

ST LUCIE COUNTY

Second arrest made in alleged animal cruelty case in western St. Lucie County



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ST. LUCIE COUNTY – A second arrest has been made in connection with what investigators have said was an animal cruelty case in western St. Lucie County, according to recently-released records.

What at the time was described by Animal Recovery Mission as an “illegal animal slaughter farm” on Godwin Road was raided by St. Lucie County Sheriff’s officials in February. Richard Couto, of the animal welfare organization, approached sheriff’s officials in December 2023 and supplied video of his investigation.

Ysairis Gonzalez, 50, was booked in at the St. Lucie County Jail on Feb. 29 on two counts of cruelty to animals-torture in connection with incidents in December 2023 at the Godwin Road property, which is her listed address, according to records.

That arrest follows the Feb. 14 arrest of Miguel Cabrera, 57, on two charges of cruelty to animals-torture.



Investigators were led to the property by the animal welfare organization.

Couto provided video of incidents in May and December 2023 in which Cabrera “inflicted unnecessary pain and suffering” on two goats and a pig, records show.

Couto reported finding an ad on Craigslist for animals and meat for sale, and communicated with “Maria Jose,” who investigators ultimately identified as Gonzalez.



Investigators reported Gonzalez in the December 2023 incident was “directly involved with facilitating and participating in the inhumane killing of both the goat and the pig,” records state.

Sheriff’s spokesperson Tonya Woodworth did not immediately respond to a phone message left Wednesday by TCPalm, nor has she responded to numerous messages over the past several weeks attempting to reach her on a variety of issues.