA, DAYMI D
1055 W 68 ST APT. 204
HIALEAH, FL 33014 US

Certificate of Status Desired: No

The above named entity submits this statement for the purpose of changing its registered office or registered agent, or both, in the State of Florida.

SIGNATURE:__________________________________________ Date

Electronic Signature of Registered Agent

Authorized Person(s) Detali:
Title: AMBR
Name: RIVERA, DAYMI D
Address: 1055 W 68 ST APT. 204
City-State-Zip: HIALEAH FL 33014

I hereby certify that the information indicated on this report or supplemental report is true and accurate and that my electronic signature shall have the same legal effect as if made under oath; that I am a managing member or manager of the limited liability company or the receiver or trustee empowered to execute this report as required by Chapter 605, Florida Statutes; and that my name appears above, or on an attachment with all other like empowered.

SIGNATURE: DAYMI D RIVERA OWNER 03/02/2020

Electronic Signature of Signing Authorized Person(s) Detail  Date
You have received a new ConnectMeVoice voicemail message on 1/30/2020 1:55:46 PM duration 0.2 minutes.

From: RIVERA DAYMI ++ 17869157479
Account #: +1 (561) 448-7594
Extension +1 (561) 448-7594

To manage your account, click here. Click here to listen to your message.

Thank you for using the ConnectMeVoice service.

ConnectMeVoice Customer Support
http://www.connectmevoice.com

[Handwritten note: phone ARM contacts Sergio AT]
The 2019 Florida Statutes

ANIMALS: CRUELTY; SALES; ANIMAL ENTERPRISE PROTECTION

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. 69-104; s. 241, ch. 77-104; s. 39, ch. 2001-279; s. 2, ch. 2002-51.
### The 2019 Florida Statutes

**Chapter 828**

**ANIMALS: CRUELTY; SALES; ANIMAL ENTERPRISE PROTECTION**

#### 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, conditional 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.

   c. 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.

   d. 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.

   e. A person who intentionally trips, follows, or lassos the legs of a horse by any means for the purpose of entertainment or sport commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. As used in this subsection, the term “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 the term “horse” means any animal of any registered breed of the genus Equus, or any recognized hybrid thereof. This subsection does not apply when tripping is used:

      a. To control a horse that is posing an immediate threat to other livestock or human beings;

      b. For the purpose of identifying ownership of the horse when its ownership is unknown; or

      c. For the purpose of administering veterinary care to the horse.

   f. In addition to other penalties prescribed by law, a person who is convicted of a violation of this section may be prohibited by the court from owning, possessing, keeping, harboring, or having custody or control over any animal for a period of time determined by the court.

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**Cruelty to animals**

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The 2019 Florida Statutes

Chapter 828  ANIMALS: CRUELTY; SALES; ANIMAL ENTERPRISE PROTECTION

828.125  Killing or aggravated abuse of horses or cattle; offenses; penalties.—Any other provisions of this chapter to the contrary notwithstanding:

1) Any person who willfully and unlawfully, by any means whatsoever, kills, malms, mutilates, or causes great bodily harm or permanent breeding disability to any animal of the genus Equus (horse) or any animal of any registered breed or recognized registered hybrid of the genus Bos (cattle) commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, except that any person who commits a violation of this subsection shall be sentenced to a minimum mandatory fine of $3,500 and a minimum mandatory period of incarceration of 1 year.

2) Any person who individually attempts or solicits, or jointly agrees, conspires, combines, or confederates with another person to commit, any act prohibited by subsection (1) and does an act in furtherance of said attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy shall be guilty of a felony of the second degree and is punishable as if the person or persons had actually committed such prohibited act as enumerated in subsection (1), notwithstanding any provisions found in s. 777.04. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit separate convictions and sentences for a violation of this subsection and any violation of subsection (1).

3) Any person who verbally or in writing threatens to commit any act prohibited by subsection (1) and has the apparent ability to carry out such threat and places the owner or custodian of said animal in fear that such an act as described in subsection (1) is about to take place shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082, s. 775.083 or s. 775.084.

4) In addition to any other fines or penalties authorized by law, a person found guilty of violating any provision of subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (3) may be ordered by the court to make restitution to the aggrieved party in an amount not to exceed twice the gross fair market value of the said Equus or Bos killed or abused in an aggravated manner, or up to twice the gross loss caused, whichever is greater, plus attorney’s fees and any and all related costs. Upon notice the court shall hold a hearing to determine the amount of fines, restitution, or costs to be imposed under this section, if not agreed upon by the parties.

5) This section shall not be construed to abridge, impede, prohibit, or otherwise interfere in any way with the application, implementation, or conduct of recognized livestock husbandry practices or techniques by or at the direction of the owner of the livestock so husbanded; nor shall any person be held culpable for any act prohibited by this chapter which results from weather conditions or other acts of God, providing that the person is in compliance with recognized livestock husbandry practices. History.—s. 1, ch. 86-14; s. 42, ch. 91-110; s. 28, ch. 99-391; s. 5, ch. 2010-87.
828.122 Fighting or baiting animals; offenses; penalties.—
(1) This act may be cited as "The Animal Fighting Act."
(2) As used in this section, the term:
(a) "Animal fighting" means fighting between roosters or other birds or between dogs, bears, or other animals.
(b) "Baiting" means to attack with violence, to provoke, or to harass an animal with one or more animals for the purpose of training an animal for, or to cause an animal to engage in, fights with or among other animals. In addition, "baiting" means the use of live animals in the training of racing greyhounds.
(c) "Person" means every natural person, firm, copartnership, association, or corporation.
(3) Any person who knowingly commits any of the following acts commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084:
(a) Baiting, breeding, training, transporting, selling, owning, possessing, or using any wild or domestic animal for the purpose of animal fighting or baiting;
(b) Owning, possessing, or selling equipment for use in any activity described in paragraph (a);
(c) Owning, leasing, managing, operating, or having control of any property kept or used for any activity described in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b);
(d) Promoting, staging, advertising, or charging any admission fee to a fight or baiting between two or more animals;
(e) Performing any service or act to facilitate animal fighting or baiting, including, but not limited to, providing security, refereeing, or handling or transporting animals or being a stakeholder of any money wagered on animal fighting or baiting;
(f) Removing or facilitating the removal of any animal impounded under this section from an agency where the animal is impounded or from a location designated by the court under subsection (4), subsection (5), or subsection (7), without the prior authorization of the court;
(g) Baiting or wagering any money or other valuable consideration on the fighting or baiting of animals; or
(h) Attending the fighting or baiting of animals.
Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection to the contrary, possession of the animal alone does not constitute a violation of this section.
(4) If a court finds probable cause to believe that a violation of this section or s. 828.12 has occurred, the court shall order the seizure of any animals and equipment used in committing the violation and shall provide for appropriate and humane care or disposition of the animals. This subsection is not a limitation on the power to seize animals as evidence at the time of arrest.
(5) If an animal shelter or other location is unavailable, a court may order the animal to be impounded on the property of its owner or possessor and shall order such person to provide all
(e) Performing any service or act to facilitate animal fighting or baiting, including, but not limited to, providing security, refereeing, or handling or transporting animals or being a stakeholder of any money wagered on animal fighting or baiting;
(f) Removing or facilitating the removal of any animal impounded under this section from an agency where the animal is impounded or from a location designated by the court under subsection (4), subsection (5), or subsection (7), without the prior authorization of the court;
(g) Betting or wagering any money or other valuable consideration on the fighting or baiting of animals; or
(h) Attending the fighting or baiting of animals.

Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection to the contrary, possession of the animal alone does not constitute a violation of this section.

(4) If a court finds probable cause to believe that a violation of this section or s. 828.12 has occurred, the court shall order the seizure of any animals and equipment used in committing the violation and shall provide for appropriate and humane care or disposition of the animals. This subsection is not a limitation on the power to seize animals as evidence at the time of arrest.

(5) If an animal shelter or other location is unavailable, a court may order the animal to be impounded on the property of its owner or possessor and shall order such person to provide all necessary care for the animal and to allow regular inspections of the animal by a person designated by the court.

(6) If a veterinarian finds that an animal kept or used in violation of this section is suffering from an injury or a disease severe enough that it is not possible to humanely house and care for the animal pending completion of a hearing held under s. 828.073(2), final disposition of the criminal charges, or court-ordered forfeiture, the veterinarian may euthanize the animal as specified in s. 828.058. A veterinarian licensed to practice in this state shall be held harmless from criminal or civil liability for any decisions made or services rendered under this subsection.

(7) If an animal can be housed in a humane manner, the provisions of s. 828.073 shall apply. For the purpose of a hearing provided pursuant to s. 828.073(2), any animal baited, bred, trained, transported, sold, owned, possessed, or used for the purpose of animal fighting or baiting shall be considered mistreated.

(8) In addition to other penalties prescribed by law, the court may issue an order prohibiting a person who is convicted of a violation of this section from owning, possessing, keeping, harboring, or having custody or control over any animals within the species that are the subject of the conviction, or any animals kept for the purpose of fighting or baiting, for a period of time determined by the court.

(9) This section shall not apply to:
   (a) Any person simulating a fight for the purpose of using the simulated fight as part of a motion picture which will be used on television or in a motion picture, provided s. 828.12 is not violated.
   (b) Any person using animals to pursue or take wildlife or to participate in any hunting regulated or subject to being regulated by the rules and regulations of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
   (c) Any person using animals to work livestock for agricultural purposes.
   (d) Any person violating s. 828.121.
   (e) Any person using dogs to hunt wild hogs or to retrieve domestic hogs pursuant to customary hunting or agricultural practices.

(10) This section shall not prohibit, impede, or otherwise interfere with recognized animal husbandry and training techniques or practices not otherwise specifically prohibited by law.

History.—ss. 1, 2, ch. 76-59; s. 1, ch. 81-224; s. 2, ch. 82-116; s. 1, ch. 85-289; ss. 1, 3, ch. 86-179; s. 202, ch. 91-224; s. 1, ch. 93-13; s. 230, ch. 99-245; s. 2, ch. 2002-51; s. 1, ch. 2003-188.
The 2019 Florida Statutes

TITLE XXXIII
REGULATION OF TRADE, COMMERCE, INVESTMENTS, AND SOLICITATIONS

Chapter 500
FOOD PRODUCTS

500.451 Horse meat; offenses.—
(1) It is unlawful for any person to:
(a) Sell in the markets of this state horse meat for human consumption unless the horse meat is clearly stamped, marked, and described as horse meat for human consumption.
(b) Knowingly transport, distribute, sell, purchase, or possess horse meat for human consumption that is not clearly stamped, marked, and described as horse meat for human consumption or horse meat that is not acquired from a licensed slaughterhouse.
(2) A person that violates this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, except that any person who commits a violation of this section must be sentenced to a minimum mandatory fine of $3,500.
(3) In addition to any penalties provided in subsection (2), any license of any restaurant, store, or other business may be suspended as provided in the applicable licensing law upon conviction of an owner or employee of that business for a violation of this section in connection with that business.

History.—ss. 1, 2, ch. 21986, 1943; s. 11, ch. 25035, 1949; s. 454, ch. 71-138; s. 19, ch. 82-225; s. 27, ch. 94-180; s. 3, ch. 2010-87; s. 21, ch. 2019-167.
Note. —Former s. 500.33.
Workers

December 23, 2018
Unidentified Hispanic Male #3 - Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Unidentified Hispanic Male #8 - Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Workers

December 30, 2018
Workers

September 19, 2019
Unidentified Hispanic Male #6 (The Kid) - Location 1 - September 19, 2019
Workers

November 14, 2019
Workers

December 23, 2019
Unidentified Hispanic Female #1 'Sergio's Wife' - Location 2 - December 23, 2019
Workers

December 30, 2019
Unidentified Hispanic Female #1 'Sergio's Wife' - Location 2 - December 30, 2019
Unidentified Male #10 - Location 2 - December 30, 2019
Unidentified Hispanic Male #6 (The Kid) - Location 2 - December 30, 2019
Workers

January 31, 2020
Workers

March 4, 2020
Crimes Violations

December 23, 2018
Crime #1 Unidentified Hispanic Male #4 - Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crime #2 Unidentified Hispanic Male #3 - Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crime #3 - Sergio - Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crime #4 Unidentified Hispanic Male ‘Costumer’ - Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crimes Violations

December 30, 2018
Crime #5 - Sergio / Unidentified Hispanic Male #3 - Location 1 - December 30, 2018

Inhumane handling of an animal
Crime #6 Unidentified Hispanic Male #4 - Location 1 - December 30, 2018
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crime #7 Unidentified Hispanic Male #6 'The Kid' - Location 1 - December 30, 2018
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crimes
Violations

September 19, 2019
Crime #9 Unidentified Hispanic Male #6 'The Kid' - Location 1 - September 19, 2019
Attempted gun trafficking
Crime #10 - Location 1 - September 19, 2019

Fighting rooster boarding facility
Crimes Violations

December 23, 2019
Crime #11 - Unidentified Hispanic Male 'Puma Seller' Location 2 - December 23, 2019

Selling Of Contraband
Crime #12 - Sergio - Location 2 - December 23, 2019
Slaughtering w/out making insensitive to pain
Crime #13 - Sergio - Location 2 - December 23, 2019
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crime #14 - Sergio - Location 2 - December 23, 2019
Too small of a caliber to make a pig that size insensible to pain
Crime #15 Unidentified Hispanic Male #6 'The Kid' - Location 2 - December 23, 2019
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crime #16 - Sergio - Location 2 - December 23, 2019
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain:
This pig was stabbed 2 times by Sergio. The pig was let to roam the property for approx. 10 minutes when 'The Kid' stabbed this pig a third time
Crime #17 - Unidentified Hispanic Male #6 'The Kid - Location 2 - December 23, 2019
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain:
This pig was stabbed 2 times by Sergio. The pig was let to roam the property for approx. 10 minutes when 'The Kid' stabbed this pig a third time
Crime #18 - Unidentified Hispanic Male #6 'The Kid - Location 2 - December 23, 2019
Butchering in unhygienic conditions
Crimes Violations

December 30, 2019
Crime #19 - Unidentified Hispanic Male #10  Location 2 - December 30, 2019
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crime #20 - Unidentified Hispanic Male #10  Location 2 - December 30, 2019
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crime #21 - Sergio - Location 2 - December 30, 2019
Second attempt shot with small .22 Caliber rifle. This sheep subsequently has its throat slashed by 'The Kid' while still fully conscious therefor not insensible to pain.
Crime #22 - Unidentified Hispanic Male #6 'The Kid - Location 2 - December 30, 2019
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain: This sheep was shot once (maybe twice) by Sergio using small .22 Caliber rifle and was clearly still conscious when throat was slit.
Crimes Violations

January 31, 2020
Crime #23 - Unidentified Hispanic Male #6 'The Kid' - Location 2 - January 31, 2020
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crimes Violations

March 4, 2020
Crime #24 - Sergio - Location 3 - March 4, 2020
Horse meat possession and distribution
SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

December 23, 2018
Location 1 - December 23, 2018

Entrance to Location 1, customer walking out
Location 1 - December 23, 2018
1 horse, 2 cows, a couple of goats and sheep
Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Workers and Cow right after it was stabbed by Unidentified Hispanic Male #4 in neck w/out being made insensible to pain
Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Cow right after it was stabbed by Unidentified Hispanic Male #4 in neck w/out being made insensible to pain
Location 1 - December 23, 2018

Pig in wooden pen waiting to be slaughters (kill floor 1)
Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Workers and Customers look on as Unidentified Hispanic Male #3 gets ready to
inhumanely kill a pig
Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Workers and Customers look on as Unidentified Hispanic Male #3 gets ready to inhumanely kill a pig
Location 1 - December 23, 2018

Pig right after it was stabbed by Unidentified Hispanic Male #4 in neck w/out being made insensible to pain
Location 1 - December 23, 2018

Pig right after it was stabbed by Unidentified Hispanic Male #4 in neck w/out being made insensible to pain left to lie on the floor
Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Pig right after it was stabbed by Unidentified Hispanic Male #4 in neck w/out being made insensible to pain put into a wheel barrel
Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Customers with children
Location 1 - December 23, 2018

Customers with children
Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Customers with children waiting for their animals
Location 1 - December 23, 2018

Workers loading something in a black bag into a cooler on a customer's truck
SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

December 30, 2018
Daughter crushed by bridge, family is longing for answers
Location 1 - December 30, 2018

Entrance to Location 1, customer walking out with something in bag
Location 1 - December 30, 2018

Holding pen and kill floors used on December 23, 2018
Location 1 - December 30, 2018
Customers waiting for their animal
Location 1 - December 30, 2018
Customers
Location 1 - December 30, 2018

Workers and customers taking out pig from back of the Side By Side
Location 1 - December 30, 2018
Workers and customer
C9 Basin Horses Dumped
- 20 found in 1 day
- Arrive wad this w/ Metro
Horse Meat from Sergio
Horsey owned by Sergio
in C9 Basin.
Arm found 4/ in 1 day
Horses Slaughtered For Meat, Ritual Sacrifice

By Carey Codd  January 10, 2018 at 11:07 pm  Filed Under: Horse Slaughter, Local TV, Riel Creighton

HIALEAH (CBSMiami) – A woman feeding stray dogs in a remote area of northwest Miami-Dade stumbled onto to the scene of a horrific horse slaughter.

Animal cruelty investigator Rachel Taylor said they found dozens of horses, or their parts, in various stages of decomposition in the area of 179th Street and 129th Avenue. All of the legs had been stripped of their meat. She said it looks like the animals were killed
elsewhere and dumped here.

"You've got horse hooves, bones, hips, these have obviously been here for a long time," she said pointing to an area under some trees.

Taylor, who works for the non-profit Animal Recovery Mission, said from the looks of it, the most recent kill was just a day or two ago. But that wasn't the worst of it.

She said they found, a short walk up the road, more dead horse remains, almost all of them next to feed bags.

Taylor said it's not uncommon to find animal remains in this area near US 27 and the county line.

"We've currently done about 20 investigations of horse slaughter here before today," Taylor said.

Miami-Dade Police combed the scene Wednesday looking for clues.

Taylor believes some of the horses are being killed for rituals and sacrifices, like in a photo she took showing a pot with horseshoes and other items with a horse head nearby.

Taylor is horrified by the extent of the killings.

"It's bad," Taylor said. "I think more attention needs to be put on this. It needs to be blasted out there. People can't get away with this."

Taylor suspects the horses were stolen, she said this is one of the worst cases she's ever seen.

"They're in every couple of feet, it's like this whole area is a graveyard," she said, "That's what's alarming to me."
Workers

January 31, 2020
Workers

March 4, 2020
Crimes
Violations

December 23, 2018
Crime #1 Unidentified Hispanic Male #4 - Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crime #2 Unidentified Hispanic Male #3 - Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crime #3 - Sergio - Location 1 - December 23, 2018
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Crime #4 Unidentified Hispanic Male 'Costumer' - Location 1 - December 23, 2018
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crimes Violations

December 30, 2018
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Inhumane handling of an animal
Crime #6 Unidentified Hispanic Male #4 - Location 1 - December 30, 2018
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crime #7 Unidentified Hispanic Male #6 'The Kid' - Location 1 - December 30, 2018
Slaughtering w/out making insensible to pain
Crimes
Violations

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Crimes
Violations

January 31, 2020
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March 4, 2020
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Horse meat possession and distribution
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Miami Herald - Location 1 - December 23, 2018
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Miami Herald - Location 1 - December 30, 2018

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