

Undercover Investigations of Animal Operations

Professor Meg York

Summer 2023 – Term 1

First Assignment:

The below can be found in Canvas.

Thursday 1:15 to 2:45

Introduction to Undercover Investigations

Read:

- Animal Charity Evaluators: Undercover Investigations: <https://animalcharityevaluators.org/advocacy-interventions/archived-interventions/undercover-investigations/#full-review>Links to an external site.
- Why Undercover Investigations? My top 5 reasons: <https://animaloutlook.org/why-undercover-investigations-my-top-five-reasons/>Links to an external site.
- Don't Believe Everything You See, Animal Agriculture Alliance: <https://animalagalliance.org/dont-believe-everything-you-see-the-truth-about-undercover-videos/>Links to an external site.
- U.S. Animal Death Stats: <https://www.animalclock.org/>Links to an external site.

Consider:

- Are undercover investigations useful? Can you trust them?
- What are the arguments for and against undercover investigations?
- What is the purpose of investigations, and do they achieve that purpose?

Thursday 2:45 – 3:00

Break

Thursday 3:00 to 3:30

Where Do Undercover Investigations Occur?

Read:

- HSUS Investigation Uncovers Veal Calf Abuse, Closes Plant (2009): <https://blog.humanesociety.org/2009/10/veal-investigation.html>Links to an external site.
- Undercover Investigation Exposes the Horrors of Animal Testing: <https://blog.humanesociety.org/2022/04/undercover-investigation-exposes-the-horrors-of-animal-testing-and-more-than-80-dogs-who-need-our-help.html>Links to an external site.
- What is a CAFO?: <https://thehumaneleague.org/article/what-is-a-cafo>Links to an external site.

Browse:

- CAFOs in the US: <https://cafomaps.org/>Links to an external site.

Optional - Skim Examples of Undercover Investigations:

Note that some of this content can be upsetting

- PETA Investigations: <https://www.peta.org/investigations/Links to an external site.>
- Mercy For Animals Investigations: <https://mercyforanimals.org/investigations/Links to an external site.>
- Animal Outlook Investigations: <https://animaloutlook.org/investigations/Links to an external site.>
- Cruelty Free International (Animal Research) Investigations: <https://crueltyfreeinternational.org/investigationsLinks to an external site.>

Thursday 3:30 to 5:00

Recording Laws

Read:

- Desnick v. American Broadcasting Companies, 44 F.3d 1345 (1995).
- Sanders v. American Broadcasting Companies, 20 Cal. 4th., 907 (Cal. 1999)
- Reporter's Recording Guide: <https://www.rcfp.org/wp-content/uploads/imported/RECORDING.pdfLinks to an external site.> Read introduction, at a glance chart, and blue boxes. Skim detailed state information.

Optional Reading:

- 50-state survey with relevant statutes: <https://www.justia.com/50-state-surveys/recording-phone-calls-and-conversations/Links to an external site.>