



April 10, 2019

The Honorable Dan Butts  
 Sheriff of Bandera County  
 Bandera County Sheriff's Office

Via e-mail (without exhibit): [sheriff@banderacounty.org](mailto:sheriff@banderacounty.org)

Dear Sheriff Butts,

This letter is to request that your agency investigate cruelty to animals in apparent violation of the law at 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. Enclosed is a sampling of video footage—which is immediately available to you at [REDACTED]—captured by eyewitnesses to the event. They saw and documented that event staff and contestants knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly tortured pigs—causing them unjustifiable pain and/or suffering—in the following ways:

- Chasing animals so that they leapt into and struck metal fencing face first, after which several had open, bleeding wounds on their muzzles
- Tackling and pinning animals and grabbing them by their limbs, tails, ears, or hair
- Dragging and yanking animals across the ground by their hind limbs and lifting them off the ground by their legs
- Kicking pigs, including in and about the head

These actions appear to violate Texas Penal Code § 42.092(b)(1), which prohibits a person from torturing an animal, a term that Texas Penal Code § 42.092(a)(2) defines to include "a wild living creature previously captured," as the pigs in question were. The attached statements from veterinary experts who reviewed the video confirm that the documented actions caused these animals unjustifiable pain or suffering.

Because this handling of animals occurred for the sake of a public event to entertain and raise money—not solely for the purpose of or in support of wildlife management—it is not entitled to the exemption from prosecution provided by Texas Penal Code § 42.092(f)(1)(B). Furthermore, the attached expert statements confirm that the depicted acts are not the "generally accepted and otherwise lawful" practices referenced by that exemption. Indeed, the gratuitous conduct at issue is completely divorced from any potentially legitimate wildlife-management practices.

The eyewitnesses, who are available for an interview upon request, will testify to their observations and verify that they captured the video being overnighted to you. PETA asks that your agency investigate the documented conduct and, as

PEOPLE FOR  
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 TREATMENT  
 OF ANIMALS

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- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
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- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

appropriate, file cruelty-to-animals charges. I can be reached at 757-962-8231 or [DanielP@peta.org](mailto: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

cc: The Honorable Scott Monroe, 198<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney ([scottm@198da.com](mailto:scottm@198da.com))