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# OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Case Narrative for CR23-001140 (08/16/23 09:15)

Printed on October 3, 2025

## Initial Report By Chad Gallick, 08/16/23 09:15

### Initial Report

Case #CR23-001140

Typed By Chad Gallick

Deputy Gallick Reporting:

On 07/27/23 at 0930 hours I met with Steve Hindi and Michael Kobliska in reference to an animal complaint. Steve informed me that he and Michael belong to the animal rights group SHARK. They wanted to inform of live stock, cows, being mistreated at a Charreada rodeo. The rodeo took place on the property of 16989 E. Ritchie Road in Creston. The interview took place in an audio/video recorded interview room. The video was later downloaded, burned to a CD, and placed into evidence. Steve told me the following information.

Steve said he had an external hard drive that contained video footage, from the event, that was recorded from two drones. Steve allowed me to take possession of the external hard drive so I could view and document what was seen on the videos. Steve then showed me the drone footage that he had download to his laptop computer. The first video he showed me was of a calf that received injury and broke one of his horns. In the video, a male riding a horse chases down the calf. He then grabs the calf by the tail, which forces the cow to tumble on the ground. When the calf stands back up you can clearly see one of his horns is broken. Steve advised me this was the first "run" that the cow made that day. I then observed the same cow a few minutes later, and blood was visible near the broken horn. Steven then showed video of the same cow making 10 or more additional runs after he was injured on the first run. After each additional run the cow makes, you can see his horn sustain more injuries. I could see the horn visibly broken, it appeared to be drooping, partially torn from its head, and a large amount of blood was visible on the cows face. During the final runs, the cow was reluctant to get back up, and stayed laying down for several minutes. When the cow did get back to its feet, it appeared to be disoriented. Steve then showed me video of all the cows, used for the rodeo, in a livestock pen. All the cows, injured and uninjured, were kept in the same pen. Steve told me this is a violation as injured animals should be separated from healthy animals. In the video a cow is "horning" the cow with the broken horn. The healthy cow is seen placing his horn on the cows injured horn an pushing against it.

Steve then showed me a second file of videos. The videos showed additional animals being injured at the same rodeo. In the first video a cow is making a run, and is grabbed by the tail. The cow tumbles to the ground, and upon getting up has a visible right rear leg injury. The cow can be seen visibly limping as it leaves the area. Steve fast forwarded threw several other cows being injured since I had access to the same videos on the external hard drive. After fast forwarding threw several videos, he showed a video of another cow with a head and neck injury. During the run, the cow tumbled on the ground. When it got up, it was showing signs of what appeared to be a head or neck injury. Steve then showed me a cows tail being "de-gloved". Steve told me the riders use "sharp" spurs during the event. The cow is seen making a run, and the rider grabs the cow by the tail. As he is holding the tail, his spur makes contact with the cows tail, cuts the tail, and rips off a portion of skin. Steve continued to show me several other cows being injured during runs. All of the cows continued to be run, multiple times, even though they had visible injuries. Approximately 40 head of cattle were used for the event in Creston. Steve advised me that during the time they were in the area, none of the cows received any veterinarian care for their injuries. Steve told me Meyer Livestock located in Bernard, Iowa provides and transports the cows for the rodeos. The animals were previously transported in trucks and trailers that contained the Meyer name on the cab. Since SHARK had publicly named them and associated them with the mistreatment of animals, they have changed using pickup trucks and trailers with no name or logos on them.

Michael said the Charreada's are posted on social media with times and dates of events. SHARK regularly monitors different social media pages in the Chicago area. Previous events have been held in Boone and McHenry Counties. Michael said they have put pressure to shut the Charreada's down, in those counties, and they are now moving the

events to Ogle County. Michael said they have to apply for individual permits for the events in Boone and McHenry Counties, and they do not in Ogle County. Both Michael and Steve have seen several of the same people participating in Rodeo's in multiple county over the course of multiple years. During early spring and summer a rodeo is held every weekend. There are times events are held on both Saturday and Sunday, and other times Rodeo's take place on the same day in multiple counties. Tickets for the events are sold online using a platform similar to Ticketmaster, and cost of the events are normally 25.00 USC. Michael and Steve said the platform used to sell tickets was in Spanish, and they were unsure of the name.

I advised Steven and Michael that I would review the video, provided on a external hard, and generate a report on the incident. I provided them with business cards, and advised them to call me if they had any additional information on questions.





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Case Narrative for CR23-001140 (11/15/23 11:17)

Printed on October 3, 2025

## Follow Up Report By Chad Gallick, 11/15/23 11:17

Vdideo

Case #CR23-001140

Typed By Chad Gallick

Deputy Gallick Reporting:

After meeting with Steven Hindi and Michael Kobliska, I attempted to view all of the video files on the external hard drive they provided. I was unable to view the video on any windows based computers, and IT was unable to get the video to play. The video would only play on a Mac computer. I contacted Steven, and advised him I was unable to play the video he provided me on the external hard drive. I advised him I had written a report based on the video he showed me during the interview, but I needed to watch the remaining videos. Steven said he would put the video on another external hard drive and mail it certified.

I later received the external hard drive and could view the video files. Steven provided video of rodeos from 16989 E. Ritchie Road. He provided me video from 10/16/22, 06/25/23, 07/16/23, 08/26/23, and 09/10/23. I viewed the video files for the above dates. The external hard drive contains several hours of footage. Below is a summary of incidents that cows were injured.

The drone footage from 10/16/2022 showed approximately 30 to 40 rodeo participants on horse back. Approximately 30 to 40 cattle were used during the rodeo. The same cattle were run multiple times during the rodeo, and I did not see the cattle receive any veterinarian care. I did not recognize any of the rodeo participants. I observed several hundred other people on the property, but not participating in the rodeo. I reviewed the drone footage and witnessed the following. In file drone 1 card 4 video 4, I observed a brown cow tumble to the ground, roll over onto its back, and was unable to get up. One of the rodeo participants physically pushed the cow to its side and then assisted the cow in getting to its feet. On file drone 1 card 5 video 2, I observed a brown cow, with horns, that was knocked to the ground. When the cow returned to its feet I observed the cow to have a rear left leg injury. The cow was not putting any weight on the rear left leg. The leg did not move, and the cow appeared to be dragging his rear left leg.

The drone video footage from 06/25/23 showed approximately 30 to 40 rodeo participants on horseback. Approximately 30 to 40 head of cattle were used during the rodeo. Several workers corralled the cows into the chute, and were observed to be using wood poles, and electric prods to poke at the cattle. I observed several hundred spectators outside the area. I did not recognize any of the rodeo participants or spectators. The same head of cattle were used for the event, and I did not see the cattle receive any veterinarian care. I saw several cattle visibly limping after being grabbed by the tail and knocked to the ground. In file drone 2 card 3 and video 4, I observed a male hit a horse, in the face, with an open hand. In file drone 2 card 1 video 6, I observed a brown cow with a broken right horn. The cow was run several more times, and did not have veterinarian care at any time. In file drone 2 card 3 video 7, I observed a cow with a damaged right horn. The horn was still attached, but loose. As the cow ran I could visibly see the horn shaking as the cow ran. The left horn was pointed in an upward position, and the damaged/loose horn was pointed down.

In the drone video footage from 07/16/23, I observed approximately 30 to 40 rodeo participants on horseback, and located in various locations within the arena. Approximately 30 to 40 head of cattle were used during the rodeo. I also observed several workers corraling cows into the chute so they could be released into the arena. The workers corraling cows can be seen using wooden and metal poles, along with plastic paddles to poke and hit the livestock. I also observed, at various times, workers and participants whipping the livestock, and horses. At times when the camera zooms out, several hundred people can be seen on the property outside of the arena. I did not recognize anyone who was present at the rodeo.

I reviewed drone footage from 08/26/23. I observed approximately 30 to 40 head of cattle corralled into a pen. The file included several still pictures of the cattle. In the first two video files I observed minimal staff on site at that time. I did not recognize anyone working the event. In the last video files I observed video of the rodeo. I observed approximately 20 participants, and did not recognize any of them. On card 2 file 2 video 1, I observed a black/white cow tumble to the ground after having its tail grabbed. When the cow returned to its feet, it was visibly limping. I notice the cow was not putting any weight on its rear left leg for a long period of time.

I reviewed drone footage from 09/10/23. The footage was broken down into two files. The file names were Shane and Steve. I first reviewed the file footage named Shane. I observed 50 or more head of cattle, and 50 or more rodeo participants. I also observed several hundred people in attendance. I did not recognize any of the rodeo participants or anyone else in attendance. While reviewing the videos I observed participants tie a rope around a cow's neck and tie the opposite end of the rope to fence. The video was in card 1 file 1 and video 12. I observed a cow fall and land on its neck. When the cow returned to its feet it appeared to have a neck injury. The video was card 2 file 1 video 15. I also observed cows being whipped and prodded using electric prods. I then reviewed the file footage named Steve. The footage appears to be the same as Shane's just from an opposite angle.