TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2011

Cattle Ranch Anomalous Lights / Mutilations - Southwest Florida

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Received today from field investigator Gary Mansfield: *This anomalous light showed up over several weeks at a cattle range location in southwest Florida that I and several others had been investigating a string of cattle mutilations. This object was seen on more than one occasion... whereby we finally had occasion to sink three rounds of 300 Winchester Magnums at it from 300 yards and never found anything afterwards. Previously, six calves suffered neck and hind quarter severance’s. No trace of rifle conflict on the object was found around the area of engagement. We couldn't believe we could have missed the object at that distance. I am convinced that this object could be the skin walker.*

*An enhanced version of the original...what is this?*

The number of animal mutilations has increased dramatically in North and South America the past few years. Below I have...
posted theories on different sides of the issue, be it UFOs, aliens, military, government, chupacabras, natural predators, disease, etc...Lon

Dead Cows I've Known: A Fresh Look At Cattle Mutilation Theory

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Florida officially joined the ranks of the cattle mutilation mystery when, on March 28, 1997, the State of Florida formed a task force to investigate the macabre wounds that have been left on the carcasses of more than 20 head of cattle in the central part of the state. According to Florida Today, a Brevard county newspaper, Brevard, Seminole, Lake and St. Lucie counties have all been hit with cattle mutilations since July, 1996. None of the usual suspects, writer Billy Cox of Florida Today states - UFOs, satanic cults and unmarked black helicopters - have ever been apprehended.

A $1,000 reward, offered by the Florida Cattlemen's Association for the arrest and conviction of the killers, remains unclaimed. A sheriff who has been investigating similar events in Colorado since the 1970s said, "I'll be on the first jet down" as soon as an arrest is made. The April issue of The Florida Cattleman magazine warned ranchers not to handle mutilated cattle because "unknown persons have been poisoning (them)." That theory is offered somewhat lamely in order to avoid jeopardizing the investigation, according to the newspaper. Continue reading at Florida Cattle Under Attack

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Animal mutilations became widespread throughout the American West during the 1970s, especially in Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. They also occurred in such eastern states as Pennsylvania and Florida. But the phenomenon was global, reaching Canada, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, Brazil, parts of Europe, the Canary Islands, and Australia.

As mutilations became common, cases arose which defied simple explanations. Frequently, the anal area of the animal was bored out and the reproductive organs removed. The cuts seemed to be precise, very smooth, and in a few cases, a near perfect circle of hide was removed from the belly. Often the eyes, tongue, ears, and reproductive organs were missing. Usually there were no signs of struggle, nor of blood -- either in the victim's body or anywhere at the site -- and predators often avoided the carcass. Even more strange, there were frequently no tracks around the animal other
than its own.

Many mutilations appeared to coincide with sightings of nearby UFOs, as well as mysterious, unmarked, black helicopters.

Beyond question, the phenomenon of mutilated cattle was real. In Minnesota, twenty-two cases of mutilated cattle carcasses were reported between 1970 and 1974. In Iowa, so many reports emerged that U.S. Attorney General Alan Donielson asked the FBI in 1973 to make "an intensive investigation." Between 1973 and 1975, the state of Colorado confirmed more than 130 cattle mutilations.

Cases during the 1990s found lesions "consistent with electrosurgical excision." Researchers continued to find abnormally high radiation levels near the dead animals. - from Everything - Cattle Mutilations

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Mystery Helicopters Add to Animal-Abuse Puzzle

Albertville, Alabama - Animal owners who are finding carcasses with tongues, eyes, ears and hearts missing, have a new mystery for authorities, unlighted helicopters swooping out of the night sky.

Albertville Chief Detective Tommy Cole is among those who in the past five months reported about a dozen cases of dead, mutilated animals-cows, goats and at least one dog.

The animals were found in the pastures with no traces of automobile tracks, footprints or blood, he said.

"On Jan. 9, I went to feed my steers and realized I was one short. The sexual organs and rectum was removed and the blood was gone," Mr. Cole said. All of the killings, including that of a calf found Tuesday, were within about four miles of this northeast Alabama city.

"They take tongues, eyes, ears, hearts. Sometimes, they take blood," Mr. Cole said. He said there are no suspects.

All of the animals have been found within 150 ft of power lines. The Marshall County Sheriff's Dept. received reports Tuesday night that one or more helicopters were flying at night over pastures near Albertville. The department pilot, Jim Pickett, said he and deputy Bob Norwood went up in the county helicopter but never located
another one. "We kept getting reports of a helicopter flying at tree-top level with no lights on," he said.

During the search for an unlighted helicopter, shots were fired from the ground at the sheriff's helicopter. No one was hurt. Deputy Norwood said a car signaled the department helicopter by flashing lights on and off. The helicopter flew close enough to the car to see that it was parked under power lines.

"People were trying to lure us into high tension wires. I don't think it was purposely for us," he said.

Doug Segers said he saw a helicopter forcing his 42 cattle into a corner in his pasture. He said he felt the wind and heard the engine. "The copter was behind my barn with a spotlight. Of course, I had a 30-30 rifle over my shoulder. They saw me run to my truck." he said. "The cows were scared to death. One cow is real gentle and we couldn't even get around her."

Some farmers are using spotlights and patrolling their land, he said. John Strawn said he has seen helicopters land in pastures at night. He said he has 30 head of cattle, an investment of about $12,000. Mr. Strawn has organized farmers and said the group has been able to identify three turbine helicopters, one light blue and white with an orange sun, one dark blue and the other black.

Here are other links:

Deputy Terminated for Contradicting Horse Mutilation Official Findings

Mysterious Cattle Mutilations in Meagher County, Montana

Answers May Be Forthcoming In North Georgia Cattle Mutilations

**NOTE: Scott Corrales of Inexplicata - The Journal of Hispanic Ufology offers extensive up-to-date coverage of animal mutilation occurrences throughout South America.**

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**LET'S NOT FORGET HUMAN MUTILATIONS:**

Harvesting the Human Commodity

**Labels:** aliens, animal mutilations, Florida, fortean, surgery, UFO, unexplained lights, unexplained phenomena
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POSTED BY LON AT 4:03 PM
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  - The Return of the Boggy Creek Monster?
Recent Cattle Mutilation In Southern Colorado Hotspot

Monday morning August 8th, 2011, Zukowski was contacted by rancher Miller from Trinidad, Colorado. He informed him that one of his cows had been mutilated over the past weekend. Zukowski had investigated one of his previous mutilated cows back on March of 2009. This rancher has had three separate mutilation cases.

Zukowski notes:

Field Investigator: Chuck Zukowski, Colorado Springs, Co

Location of Mutilation: Trinidad, Colorado

Mutilation occurred sometime Friday August 5th or Saturday August 6th.

Found by non-owner rancher on Sunday August 7th.

Rancher Miller was informed on Sunday while out of town, saw the animal for the first time on Monday August 8th.
Rancher contacted me on Monday morning August 8th.

Field investigation took place on Monday afternoon August 8th, roughly 2:30pm.

Las Animas County Sheriff deputy investigated animal August 8, 2011

Caution some pictures posted at the source may be disturbing

Investigative Notes:

Radiation Check: none detected

EMF (Electro-Magnetic-Field) detection: 8-10 micro-tesla

Magnetic Sweep: no metallic’s detected

The animal did not have a magnet in her stomach

Animal was pointing head first 60 degrees N/E

Animal Statistics:

Breed: Red Angus

Sex: female

Age: 5 years old

Length: estimated 8 feet 11 inches from nose to hind

Gurth: estimated 9 feet round

Weight: estimated 1000+ pounds

Mutilation wounds visible on left side:

Laceration on nose

Laceration around left eye

Oval hole where left ear used to be. 7 inches by 4 inches
Tongue appears to be removed

Oval hole between forelegs. 12 inches by 7.5 inches

Oval hole at location of utter. 6 inches by 4 inches

Two oval holes where utter teats appeared to be. 1×1 inch

Long laceration between rear legs to utter. 18 inches x 4 inches

Oval hole near anal area. 8.5 inches by 6 inches

Animal was too heavy to roll over by me and rancher so right side of animal was unseen.

Predator evidence: none

Scavenger evidence: birds only

Flies present

Normal smell for two day old carcass

No evidence of struggle on dirt

No evidence of human intervention causing animal’s death

Evidence of bloating

Evidence of out-gassing

Rancher’s dog was sick after interacting with carcass day before, but appears fine during investigation.

Samples Taken:

Tissue sample taken along edge of oval hole near anal area

Tissue sample taken along edge of oval hole near utter area

Tissue sample taken along edge of oval hole between front forelegs

Soil sample taken near carcass, test sample taken 50 feet away at similar terrain

Ear tag from missing ear left side
**Action Items:**

The three tissue samples will be sent to [Colorado State University Veterinary Lab](http://naturalplane.blogspot.com/2011/08/recent-cattle-mutilation-in-sout...), Fort Collins, for analysis.

- Tissue analysis will be determined by samples when received

The soil samples will be sent to a soil analysis lab I work with. (Name on file and not revealed, per lab’s request)

- Soil analysis will be a comparison analysis looking for any differences between the two.

**Zukowski’s Conclusion:**

*Unfortunately I was unable to take this animal to the lab for a complete necropsy. There are a few factors which can stand in the way to achieve this. One, time accrued of deceased animal. Two, distance to the lab. Three, proper specimen to achieve complete necropsy for proper analysis.*

*As information on current mutilation cases become more available to the public, the public in turn, knows who to contact when a new mutilation occurs. This hand-shake of information going back and forth from investigator to the public, will ultimately achieve our goals of finding the evidence we need to resolve these cases.*

*Chuck Zukowski*

**Caution some pictures posted at the source may be disturbing**
NOTE: I have to ask the question....are these animal mutilations related in any way to the proximity of Dulce Base and the reported underground passages to this general location? Here are links to previous posts:

March 12, 2009 - Mutilated Cow Reported Near Trinidad, Colorado

March 27, 2009 - Two More Mutilated Cows Reported In Southern Colorado

March 30, 2009 - Third Cattle Mutilation Reported in Southern Colorado, MUFON Investigating

November 28, 2009 - Recent Cattle Mutilations in San Luis Valley, CO Still a Mystery

December 10, 2009 - Hovering Blue Lights Connected to Colorado Cattle Mutilations?

May 24, 2010 - Colorado Officials Skeptical of Cattle Mutilation Theories
The supposed underground connections between Dulce Base and other government and military facilities in the southwest United States

Labels: alien technology, animal mutilations, Colorado, Dublin, underground bases

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There were just a few drops of blood around the cow — hardly what was expected considering the tongue and udder were removed and the flesh and tissue scraped clean to the bone.

In the days before its death, the cow showed no signs of being sick. The tongue and udder looked like they had been cut with precision — not ripped as a predator would do.

"I reached out to everybody I know to try to get an explanation," Meagher County Sheriff Jon Lopp said. "Everybody's got a theory — from insects to UFOs. I've actually read a lot about it. I'm still as confused as I was when I started."
Though this incident was the first time Lopp has seen a cow mutilated in such a strange manner, it's been going on elsewhere for decades.

In England, accounts of mutilated cows, horses and goats date back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The first reports in America surfaced in Pennsylvania and Kansas in the 1960s. Montana's first known similar incident was a Sand Coulee steer in late August 1974. By December 1977, sheriff's deputies had investigated 67 mutilation cases in Cascade, Judith Basin, Chouteau, Teton and Pondera counties.

The hallmarks of these incidents are the almost surgically precise removal of reproductive organs, udders, anus, teats and tongues with very little bleeding. Flesh around the jaw often is removed, exposing the mandible. Sometimes, internal organs are removed with no obvious points of entry.

Lopp found no human or animal tracks around the dead cow, and no signs of a struggle — just like in the other mutilated cow cases. However, the ground was hard when the cow was discovered in late October, and there was no snow on the ground.

After asking around, Lopp learned of another Meagher County rancher who several years ago had three cows die in a similar fashion within a few months of each other.

Over the years, explanations have included the legendary Chupacabra, extraterrestrials, secretive government programs and satanic cults.

Montana Department of Livestock Brands Enforcement Administrator John Grainger has a more earthly explanation — magpies and coyotes. Grainger investigated several cow mutilation cases while he was the Roosevelt County Sheriff, before he started working for the state.

He said that an errant bullet can strike a cow during hunting season, but it might take weeks for the animal to die of blood loss or infection.

"Magpies are very specific and precise," Grainger added. "They can take out an eye very closely. They can't eat through the hide, but I've seen them hollow out an area around a bullet hole."
The missing body parts are the first to be consumed because they are the softest and tastiest, according to livestock inspector Mark Feist, who covers Meagher County.

"It's kind of like candy for predators," he said. "As far as I can tell what it was were animals chewing on them. I've never seen a Martian come down and do it, if that's what you're asking."

The federal government reached the same conclusion in a 297-page report following a four-year investigation at the urging of a Colorado senator who said 130 cows were mutilated in his state in 1975.

However, that explanation doesn't sit right with Pondera County Sheriff Tom Kuka, who first heard about the strange mutilations while growing up near Valier.

"Lots of people have suggested it's birds or bugs," he said. "You wouldn't believe the number of calls I got from people saying it was space aliens with vaporizers or some creature like Bigfoot.

"I've never really formed an opinion as to how they died or why. ... There's just something strange about it," Kuka added.

Pondera County is a historic hotspot for mutilated cattle. About 15 such cases were reported in 2001 and 2002 in the county, and another five were reported in the neighboring counties of Cascade and Glacier.

The Department of Livestock doesn't track cattle mutilations, leaving it to individual county sheriffs to investigate.

Considering a cow typically is sold for $1,200, the crime is investigated as felony criminal mischief.

Though both have since left the Pondera Sheriff’s Office, Dick Dailey and Dan Campbell collected photos and evidence on Montana cattle mutilations for years, pinpointing each incident on a map.

"Nothing about it seemed natural," said Dailey, who worked on ranches in Wyoming and Montana before joining the sheriff's department. "The cuts on them ... if predators were doing it, it would be stringy. These were really smooth cuts."

The cows' jaw bones showed no signs of being chewed on and most often the missing hide was on the underside of the animal — where a coyote or bird couldn't get to it.
Campbell said he never saw any signs of beetles and maggots, which would take weeks to do that kind of damage.

Further adding to the mystery, the men said they tracked coyotes in the area, but the animals wouldn't come within 20 or 30 feet of the carcass. Even grizzly bears readying for hibernation stayed away from the decomposing cattle.

One cow found shortly after it died was tested by the Las Vegas Institute of Science. Dailey said it had high amounts of a government-controlled sedative in its blood stream.

Both men said they are certain there are cattle mutilations that go unreported — either ranchers dismiss them as natural or think there's nothing law enforcement can do. Campbell said ranchers in other counties and Canada have often called him, frustrated that area officers won't investigate mutilations.

"I'm sure among law enforcement we were at the butt end of every joke," he said. "It's a felony crime and to push that into a box just isn't right."

Years later, another Pondera County cattle mutilation left an intriguing clue.

A few feet south of the carcass was a foot-deep impression in the stubblefield. There were no drag marks or footprints to the cow's final resting place — as if the bovine had fallen from the sky and then bounced.

Now a ranch foreman in Augusta, Campbell is certain animals didn't mutilate the cattle, but he is not willing to leap to any unearthly conclusions.

"I don't think it's aliens," he said. "Here in Montana, we've hit just about everything on the road — and I've never hit an alien."

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Cattle mutilation

From UFOHQ UFO wiki

Template:Refimprove

**Cattle mutilation** (also known as **bovine excision**<ref>Levengood W C, "A Study of Bovine Excision Sites from 1993 to 1997" (1997), Pinelandia Biophysical Laboratory</ref>) is the apparent killing and mutilation of cattle under unusual or anomalous circumstances. Sheep and horses have allegedly been mutilated under similar circumstances.

A hallmark of these incidents is the surgical nature of the mutilation, and unexplained phenomena such as the complete draining of the animal's blood, loss of internal organs with no obvious point of entry, and surgically precise removal of the reproductive organs and anal coring. Another reported event is that the animal is found dumped in an area where there are no marks or tracks leading to or from the carcass, even when it is found in soft ground or mud. The surgical-type wounds tend to be cauterized by an intense heat and made by very sharp/precise instruments, with no bleeding evident. Often flesh will be removed to the bone in an exact manner, consistent across cases, such as removal of flesh from around the jaw exposing the mandible.

Since the time that reports of purported animal mutilations began, the causes have been attributed variously to natural decomposition, normal predators, cryptid predators (like the Chupacabra), extraterrestrials, secretive governmental or military agencies, and cults. "Mutilations" have been the subject of two independent federal investigations in the United States<ref>Animal Mutilation Project (http://foia.fbi.gov/foiaindex/ufoanim.htm) , FBI, Released under FOIA</ref>.

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History

Charles Fort collected many accounts of cattle mutilations that occurred in England in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Reports of mutilated cattle first surfaced in the United States in the early 1960s when it was allegedly largely confined to the states of Pennsylvania and Kansas. Template:Citation needed The phenomenon remained largely unknown outside cattle raising communities until 1967, when the Pueblo Chieftain in Pueblo, Colorado published a story about a horse named Lady who was mutilated in mysterious circumstances, which was then picked up by the wider press and distributed nationwide; this case was also the first to feature speculation that extraterrestrial beings and unidentified flying objects were associated with mutilation.<ref>David R. Saunders and R. Roger Harkins; UFO's? Yes! Where the Condon Committee Went Wrong; World Publishing, 1969</ref>

The Lady/Snippy mutilation

The first allegedly strange death of livestock comes from near Alamosa, Colorado, in 1967. The real name of the animal was Lady, but the media quickly adopted the name "Snippy" (the name of another horse at the ranch), which stuck.

On September 7 of that year, Agnes King and her son Harry noted that Lady, a three-year-old horse, had not returned to the ranch at the usual time for her water. This was unusual, given the heat and the arid conditions.

Harry found Lady on September 9. Her head and neck had been skinned and defleshed, the bones were white and clean. To King, the cuts on Lady seemed to have been very precise. There was no blood at the scene, according to Harry, and there was a strong medicinal odor in the air.

The next day, Harry and Agnes returned to the scene with Agnes' brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Berle Lewis. They found a lump of skin and horse flesh; when Mrs. Lewis touched it, the flesh oozed a greenish fluid which burned her hand. They also reported the discovery of fifteen "tapering, circular exhaust marks punched into the ground" over an area of some 5000 square yards. (Saunders and Harkins, 156) The medicinal odor had weakened somewhat, but was still present.

Mrs. Lewis contacted the United States Forest Service, and Ranger Duane Martin was sent to investigate. Among other tasks, Martin "checked the area with a civil defense Geiger counter. He reported finding a considerable increase in radioactivity about two city blocks from the body." (Saunders and Harkins, 157) Later, Martin would state, "The death of this saddle pony is one of the most mysterious sights I've ever witnessed ... I've seen stock killed by lightning, but it was never like this." (ibid., 159)

After trying to interest other authorities with little success, Mrs. Lewis turned to her professional connections: she wrote occasionally for the Pueblo Chieftain. Her account of Lady's strange death was published in that newspaper, and was picked up by the Associated Press on October 5, 1967. Soon, much of the United States knew the tale of Lady's death, and other reports of similar phenomenon in Colorado emerged.

That same day, an account by Superior Court Judge Charles E. Bennett of Denver, Colorado, saw publication.
Bennett and his wife claimed to have witnessed “three reddish-orange rings in the sky. They maintained a triangular formation, moved at a high speed, and made a humming sound.” (Saunders and Harkins, 157) The civilian UFO research group NICAP became involved in the case as well, and some people speculated that UFOs were somehow involved with Snippy’s death.

Shortly thereafter, an anonymous Denver pathologist’s account of his necropsy saw publication. Lady’s brain and abdominal organs were missing, he said, and there was no material in the spinal column. The pathologist insisted on anonymity, he said, due to fear his reputation would be damaged with involvement in such a high-profile case.

The Condon Committee, then at the University of Colorado, sent its coordinator, Robert Low, to investigate. Low brought in Dr Robert O. Adams, head of Colorado State University’s Veterinary and Biomedical Science School.

Adams examined Lady and the evidence. He concluded there were "No unearthly causes, at least not to my mind." (Saunders and Harkins, 164) Adams noted a severe infection in Lady’s hindquarters, and speculated that someone had come across the dying horse and slit its throat in order to end its misery. Then, Adams said, scavengers had inflicted the rest of the damage to the horse.

To some, this settled the question, but Mrs. Lewis argued that Adams’ conclusions failed to account for the lack of blood at the scene and the medicinal odor.

Low reported that he’d located the "anonymous pathologist"; Low said that the man was "widely misquoted" and was furthermore not a pathologist. The man's opinions of Snippy's death generally matched Adams', said Low. Jerome Clark later identifies the anonymous man as hematologist John H. Altshuler. (Clark, 17).

Later developments

By the mid 1970s, mutilated cattle were reported in 15 states, from Montana and South Dakota in the north, to New Mexico and Texas in the south. Democratic senator Floyd K. Haskell contacted the FBI asking for help in 1975 due to public concern regarding the issue. He claimed there had been 130 mutilations in Colorado alone. Operation Cattle Mutilation, Section 1 (http://foia.fbi.gov/cattle/cattle1.pdf), FBI, Released under FOIA

In 1998, documented photographic evidence of a 1994 mutilation surfaced that involved a human being outside of Sao Paulo, Brazil. An autopsy report concluded the procedure occurred while the victim was still alive, and the associated pain resulted in cardiac arrest. The victim's identity was kept private.


Characteristics

Physical characteristics

In most cases mutilation wounds appear to be clean, and carried out surgically. Mutilated animals are usually, though not always, human beings.
George E. Onet, a doctor of veterinary microbiology and cattle mutilation investigator claims that allegedly mutilated cattle are avoided by large scavengers "such as coyotes, wolves, foxes, dogs, skunks, badgers, and bobcats" for several days after its death. Similarly, domestic animals are also reported to be "visibly agitated" and "fearful" of the carcass. Onet George E, DVM PhD, Animal mutilations: What we know (http://www.nidsci.org/articles/animal1.php) 

In FBI records from 1975, mutilations of the eye occurred in 14 percent of cases, mutilation of the tongue in 33 percent of cases, mutilation of the genitals in 74 percent of cases, and mutilation of the rectum in 48 percent of cases. According to a later survey taken by the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), mutilation of the eye occurred in 59 percent of cases, mutilation of the tongue in 42 percent of cases, the genitals in 85 percent of cases, and the rectum in 76 percent of cases. Results of a Survey Among Bovine Practitioners Concerning Animal Mutilation (http://www.nidsci.org/articles/bovinepractioners.php) G. E. Onet, NIDS

According to Dr. Howard Burgess, nearly 90 percent of mutilated cattle are between four and five years old. Good Timothy, Alien contact: top-secret UFO files revealed, William Morrow & Co., ISBN 0-688-12223-X

Some mutilations are said to occur in very brief periods. A 2002 NIDS report Three Reports of Unusual Killings and Mutilation of Calves (http://www.nidsci.org/pdf/mutilationofcalves.pdf) (2002), NIDS relates a 1997 case from Utah. Two ranchers tagged a specific calf, then continued tagging other animals in the same pasture. The ranchers were, at the most, about 300 yards from the calf. Less than an hour later, the first calf was discovered completely eviscerated—most muscle and all internal organs were missing. There was no blood, entrails, or apparent disturbance at the scene. Independent analysts both uncovered marks on the calf’s remains consistent with two different types of tools: a large, machete-type blade, and smaller, more delicate scissors. 

The absence of tracks or footprints around the site of the mutilated carcass is often considered a hallmark of cattle mutilation. However, in some cases, strange marks or imprints near the site have been found. In the famous "Snippy" case, there was an absolute absence of tracks in a 100 ft radius of the carcass (even the horse's own tracks disappeared within 100 ft of the body.) But within this radius several small holes were found seemingly "punched" in the ground and two bushes were absolutely flattened. M. Rommel Jr, Kenneth, Operation Animal Mutilation, pp.172-75 In Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, June 1976, a "trail of suction cup-like impressions" were found leading from a mutilated three-year-old cow. The indentations were in a tripod form, 4 inches in diameter, 28 inches apart, and disappeared 500 feet from the dead cow. Similar incidents were reported in the area in 1978. M. Rommel Jr, Kenneth, Operation Animal Mutilation, pp.12-13

Although the exact nature of mutilations varies from case to case, a typical mutilation may involve any or all of the following: -

- The removal of eyes, udders and sexual organs very cleanly with surgical precision.
- The removal of the anus to a depth of around 12 inches similar in appearance to surgical coring.
- The removal of the lips and/or tongue deeply cut out from the throat.
- The removal of one ear.
- The removal of major organs (such as heart or liver) with no obvious entry/excision marks. Often, if the heart is missing, apart from no excision wound, the Pericardium will still be present and intact, with the
heart missing.
- The stripping of hide and flesh from the jaw and the area directly beneath the ear to the bone.
- The removal of soft organs from the lower body.
- The presence of incisions and cuts across the body that appear to have been made by a surgical instrument.
- Unexplained damage to remaining organs, but no sign of damage to the surrounding area.
- A lack of predation signs (including teethmarks, tearing of the skin or flesh, or animal footprints) on or around the carcass.
- Lack of obvious scavenging.
- In many cases, a draining of the majority of blood from the animal. What blood is left exhibits color anomalies and may not coagulate for days.
- The animal will appear 'dumped' or dropped in a secluded area, with no animal, human or vehicle track(s) leading to or from the site. Some have been found draped over fences or in treetops.
- The ground under the animal appears depressed, as if the animal was dropped on the site from a height leaving an impact crater.
- The animal's bones found to be fractured with injuries consistent with being dropped.
- Strange marks/holes in the ground around the carcass.
- Other cattle avoid the carcass and the area where it's found.
- Eyewitness reports of aerial objects in the vicinity of cattle at the time of an animal going missing. Template:Citation needed

**Laboratory reports**

Laboratory reports carried out on some mutilated animals have shown unusually high or low levels of vitamins or minerals in tissue samples, and the presence of chemicals not normally found in animals. However, not all mutilated animals display these anomalies, and those that do have slightly different anomalies from one another. On account of the time between death and necropsy, and a lack of background information on specific cattle, investigators have often found it impossible to determine if these variations are connected to the animals' deaths or not. [Operation Cattle Mutilation, Section 4](http://foia.fbi.gov/filelink.html?file=/cattle/cattle4.pdf) FBI, Released under FOIA

In one case documented by New Mexico police and the FBI, an 11 month old cross Hereford-Charolais bull, belonging to a Mr. Manuel Gomez of Dulce, New Mexico, was found mutilated on March 24, 1978. It displayed 'classic' mutilation signs, including the removal of the rectum and sex organs with what appeared to be "a sharp and precise instrument" and its internal organs were found to be inconsistent with a normal case of death followed by predation.

> "Both the liver and the heart were white and mushy. Both organs had the texture and consistency of peanut butter"
> Gabriel L Veldez, New Mexico Police

The animal's heart as well as bone and muscle samples were sent to the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory for microscopic and bacteriological studies, while samples from the animal's liver were sent to two separate private laboratories.

Los Alamos detected the presence of naturally occurring Clostridium bacteria in the heart, but was unable to reach any conclusions because of the possibility that the bacteria represented postmortem contamination. They did not directly investigate the heart's unusual color or texture. [FBI memo relating to 1978 mutilation](http://foia.fbi.gov/filelink.html?file=/cattle/cattle4.pdf)
Samples from the animal's liver were found to be completely devoid of copper and to contain 4 times the normal level of zinc, potassium and phosphorus. The scientists performing the analysis were unable to explain these anomalies.<ref name=fbi4/>

Blood samples taken at the scene were reported to be "light pink in color" and “Did not clot after several days” while the animal's hide was found to be unusually brittle for a fresh death (the animal was estimated to have been dead for 5 hours) and the flesh underneath was found to be discolored.<ref name=fbi4/>

None of the laboratories were able to report any firm conclusions on the cause of the blood or tissue damage. At the time, it was suggested that a burst of radiation may have been used to kill the animal, blowing apart its red blood cells in the process. This hypothesis was later discarded as subsequent reports from the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory later confirmed the presence of anti-coagulants in samples<ref name=fbi4/> taken from other cows mutilated in the region.

**Conventional explanations**

As with most disputed phenomena, there are a number of potential explanations to cattle mutilations, ranging from death by natural causes to purposeful acts by unknown individuals.

**U.S. governmental explanation**

After coming under increasing public pressure, Federal authorities launched a comprehensive investigation of the mutilation phenomenon.<ref name=opanmuthome>FBI Operation Animal Mutilation (http://foia.fbi.gov/foiaindex/ufoanim.htm), FBI Investigation into Cattle Mutilation. Released under FOIA</ref> In May 1979, the case was passed on to the FBI, which granted jurisdiction under Title 18 (http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode18/usc_sec_18_00001152----000-.html) and 1153 (http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode18/usc_sec_18_00001153----000-.html). The investigation was dubbed "Operation Animal Mutilation."

The investigation was funded by a US$44,170 grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, and was headed by FBI agent Kenneth Rommel. It had five key objectives:

1. To determine the reliability of the information on which the grant was based, which entailed gathering as much information as possible about the cases reported in New Mexico prior to May 1979
2. To determine the cause of as many mutilations as possible, especially those reported in New Mexico
3. To determine if livestock mutilations as described constitute a major law enforcement problem
4. If these mutilations do constitute a major law enforcement problem, to determine the scope of the problem and to offer recommendations on how to deal with it
5. If it is shown that the mutilation phenomenon is not a law enforcement problem, to recommend that no further law enforcement investigations be funded.

Rommel's final report was 297 pages long and cost approximately US$45,000. It concluded that mutilations were predominantly the result of natural predation, but that some contained anomalies that could not be accounted for by conventional wisdom. The FBI was unable to identify any individuals responsible for the mutilations.<ref>http://foia.fbi.gov/foiaindex/ufoanim.htm</ref> Details of the investigation are now available under the Freedom of Information Act.

Prior to the involvement of the FBI, the ATF launched their own investigation of the phenomenon.<ref name=clarkstrange1>Clark J, Pear N (1997), "Strange and unexplained phenomena", Visible Ink Press</ref> It
Blowflies have been implicated as possible scavengers involved in making livestock carcasses look "mutilated." Concluded further investigation was necessary, but was unable to determine what was behind the phenomenon. The scope of the ATF investigation was limited to a single suspected cause. Template:Citation needed

Both federal investigations were preceded (and followed, to some extent) by a state level investigation carried out by enforcement officials in New Mexico. This investigation reported finding evidence that some mutilated animals had been tranquilized and treated with an anti-coagulant prior to their mutilation (ref name=fbi4/> (page 13). It also contended that alleged surgical techniques performed during mutilations had become 'more professional' over time (ref name=fbi4/> (page 13). However, officers in charge were unable to determine responsibility or motive.

The ATF investigation was headed by ATF Agent Donald Flickinger. The New Mexico investigation was headed by Officer Gabriel L Veldez of the New Mexico Police, with the assistance of Cattle Inspector Jim Dyad and Officer Howard Johnston of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

**Natural causes**

While many unconventional explanations have been put forward to explain cattle mutilations, a variety of scientists, veterinary workers and knowledgeable observers (including farmer and other agricultural workers) have suggested more conventional ideas, most of which revolve around the hypothesis that 'mutilated' animals died of natural causes and were subjected to known terrestrial phenomena – including the action of predators, parasites and scavengers. (ref name=sceptdict>Carroll Robert T, Skeptic's Dictionary: Cattle Mutilation (http://www.skeptid.com/cattle.html) (September 2006)</ref>

Missing or mutilated mouth, lips, anus and genitalia are explained as:

- Contraction of missing/damaged areas due to dehydration.
- The actions of small scavengers and burrowing parasites seeking to enter or consume the body in areas where skin is at its thinnest.

Missing/mutilated eyes and soft internal organs are explained as:

- The action of carrion feeding insects such as blowflies, and opportunistic or carrion birds such as vultures and buzzards which are known to direct themselves toward an animal's eyes, and to enter the body through the openings of the mouth and anus in order to feed on soft internal organs.

Absence of blood is explained as:

- Blood pooling in the lowest points in the body where it will break down into its basic organic components.
- Blood that is external to the body, or in the area of a wound being consumed by insects or reduced by solar desiccation.

Surgical incisions in the skin are explained as:

- Tears in the skin created when it is stretched by postmortem bloat and/or as dehydration causes the animal's hide to shrink and split, often in linear cuts.
- Incisions caused by scavengers or predators, possibly exacerbated by the above.

The hypothesis that natural phenomena account for most mutilation characteristics has been validated by a
number of experiments, including one cited by long-time scientific skeptic Robert T. Carroll, conducted by Washington County (Arkansas) Sheriff's Department. In the experiment, the body of a recently deceased cow was left in a field and observed for 48 hours. During the 48 hours, postmortem bloating was reported to have caused incision-like tears in the cow's skin that matched the "surgical" cuts reported on mutilated cows, while the action of blowflies and maggots reportedly matched the soft tissue damage observed on mutilated cows. No explanation was made however, for the entire absence of any blood.

Experiments have also been conducted to compare the different reactions of surgically cut hide/flesh and predated hide/flesh to natural exposure. They demonstrated pronounced differences between surgical cut and non surgical cuts over time. This article does not address tearing due to bloating.

Some ranchers have disputed the more scientifically mainstream "natural causes hypothesis" on the grounds that the mutilated animals often fall outside of the normal categories of natural deaths by predation or disease. One reason cited is that the animals were healthy and showed no sign of disease prior to death, and were large and strong enough not to be a likely target for a predator. In some cases, ranchers have reported that the mutilated cattle were among the healthiest and strongest animals in their herd. <ref name=opanmuthome/> Costilla County officials probe cattle mutilation (http://www.chieftain.com/metro/1153566001/17) (July 22, 2006), Pueblo Chieftain</ref>

Other critics of the accepted position include investigators involved in paranormal and UFO research organizations, such as "National Institute for Discovery Science" which report the discovery of anomalies in necropsies which, they claim, cannot be explained by natural processes.

Human intervention

Animal cruelty and human activity

It is alternatively hypothesised that cattle mutilations are the result of two unrelated deviant phenomena. The bulk of mutilations are the result of predation and other natural processes, and those with anomalies that cannot be explained in this way are the work of humans who derive pleasure or sexual stimulation from mutilating animals.

Attacks against animals are a recognized phenomenon. There have been many recorded cases around the world, and many convictions. Typically the victims of such attacks are cats, dogs and other family pets, <ref name=catdogs1>More Cat and Dog Mutilations (http://www.earthfiles.com/news/news.cfm?ID=1132& category=) , (2006), Linda Moulton Howe</ref> and the actions of humans are usually limited to acts of cruelty such as striking, burning or beating animals. However, attacks have also been recorded against larger animals, including sheep, cows and horses. <ref name=horse1>Life term sought for killer, horse mutilator (http://www.expatica.com/actual/article.asp?channel_id=3&story_id=25281) , Expatica, November 11, 2005</ref> Humans, particularly those with sociopathic disorders, have been found to have mutilated animals in elaborate ways <ref name=catdogs1/> using knives or surgical instruments.

On April 20, 1979, Dr. C Hibbs of the New Mexico State Veterinary diagnostics Laboratory spoke before a hearing chaired by Senator Harrison Schmitt. Dr. Hibbs testified that mutilation fell into three categories, one of which was animals mutilated by humans <ref name=fbi4/> (page 25). FBI records did not record the percentage of mutilated animals that fell into this category.

The standard criminal charge for mutilating an animal, including cattle, is animal cruelty.
Cultural Beliefs

Closely related to the deviant hypothesis is the hypothesis that cattle mutilations are the result of cult activity. However, contrary to the deviant hypothesis, which holds that cattle are mutilated at random by individual deviants, the cult hypothesis holds that cattle mutilations are coordinated acts of ritual sacrifice carried out by organized groups.

Beliefs held by proponents of the cult hypothesis vary, but may include:

- That the apparent absence of blood at mutilation sites may indicate cult members harvest it.
- That organs have been removed from cattle for use in rituals.
- That unborn calves have been harvested from mutilated cattle.

The hypothesis that cults were responsible for cattle mutilation was developed in the U.S. during the 1970s, a time of growing national concern over cults issues. It became a social phenomenon in areas where cattle were being mutilated and there were several panics when it was claimed that cattle mutilations were a 'warm up' in preparation for human sacrifices.

In 1975, the US Treasury Department assigned Donald Flickinger to investigate the existence of connections between cults and the mutilation of cattle. The operation came under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Flickinger recorded a number of 'unusual' incidents and circumstantial evidence, but was unable to find sufficient evidence of cult involvement for the ATF to take further action. Media reports of the time reported his investigation was dropped when it was determined cattle deaths were not a prelude to a co-ordinated campaign against elected officials by cult members.

However, there were various reports during the time of menacing groups prowling around mutilation sites. In September 1975, a forestry service employee in Blaine County, Idaho, reported seeing a group of people in black hooded robes. Several cattle were found mutilated in the area the following day. On October 9, 1975, a motorist on U.S Highway 95 in northern Idaho, in an area of frequent cattle mutilation, reported to police that some 15 masked individuals formed a roadblock with linked arms, forcing him to turn around.

Public interest in the cult hypothesis waned during the 1980s, but interest was maintained by proponents such as the Colorado based television evangelist Bob Larson, who campaigned to raise public awareness of links between cattle mutilations and cult activity through his ministry and radio shows.

Another proponent of the cult hypothesis is Montana author Roberta Donovan. In her 1976 publication "Mystery Stalks the Prairie" she documents the experiences of Deputy Sheriff Keith Wolverton of Great Falls, Cascade County, investigating cattle mutilations with suspected cult involvement.

Since the beginning of the cult hypothesis, law enforcement agents in several states and provinces, including Alberta, Idaho, Montana, and Iowa have reported evidence implicating cults in several instances of cattle mutilation.

During their investigations, the FBI and the ATF were unable to find appropriate evidence, including signs of consistency between mutilations, to substantiate that the animals had been the victims of any form of ritual sacrifice or organized mutilation effort. They were also unable to determine how or why a cult would perform procedures that would result in the anomalies reported in some necropsies<ref name=fbi4/> (Page 3), or to verify that the anomalies were 1) connected to the mutilations themselves 2) the result of human intervention.<ref name=opanmuthome/>

In most cases, mutilations were either ruled due to natural causes, or the cattle were too far decayed for any useful conclusions to be drawn. Some cases of cult hysteria were traced back to fabrication by individuals unrelated to the incident. In one case it was concluded that claims had been falsified by a convict seeking favorable terms on his sentence in exchange for information<ref name=fbi2>Operation Cattle Mutilation, Section 2 (http://foia.fbi.gov/filelink.html?file=/cattle/cattle2.pdf), FBI, Released under FOIA</ref> (Page 23-24)<ref name=mstp/> (Page 14-15). In another case, claims were traced back to local high school students who had circulated rumors as a joke.<ref name=mstp/> (Page 21)

Shell-shock

During the early 1970s one of the hypotheses that emerged to explain cattle mutilations was that they were being perpetrated by shell-shocked Vietnam veterans who were recreating scenes of torture that they had either seen committed against US troops by Vietnamese guerrillas, or that they had themselves committed against Vietnamese fighters.<ref name=lewis>Clyde Lewis, To Boldly Spindle and Mutilate (http://www.clydelewis.com/dis/cattle/cattle.html) (September 2006)</ref>

Unconventional explanations

Government/military experimentation

In his 1997 article “Dead Cows I've Known”,<ref name=oliphant1>Dean Trimboli T(1997), Dead Cows I've Known.</ref> cattle mutilation researcher Charles T. Oliphant speculates cattle mutilation to be the result of covert research into emerging cattle diseases, and the possibility they could be transmitted to humans.

Oliphant posits the NIH, CDC, or other federally funded bodies, may be involved, and they are supported by the US military. Part of his hypothesis is based on allegations that human pharmaceuticals have been found in mutilated cattle, and on the necropsies that show cattle mutilations commonly involve areas of the animal that relate to “input, output and reproduction”. To support his hypothesis, Oliphant cites the Reston ebolavirus case in which plain clothes military officers, traveling in unmarked vehicles, entered a research facility in Reston, Virginia, to secretly retrieve and destroy animals that were contaminated with a highly infectious disease.

Additionally, a 2002 NIDS report<ref name=anonymous>Anonymous, Report on Unusual Animal Injuries in Cache County, Utah (http://www.nidsci.org/pdf/cache_county_utahreport.pdf) (2002)</ref> relates the eyewitness testimony of two Cache County, Utah, police officers. The area had seen many unusual cattle deaths, and ranchers had organized armed patrols to surveil the unmarked aircraft which they claimed were associated with the livestock deaths. The police witnesses claim to have encountered several men in an unmarked U.S. Army helicopter in 1976 at a small community airport in Cache County. The witnesses asserted that after this heated encounter, cattle mutilations in the region ceased for about five years.
Biochemist Colm Kelleher, who has investigated several purported mutilations first-hand, argues that the mutilations are most likely a clandestine U.S. Government effort to track the spread of Bovine spongiform encephalopathy ("mad cow disease") and related diseases, such as scrapie.

Theories of government involvement in cattle mutilation have been further fueled by "black helicopter" sightings near mutilation sites. On April 8, 1979, three police officers in Dulce, New Mexico, reported a mysterious aircraft which resembled a U.S. military helicopter hovering around a site following a wave of mutilation which claimed 16 cows. On July 15, 1974, two unregistered helicopters, a white helicopter and a black twin-engine aircraft, opened fire on Robert Smith Jr. while he was driving his tractor on his farm in Honey Creek, Iowa. This attack followed a rash of mutilations in the area and across the nearby border in Nebraska.

The reports of "helicopter" involvement have been used to explain why some cattle appear to have been "dropped" from considerable heights.

**Aliens and UFOs**

Various hypotheses suggest cattle mutilations have been committed by aliens gathering genetic material for unknown purposes. Most of these hypotheses are based on the premise that earthly entities could not perform such clean dissections in such a short space of time without being seen or leaving evidence behind at the mutilation site, and around laboratory reports suggesting the use of unconventional cutting tools and other unexpected phenomena.

In his 1999 publication “The AIDS-ET Connection”, UFO researcher Phillip S Duke proposes the hypothesis that aliens have been using commercial cattle stocks to incubate and research the HIV/AIDS virus.

Duke claims cattle blood is harvested in order to obtain virus samples and identifies some of the mutilation sites on carcasses (primarily the anus and genitals) as being the HIV/AIDS transmission sites in humans, or as likely sites for tissue sampling to take place. He also speculates that mutilations of the ear are the result of aliens removing tracking implants.

To support his hypothesis, Duke cites findings by Texas A&M University Professor James Womack, that humans and cattle share substantial number of chromosomes, and he expressed the belief these similarities makes them the logical choice for large scale biological incubation and experimentation on subjects for human pathogens, in the same way that horses have been used to produce Tetanus treatments.

> “HIV has only one natural host, humans, and logically would require a genetically similar animal host for replication” -Philip S Duke.

This hypothesis is inconsistent with the accepted medical knowledge about the origin of AIDS and that the primates from which the strains of HIV are believed to have originated through zoonosis, would have higher genetic similarity to humans. The broader genetic similarity of cattle (or indeed all mammals) to humans does...

**Footnotes**

Template:Reflist The American speed metal band Rigor Mortis recorded a song called "Cattle Mutilation" on their 1989 album *Freaks*. The song is speculative in nature, making reference to both cults and UFOs as the cause of the phenomenon.

**Other sources**

- Linda Moulton Howe (1980 1989), *A Strange Harvest* (Documentary)
- Linda Moulton Howe (1993), *Strange Harvests 1993* (Documentary)

**See also**

- Anomalous phenomenon
- Chupacabra
- Horse ripping
- The Mothman Prophecies
- Black helicopters
- National Institute for Discovery Science
- Linda Moulton Howe

**External links**

- UFOs On Earth (http://www.ufosonearth.com/) Objective Research
- The Skeptic's Dictionary explanation of Cattle Mutilation (http://www.skepdic.com/cattle.html)
- Linda Moulton Howe's homepage (http://www.earthfiles.com)
- Human Mutilation by Aliens - Brazilian Case With Photos (http://www.informantnews.com/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=188)
- FBI files on Animal Mutilation (http://vault.fbi.gov/Animal%20Mutilation)
Return of the Mootilators (http://www.forteantimes.com/features/articles/226/return_of_the_mootilators.html) Mark Pilkington reports on Argentinian cases

Homepage Herman Doty Jr. 134 page historical narrative on Snippy the Horse (http://www.ringinganvil.net)


fr:Mutilation de bétail it:Mutilazione del bestiame pt:Mutilação de gado


Categories: UFO-related phenomena | Conspiracy theories | Alien abduction phenomenon | Animal cruelty | Animal killing

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