

## Criminalistic Features of Livestock Theft

**Djumanov Shukhrat Tashmanovich**

Senior Lecturer of the Department of Criminal and Procedural Law of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**ANNOTATION:** This article highlights the description of the main key elements of the crime of livestock theft: the time when the crime occurred, the possible preparation for the crime, the methods of hiding the crime, the characteristics of the reasons and conditions that lead to the crime.

**KEYWORD:** element, preparation, concealment, reasons, circumstances, criminal, disguise, livestock, theft, slaughter, transfer.

In our country, in a historically short period of time, historical reforms are being implemented in the judicial system, as well as in all areas. Creating an effective system of criminal and criminal-procedural legislation is one of the priority tasks of ensuring legality of the law, the order of the state, protection of human rights and freedom of speech, interests of society and the state, peace and security.

The adoption of the New Action Strategy on the seven priority directions of the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2022-2026, which determined the priority directions for ensuring the rule of law and further reforming the judicial system, was a historically important stage in the reform of the judicial system.

Due to the low standard of living and the increase in the number of unemployed people in rural areas, the level of crime is increasing, as a result of which it affects not only some sectors of the economy, but also the development of animal husbandry. In addition, theft is constantly growing as part of crimes in the economic sector.

Negligence in the activities of individuals and farms, mainly engaged in animal husbandry, creates an opportunity for crime to occur. Some of them can be listed:

- unsatisfactory state of livestock accounting;
- marking young animals, violating the rules of marking (coloring the wool of the animal with paint);
- hide the number of livestock;
- lack of control over the activity of materially responsible persons;
- lack of technical equipment and appropriate protection in places where livestock is kept;
- lack of security in pastures, as well as neglect of livestock.

It is recommended to pay special attention to the characteristics of criminalistic elements when investigating the crime of livestock theft. Based on investigative practice, the most cases of cattle theft occur in the autumn-winter period, because it is during this period that cattle are well fed, fattened and have good selling

price characteristics in the local markets, besides, the cold season makes it easier to store the carcasses of slaughtered cattle. During this period, the sharp increase in demand and prices for meat products makes it easier to sell stolen livestock. Livestock theft crime is mainly committed in the evening or at night, and may be committed during the day in remote populated areas such as mountains, hills, and farms.[1]

Another important element is the preparation of the crime by criminals before stealing livestock. Crimes of this type are often committed in pastures located far from populated areas and traffic roads. When criminals are preparing to commit a crime, they carefully study the place where livestock is kept, determine the presence of shepherds or guards, their number, routine, and availability of means of communication and warning. The crime is committed not only in the pastures, but also in the fields, yards, barns and other places where livestock can be kept. [1]

When preparing to commit livestock theft, criminals perform the following actions:

- 1) specific livestock to be stolen is selected in advance;
- 2) places where livestock are kept are studied in advance;
- 3) ways to sell stolen goods are sought;
- 4) the time and method of committing the crime are determined,
- 5) technical means (demolition weapons, shotguns, etc.) and vehicles are prepared;
- 6) roles are distributed among the participants of the crime;
- 7) it is checked that the plan implementation mechanism is carefully developed.

After the crime is committed, they take measures to hide and confuse the tracks, stolen cattle are driven along stony roads, tracks created by driving the animal in the opposite direction are swept away using cut branches and other devices, or if a black cattle is tied to the tail of a cut branch. and the right This concealment of tracks often indicates that the perpetrators are local residents or visitors, such concealment of tracks is used to hide the planned long distance cattle drive and the direction of movement. When transporting stolen goods, criminals take additional measures to ensure their safety, often preparing false documents. In this way, livestock marks and signs are destroyed or changed.

The following can be distinguished among the methods of concealing the crime of livestock theft:

- 1) masking the place where cattle breeding took place (for example, pretending that cattle themselves have broken fences, doors and windows);
- 2) hiding the stolen goods outside the crime area (relatives and acquaintances), taking the goods to unfinished houses, warehouses and unowned plots of land and hiding them;
- 3) slaughter livestock in hard-to-reach places;
- 4) quick sale of stolen goods.

In the investigation of cattle theft crimes, the main task in choosing investigative actions and tactics for their implementation is to determine the volume, nature and content of the preliminary information about the committed crime, as well as the reasons and conditions of the crime.

Livestock theft can be carried out under a number of conditions.

1. Existence of the object of criminal aggression. In our country, livestock grazing is very common - livestock is often left unsupervised in the regions (in mountainous regions, livestock owners are not informed

about taking the animal out in the morning, even for weeks in some regions). It makes it much easier for criminals to have free access in sparsely populated areas.

2. During the investigation of this type of crime, it is difficult to prove the crime and the evidence is insufficient. In cattle theft crimes, all efforts are focused on the location of the crime or the location of the sale and storage of cattle. In most cases, livestock theft crimes are committed without clear circumstances of the crime, and at the same time, difficulties arise due to the fact that there are almost no traces left, and identification of eyewitnesses.

3. Difficulties in identifying stolen livestock. In the detection of livestock theft, citizens who know their own animals often have difficulties in identifying it, especially when large numbers of livestock are stolen or the identification marks of stolen livestock are destroyed. In this regard, the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 20, 2017 "On improving the procedure for the identification, registration and storage of animals" determines the procedure for the registration and storage of animals. [3] Stamping or marking is mainly attached to the ears of animals, which allows the criminals to replace them, that is, the criminals cut off the ears of the stolen animals. Horses and cattle are marked with new marks by criminals. If the criminals have managed to destroy the markings that identify the animals, then it will be possible to identify them by the head or skin.

4. Selling live cattle stolen by criminals is a little difficult, it is easy to slaughter cattle and sell their meat. The sale of live cattle has certain difficulties, but criminals do it in the following cases: they sell the stolen for a cheap pledge, if the animal is thin, they sell it for slaughter

In most cases, criminals try to find buyers for livestock from faraway places and make deals.

The reasons for slaughtering and selling the meat of stolen cattle by criminals are as follows:

- demand for meat products;
- prices are stable and high;
- a large number of places for sale (in addition to markets and meat pavilions, shops or yards of residential cities);
- difficulty in identifying criminals;
- lack of suspicion due to the fact that many villagers are engaged in the sale of livestock meat.[4]

Thus, the system of criminalistic recommendations means the optimal use of methods of organization and conduct of investigation, tools of criminalistic techniques and investigative tactics.

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