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01. STANDARD OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE: CRIME SCENE EVALUATION RELATED TO ANIMAL CRUELTY IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Procedimento operacional padrão: avaliação da cena do crime relacionada à crueldade animal no Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

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Introduction: The Brazilian legislation on crimes against fauna defines as a crime: “to commit acts of abuse, mistreatment, injury or mutilation of wild, domestic or domesticated, native or exotic animals” (BRASIL, 1998). In recent years, the number of crimes against fauna has gained great notoriety, and due to the high demand for this type of exam, it is crucial to improve the experts’ reports on such offenses. Therefore, the State has the responsibility of correctly identifying and preserving evidences related to animal abuse (YOSHIDA, 2013). A satisfactory collection of vestiges is indispensable, since “findings are pieces of a puzzle that together tell a story” (MERCK, 2007). Currently in the state of Rio de Janeiro most of the examinations of crime scenes involving animals are carried out by forensic experts who are not veterinarians, due to the reduced number of these professionals in Scientific Police. In this regard, a standard operating procedure is essential for performing crime scene investigations involving animals because well collected evidence and proper crime scene analyses are fundamental for helping crime solution. Criminal expertise involves technical-scientific knowledge, intended to clarify traces and interpret facts in the face of criminal or suspicious events (TREMORI; SOUZA, 2013). Thus, this work aims to implement a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) used as an instrument to produce evidences, which will guide

law enforcement. **Methodology:** This proposed SOP is an instrument of descriptive methodology, step by step actions to be carried out by professionals in crime scenes regarding animal abuse or smuggling, and aims to reduce the necessary time for the expert to examine, by standardizing the forensic work on animals, providing objectivity in the search for evidence to promote data reproducibility. For the creation of the SOP, data collection was carried out in crime scene investigations related to animal cruelty from September 2014 to January 2017 by Forensic Experts of the Civil Police of Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil. Based on these data, there was a huge variability of cases involving domestic and wild animals related to smuggling, abuse and mistreatment, encompassing different and complex scenarios. Important points regarding the expert procedures were discussed through questions elaborated by experts, such as, which signs must be search? Are there differences between evidences to each species? What really is relevant to register by photos in this crime scenes? How to proceed in case of finding computers obeying to legislation? Therefore, the SOP was elaborated contemplating the parts of crime scene analysis. The SOP also provides relevant information, such as situations in which acts of mistreatment, abuse and trafficking of animals are characterized according to what is in the legislation. Table 1 shows the main data of crime scene analysis by experts used to create the SOP:

Table 1 – Main data of crime scene analysis

Local	Private property/ Pet shop/ Forest reserve/ Street market
Species	Identification of species
Type of confinement	Yard/ Flat super population/ Cage/ Free from captivity
Food and water	Available/ Unavailable
Local hygiene	Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory
Injuries/parasites	Yes/No
Animal exploration type	Pet animal/Sale/Animal fighting/ Loading work/ Illegal hunting
Mistreatment	Yes/No
Animal trafficking	Yes/no

Results: The use of the guidelines prescribed in the standard operating procedure has made possible a

crime scene evaluation with greater agility and richness in details, the same has already been done by others forensic experts from places in the countryside of Rio de Janeiro. Recently, in a site examination carried out in a diligence by DPMA (Environmental Protection Police Station) at the Rio de Janeiro Zoo, a highly complex area of expertise that involved verifying stockpiling of food provided to the animals, as well as the conformity of the enclosures according to Ibama (BRASIL, 2015), the use of SOP has become essential and valuable, since it covers the observations necessary to verify the environmental and behavioral conditions related to the confinement of animals in the Zoo of the city of Rio de Janeiro, allowing a detailed and standardized analysis of this crime scene. **Discussion:** The use of a standard operational procedure in analyses involving crimes against fauna and animal abuse by the Forensic Expert in crime scenes provides a consistent, organized and standardized orientation, without compromising the examination and necropsy of the animals to be carried out within the precepts of the Legal Veterinary Medicine, by a Veterinary Medical Expert, who is the most qualified professional for this activity (MAIORKA; MARLET, 2012). With this proposal, we intend to promote valorous and indispensable instruments for proper chain of custody, aiming at increasing their effectiveness on investigating crimes against animals.

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