



April 10, 2019

Andy Schwartz, D.V.M.
Executive Director
Texas Animal Health Commission

Via e-mail: execdir@tahc.texas.gov; tahc-complaints@tahc.texas.gov

Dear Dr. Schwartz,

This letter is to request that your agency investigate the apparently illegal movement and holding of approximately 56 feral pigs for the Bandera Bacon Bash (hereinafter, "the event"), a "wild hog catch" held on March 16, 2019, at Mansfield Park, 2886 Hwy. 16 N., near Bandera. The event was organized by the Bandera Wranglers and its president, Nick Barron, and vice president, Brandon Nicholson. These parties can be reached care of The Red Horse Saloon, 2440 Hwy. 16 N., Bandera, TX 78003.

PETA understands that these pigs were caught on unidentified premises near Bandera earlier in March. They were moved to and held at Mansfield Park Rodeo Arena, a property owned and operated by Bandera County. However, neither of your agency's published directories of such facilities list Mansfield Park as one approved to hold feral swine. Accordingly, holding pigs there for the event evidently violated Texas Administrative Code § 55.9(c). Such violations are subject to administrative, civil, or criminal penalties, per Texas Administrative Code § 55.9(h)(2).

Furthermore, the person or persons who moved these pigs from where they were trapped to Mansfield Park—and from the park to where they were evidently slaughtered—apparently did so in violation of Texas Administrative Code § 55.9(b). Texas Agriculture Code § 161.1375 provides that one who recklessly moves feral swine contrary to that administrative rule commits a Class C misdemeanor offense *for each pig involved*—amounting to at least 56 potential charges in this case.

Given your agency's concern to prevent feral pigs from transmitting disease to farmed animals and humans, you may be interested to know that at the event in question, two men discussed how at a similar event in 2018—at Mansfield Park—"one [feral pig] got out" and was "lost." You may also wish to consider how dozens of children and older contestants had prolonged, direct contact with feral pigs, several of whom had open wounds that bled—which, as you know, can transmit brucellosis to humans. A sampling of video footage captured by eyewitnesses to the event is immediately available to you at



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Washington, D.C.
1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA

Berkeley
2855 Telegraph Ave.
Ste. 301
Berkeley, CA 94705
510-763-PETA

Info@peta.org
PETA.org

Affiliates:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

PETA asks that your agency investigate the documented conduct and take appropriate enforcement action. I can be reached at 757-962-8231 or DanielP@peta.org. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Paden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Paden
Vice President of Evidence Analysis
Cruelty Investigations Department