

April 30, 2026

Felipe Williams  
Special Agent in Charge  
Orlando Regional Operations Center  
Florida Department of Law Enforcement

By Email: [REDACTED]

**Re: Request to Investigate Peter Bandre and Benjamin Agresta for Apparent Aggravated Cruelty to Animals**

Dear Special Agent Williams,

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) investigate Peter Bandre and Benjamin Agresta (d.b.a. “Sloth World Orlando” and “Sanctuary World Imports”) for apparent aggravated cruelty to animals in violation of Florida law. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 828.12(2).

As discussed in the attached appendix, during an August 2025 inspection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) officers found that 21 sloths in Bandre and Agresta’s custody died in December 2024 due inadequate housing causing “cold stun.” Under Florida law, “a person who owns or has the custody or control of any animal and fails to act, which results in the cruel death, . . . or causes the same to be done, commits aggravated animal cruelty, a felony of the third degree.”<sup>1</sup> By keeping sloths in an unheated storage unit, despite the knowledge that it was unfit to hold sloths, Bandre and Agresta apparently subjected 21 sloths to a cruel death in violation of Florida law.

PETA urges the FDLE to immediately investigate Bandre and Agresta for apparent aggravated animal cruelty. Keeping wild animals in an unsupervised storage unit with no electricity or running water apparently led to the death of 21 sloths, and thus appears to violate Florida law. PETA urges the FDLE to hold Bandre and Agresta responsible for any violations it uncovers.

Sincerely,



Cydnee Bence  
Counsel & Aquatic Animal Lead  
Captive Animal Law Enforcement | PETA Foundation  
[REDACTED]

<sup>1</sup> Fla. Stat. Ann. § 828.12(2).

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PETA FOUNDATION IS AN OPERATING  
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- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

## Appendix

During December 2024, Peter Bandre and Benjamin Agresta owned and operated Sloth World Inc.<sup>2</sup> Bandre and Agresta used a now-defunct business called “Sanctuary World Imports” to import sloths from outside the United States to populate their planned roadside zoo, Sloth World.<sup>3</sup> Bandre and Agresta used an unheated and unelectrified storage unit at 7547 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819, to hold imported sloths until they could transfer the animals Sloth World.<sup>4</sup>

On August 7, 2025, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) officers inspected the storage unit and inquired about the deaths of 31 total sloths between December 2024 and February 2025.<sup>5</sup> According to the FWC’s investigation, on December 18, 2024, Bandre received 21 sloths from Guyana. Bandre admitted to FWC officers that the storage unit was unfit to hold sloths at the time he received them;<sup>6</sup> Florida’s winter temperatures were too cold for rainforest-dwelling sloths. In an apparent attempt to heat the storage unit, Bandre used space heaters powered by an extension cord from a different building. Bandre and Agresta then left the sloths unattended with the heaters running. The space heaters reportedly “tripped the fuse and shut it down” for “at least one night.” By December 22, 2024, the sloths had died. Bandre attributed their deaths to “cold stun.”<sup>7</sup>

Under Florida law, “a person who owns or has the custody or control of any animal and fails to act, which results in the cruel death, . . . or causes the same to be done, commits aggravated animal cruelty, a felony of the third degree.”<sup>8</sup> “Cruel” means “ every act, omission, or neglect whereby unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering is caused, . . . , permitted, or allowed to continue when there is reasonable remedy or relief.”<sup>9</sup>

Bandre and Agresta owned the sloths through Sanctuary World Imports and had custody and control over the sloths from the time they took possession of the animals on December 18, 2024 until the sloths’ premature deaths.<sup>10</sup> Bandre and Agresta had actual knowledge that the storage unit had no electricity at the time they took possession of the sloths. Bandre took the sloths to this facility, knowing that it was not suitable to hold the sloths—admitting as much to FWC officers.<sup>11</sup> Moreover, Bandre markets himself as a “sloth expert” and touts that he “wrote the leading textbook

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<sup>2</sup> Ex. 1, Articles of Incorporation for Sloth World Inc. (Dec. 02, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> Ex. 2, Articles of Incorporation for Sanctuary World Imports Inc. (Oct. 15, 2024); Sloth World is located at 6582 International Dr., Orlando, FL 32819.

<sup>4</sup> Ex. 3, Florida FWC Captive Wildlife Report (Aug. 08, 2025).

<sup>5</sup> Ex. 3 (21 sloths from Guyana died from “cold stun” and 10 other sloths from Peru died under other circumstances).

<sup>6</sup> Ex. 3.

<sup>7</sup> Ex. 3.

<sup>8</sup> FLA. STAT. ANN. § 828.12(2).

<sup>9</sup> FLA. STAT. ANN. § 828.02.

<sup>10</sup> FLA. STAT. ANN. § 828.02 (“the words ‘owner’ and ‘person’ shall be held to include corporations, and the knowledge and acts of agents and employees of corporations in regard to animals transported, owned, employed by or in the custody of a corporation, shall be held to be the knowledge and act of such corporation.”).

<sup>11</sup> Ex. 3.

on sloth care.”<sup>12</sup> Bandre, more than most, should know that an unelectrified storage unit is an unfit sloth enclosure. However, it does not take an expert to know that keeping *any animal* in a storage unit, much less unsupervised with makeshift heating elements, is dangerous and unsuitable. Bandre and Agresta had every reason to know that keeping sloths in the storage unit was likely to cause the animals harm. Nonetheless, Bandre and Agresta moved ahead with their plan to keep 21 sloths in a completely unsuitable and patently dangerous environment.

Despite the obvious danger of Bandre’s makeshift climate control, neither Bandre nor Agresta supervised the sloths’ conditions overnight. And, predictably, the sloths died as a result of Bandre and Agresta’s intentional acts. The sloths’ deaths could have been prevented. At the very least, Bandre or Agresta could have outfitted the storage unit with safe and effective heating *before* purchasing the sloths or even just regularly monitored the facility. Allowing the sloths to suffer and die in the cold was completely unnecessary, unjustifiable, and preventable.

While Florida FWC regulates certain activities involving the ownership of exotic animals, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) enforces Florida’s criminal laws, including cruelty to animals. Accordingly, the FWC’s report and findings are evidence of wrongdoing and should not be considered exculpatory or a substitution for a thorough FDLE investigation. Even if FWC found no violations of wildlife regulations at the site, which it did,<sup>13</sup> that would not excuse Bandre and Agresta from their obligation to follow Florida’s animal cruelty law.

Thus, Bandre and Agresta have apparently violated Florida law by subjecting 21 sloths to a cruel death. After taking wild sloths from the wild, these sloths were then shipped to the U.S. where they were shuffled away in a storage unit without adequate heat, electricity, or running water. Rather than secure adequate housing, or even adequate supervision, Bandre and Agresta allowed 21 sloths to suffer and die from “cold stun” *and then ordered more sloths*, who also died in that storage unit.<sup>14</sup> In total, over 50 sloths reportedly died in Sloth World’s custody.<sup>15</sup> While Agresta recently transferred 13 sloths to an accredited and licensed facility, it is unclear how many total sloths Bandre and Agresta imported and their conditions. Without FDLE’s immediate intervention, Bandre and Agresta will likely continue to endanger any sloths in their custody.

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<sup>12</sup> Ex. 4, *Frequently Asked Questions*, SLOTH WORLD, <https://slothworld.com/faq/> (last visited Apr. 23, 2026) (listing Pete Bandre as Sloth World’s “Vice President” and “one of the most respected sloth experts in the world.”).

<sup>13</sup> Ex. 3.

<sup>14</sup> Katie Surma, Kiley Price, *At ‘Sloth World’ in Florida, Wild Sloths Have Died by the Dozens*, INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS (Apr. 16, 2026), <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/16042026/florida-sloth-world-deaths/>.

<sup>15</sup> Marie Edinger and Hannah Mackenzie, *Orlando ‘Sloth World’ death count rises; customers demand refunds*, Fox35 (Apr. 27, 2026), <https://www.fox35orlando.com/news/orlando-sloth-world-death-count-rises-customers-demand-refunds>.