

## LEE COUNTY INVESTIGATION TIME LINE

**June 2015** - ARM received citizen complaints due to lack of enforcement within their county of illegal animal and horse slaughter. Requested ARM to investigate Rancho Santa Barbara. At the time, they believed there was only one slaughter farm in the area.

**June 2015** - Long distance surveillance conducted by ARM. ARM discovered an additional slaughter farm advertised as Rancho Las Delicias.

**July 13th 2015** - Approximately 2:30pm ARM Investigators entered Santa Barbara and purchased a pig for slaughter.

**August 27th 2015** - Between 1pm and 3 pm ARM Investigators entered Santa Barbara and Rancho Las Delicias. At each location, multiple animals were purchased for slaughter.

**December 23rd 2015** - Between 130pm and 4pm ARM Investigators entered Santa Barbara and Rancho Las Delicias. At each location, multiple animals were purchased for slaughter.

**Conclusion of 2015** - ARM Founder entered slaughter farms multiple times to maintain relationships and conducted surveillance. Animals were not always purchased.

**January 29th 2016** - Between 11am and 1pm ARM Investigators entered Santa Barbara and Rancho Las Delicias. At each location, animals were purchased for slaughter. Beer and liquor was also observed being sold illegally. An employee named Alex is overheard speaking about butchering pony's and horses. ARM Investigators confirmed that dogs were being aggression trained and fought at Rancho Las Delicias.

**March 03rd 2016** - At approximately 11am, ARM and the Lee County Sheriffs Office (Sgt. R Hodges, The Agriculture Unit Supv. and 2 additional deputies met. Video evidence and two reports (Rancho Santa Barbara and Rancho Las Delicias) were turned in as felony complaints. During the meeting, Sgt. Hodges made a comment pertaining to the Good Slaughter Act, which ARM assisted in developing, was causing turmoil in Lee County. He stated that now there are too many unwanted horses within the county and creating more work for him.

**March 03rd -22nd 2018** - Randy Hodges delivered the evidence pertaining to Rancho Santa Barbra and Rancho Las Delicias to the Lee County State Attorney's Office.

**August 26th 2016** - Email sent to USDA Inspector William Kaile requesting action to be taken on Santa Barbara and Rancho Las Delicias.

**December 23rd 2016** - Between 1pm and 3pm ARM Investigators entered Rancho Las Delicias. No animals were purchased on this date. Investigators did observe many animals being inhumanely slaughtered as well as animals showing signs of Brucellosis and Swine Flu.

**December 30th 2016** - Between 130pm and 3pm ARM Investigators entered Rancho Las Delicias. Investigators did observe animals being slaughtered inhumanely. Horses appeared to be emaciated and holding areas were littered with trash.

**Conclusion of 2016** - ARM Investigators conducted multiple days of surveillance to gather information and to identify suspects throughout the year.

**January 26th 2017** - Approximately 1230pm ARM Investigators met with an employee at Rancho Las Delicias and purchased 20 pounds of horse meat beef. It was requested to refer to the horse meat as beef due to it being illegal to sell for human consumption.

**February 06th 2017** - Received report from Elisa Technologies certifying that the horse meat purchased on January 26th 2017 did test positive for 500550 Raw Horse Species.

**March 2017** - Through its continuing investigation, ARM discovered Rancho Anthony & Roman to be open for business.

**March 22nd 2017** - Received an email from Sgt. Hodges advising that their report has been submitted to the SAO and expect to hear back from them soon.

**March 30th 2017** - Between 1pm and 3pm ARM Investigators entered Rancho Las Delicias and Rancho Anthony & Roman. Animals were purchased for slaughter. At Rancho Las Delicias, Investigators purchased horse meat (beef).

**April 12th 2017** - Received report from Elisa Technologies certifying that the horse meat purchased on March 30th 2017 did test positive for 500550 Raw Horse Species.

**April 17th 2017** - Received an email from Sgt R Hodges advising that he received written notice from the SAO stating that did not have any probable cause for an arrest to be made.

**April 17th 2017** - Attempted to retrieve report which Sgt. Hodges stated was available and was told by Lee County PIO that no report was generated.

**April 26th 2017** - Email sent to Sgt. Hodges outlining the investigation and again asking for action to be taken on Rancho Las Delicias.

**April 27th 2017** - Email sent to USDA inspector William Kaile requesting action to be taken on Rancho Las Delicias.

**May 04th 2017** - Email sent to Sgt Hodges asking if he received and reviewed the email sent on April 26th. Later emailed by Sgt. Hodges advising that he did receive it.

**June 2015** - Deputy Lewis contacted the ARM Founder and explained that Lee County Detectives attempted to purchase horse meat but were unsuccessful. Due to ARM having the expertise and developing proper relationships, the ARM Founder stated they would go undercover as CI's to purchase the meat. ARM Founder explained to him that two investigators needed to enter the property due to the relationship with the suspect, Aymee Diaz.

**June 5th 2017** - Between 12pm and 1pm ARM Investigators entered Rancho Anthony and Roman. Investigators purchased one goat for slaughter. Investigators also discovered a horse tail which indicated horses being slaughtered on the property.

**June 5th 2017** - ARM Investigators met with Det. R Hodges and State Attorney Cameron Ziggs regarding filing charges on person(s) involved in the inhumane slaughter of animals. Attorney Cameron Ziggs felt that felony arrests could be made and will follow-up on the case.

**June 7th 2017** - Email sent outlining meeting on June 5th to Sgt. Hodges and Attorney Ziggs.

**June 9th 2017** - Email sent to Sgt Hodges reiterating what was discussed during the meeting which took place at the State Attorneys Office

**June 12th 2017** - Between 3pm and 430pm ARM Investigators entered Rancho Anthony and Roman. Investigators purchased one goat for slaughter.

**June 13th 2017** - ARM Investigators met with Lee County Sheriffs Office (LCSO) Detectives in order to conduct a controlled buy. LCSO declined to conduct the controlled buy. ARM Investigators went forward with the successful purchase of horse meat on their own.

**June 19th 2017** - Received report from Elisa Technologies certifying that the horse meat purchased on June 13th 2017 did test positive for 500550 Raw Horse Species.

**December 2017** - Rancho Cabrera located at 7301 Eastwood Acres Rd. Ft Myers opens for business after obvious lack of enforcement by Lee County Sheriffs Office.

**December 23rd 2017** - Between 12pm and 4pm ARM Investigators entered Rancho Anthony and Roman, Rancho Las Delicias and Rancho Cabrera. All three locations slaughtered animals inhumanely. Animals were also purchased for Santeria.

**Conclusion of 2017** - ARM Investigators conducted multiple days of surveillance to gather information and to identify suspects throughout the year.

**January 04th 2018** - Attempted to retrieve report #16-124188 from Public Affairs Unit. Once again they advised that the listed case was classified as Information and no report was generated.

**January 15th 2018** - Met with Det. R Hodges at the Lee County Sheriffs Office to file a report pertaining to the illegal animal slaughters which occurred on December 23rd 2017. The investigator was told that arrests haven't been made because ARM hasn't identified the suspects they want arrested.

**January 18th 2018** - Several emails sent to Sgt Hodges providing images and information he requested in order to conduct his investigation.

**January 25th 2018** - ARM Investigator entered Buckingham trail preserve and discovered horse remains to the rear of Rancho Las Delicias further indicating the illegal slaughter and distribution of horse meat. Evidence showed that horse remains were being consumed by pigs to hide evidence of slaughters.

**January 30th 2018** - Email sent to Lee County Sheriffs Office Internal Affairs due to clear evidence of felonies being committed and improperly investigated by Sgt. Hodges.

**February 16th 2018** - At approximately 1230pm, ARM Investigators entered Rancho Cabrera and purchased one pig for slaughter. Large cages were observed with multiple puppies showing signs of animal aggression training. Investigators were also able to confirm the property was selling multiple types of animals for ritualistic purposes.

**February 22nd 2018** - Email received from Lee County Internal Affairs advising that our complaint was unfounded pertaining to the "continuous lack of enforcement".

**March 1st 2018** - ARM Investigators met with ASA Larry Justham, Tyler Lovejoy and ASA Erin Hughes pertaining to the decline in submitted cases. Advised they were declined due to audio on the video and no witness sworn statements.

**March 15th 2018** - ARM resubmitted 10 felony cases/complaints against the slaughter farms within Lee County directly to the Lee County State Attorneys Office.

**April 3rd 2018** - ARM received an email from Larry Justham advising that all cases/complaints were declined. We were advised that in order to prosecute they need "viable and admissible evidence".