



August 30, 2022

The Honorable Guerry Hill Jr.
Sheriff of Colleton County

Michael J. Neault, D.V.M.
State Veterinarian

Via e-mail

Dear Sheriff Hill and Dr. Neault:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals U.S.—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to request that you investigate unregulated horse races that are [advertised](#) to take place at Carril 57 (3567 Bells Hwy., Walterboro, South Carolina 29488) on September 4.

As you may know, two Quarter Horses were [recently euthanized](#) in Barnwell County after testing positive for equine infectious anemia (EIA)—reportedly, the horses were used on black market tracks, or “bush tracks,” and likely contracted EIA from shared needles. There are at least four unregulated racing tracks in the state, and they could serve as breeding grounds for the disease if left unmonitored.

PETA recently released the results of a [10-month investigation into underground Quarter Horse racing](#), exposing widespread doping with various substances, including methamphetamine, cocaine, and Ritalin; the use of electric shock devices; injuries, including fatal ones, to both horses and jockeys; and the exchange of hundreds of thousands of dollars in apparently illegal gambling at Rancho El Centenario, the largest bush track in Georgia. PETA also found that that many race teams from out of state apparently had failed to obtain the requisite certificates of veterinary inspection and negative EIA tests, as Georgia authorities had no record of such documents for any horse used during our investigation. We have now [filed complaints](#) with state and local authorities calling for criminal investigations into these and other acts that appear to violate numerous laws. Our video footage, [available here](#), and photographs, [available here](#), indicate what may occur at 3567 Bells Hwy.

PETA's investigation encompassed [Cuadra Cristo Rey](#), the premier Quarter Horse stable based in Georgia, which regularly races at Carril 57 and is scheduled to race there on September 25. Our investigators witnessed that Cuadra Cristo Rey workers injected horses on the tracks at Rancho El Centenario and another Georgia track, Rancho El Canelo, as part of their regular pre-race routine. This stable's jockey [has also been filmed](#) wearing electric shock devices.

On May 15, jockeys [Alex Carrillo](#) and [Edgar Diaz](#) were photographed at Carril 57 wearing electric shocking devices while riding for multiple stables.

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- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)





The races scheduled to take place at Carril 57 would likely feature the same issues that PETA discovered at other bush tracks and that were documented at 3567 Bells Hwy. We urge you to investigate and take all appropriate action to prevent the spread of EIA and to prosecute any violations of South Carolina's anti-cruelty, gambling, and drug laws.

Thank you for your time and consideration. May I please hear from you about this important matter?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Guillermo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Guillermo
Senior Vice President
Equine Matters Department