

\$25,000 REWARD: MANHUNT FOR HORSE THIEVES SUSPECTED OF TARGETING VICTIMS TO SELL ON THE BLACK MARKET FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.



SOUTH WEST RANCHES, FL – AUGUST 14, 2023 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. The Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) is offering a \$25,000 reward leading to the arrest and conviction of the criminal/s responsible for the theft and suspected butchering of two pet horses, Milagro (8 month filly) and Venus (2 year old filly) stolen from their home between Friday, night August 11th and the early morning of Saturday 12th.

The stolen horses were led through a fence at the back of the property that perpetrators deconstructed. There is a grave concern that the fillies were preyed upon and have become the victims of the black-market horse meat trade. This illegal activity promotes violent butchering of horses to sell their meat for human consumption – an industry that has plagued the State of Florida for decades.

ARM was contacted immediately by the owner of the horses after they were discovered missing from the private property located in the secluded Rolling Oaks area of Southwest Ranches, Florida. This area is close to the World Class Equestrian Centre, which has cast a shadow of fear for the safety of both the residents and their beloved animals in this prominent horse community.

This crime follows the slaughter of two other horses, War and Sammy, after their remains were found dumped along a canal earlier this year in Homestead, Florida, another renowned horse slaughter hot spot.

ARM, along with the Davie Police Department, is actively investigating this case.

THE SLAUGHTER OF HORSES IS A 3RD DEGREE FELONY CRIME IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA!

In 2010, ARM was instrumental in the passing of the Good Horse Slaughter Act, making the buying, selling, transporting, and killing of a horse for human consumption, and possessing horse meat, a felony in Florida. Perpetrators may face a minimum of one-year imprisonment and a \$3,500 fine.

If you have information regarding this case, please contact Animal Recovery Mission through ARM's **Report a Crime Hotline**. <https://animalrecoverymission.org/contact-us/report-animal-abuse/> , or contact the Davie Police Department tip line at (954) 693 8200.

Media inquiries should be directed to Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) Founder Richard 'Kudo' Couto at (305) 494 2225 kudo@arminvestigations.org. The owner of Venus and Milagro is also available for comment by contacting ARM's Founder directly.

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The Animal Recovery Mission is a Non-Profit animal cruelty investigative organization based in 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. For additional information, photos, and video footage, please visit: <https://www.animalrecoverymission.org>, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM Investigations)