

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

October 31, 2019

To: Sheriff Steve Penner, Lemhi County Sheriff's Office  
 Cc: Lemhi County Humane Society  
 From: Kristin Rickman, Emergency Response Division Manager,  
 PETA  
 Re: Cruelty to Animals

PETA is the world's largest animal rights organization, with more than 6.5 million members and supporters globally, tens of thousands residing in Idaho. This letter concerns cruelty against an equine, as depicted in the fourth episode of the Discovery Channel's *River of No Return*, apparently filmed in spring of 2019 and airing on October 27. In the following excerpt, a male adult forcefully strikes a tethered horse with a metal driving (shoeing) hammer during an apparent farrier session, sending the animal reeling off in pain and fright:

<https://www.petapreview.com/horse-hammering-for-le/>. The program identifies the suspect as "Ron," which according to our research, is "Ron Ens" of B Bar C Ranch and Middle Fork Outfitters, located at 990 Silver Creek Rd. in Challis. This obviously anger-driven attack likely caused trauma to sensitive soft tissue and, as you surely are aware, was in no way commensurate with standard and accepted agricultural practices.

Idaho Code § 25-3504 states that "[e]very person who is cruel to any animal, or causes or procures any animal to be cruelly treated, or who, having the charge or custody of any animal, either as owner or otherwise, subjects any animal to cruelty shall, upon conviction, be punished in accordance with section 25-3520A, Idaho Code." The code further defines "cruelty" as "[t]he intentional and malicious infliction of pain, physical suffering" or "[t]o subject an animal to needless suffering or inflict unnecessary cruelty."

We respectfully request an investigation into this incident, with consideration given to the filing of cruelty-to-animals charges, if appropriate. May we please hear from you soon?

Sincerely,

Kristin Rickman  
 Emergency Response Division Manager  
 Cruelty Investigations Department

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## Affiliates:

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