



# Animal abuse and Human violence

NEW MEXICO COURTS, CORRECTIONS & JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Monday, September 13, 1:30 – 3:00 PM

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# Why strong laws matter



# Animal Sexual Abuse

- ▶ Is a tough topic that is often not taken seriously
- ▶ Is abuse even if the animal doesn't appear to be injured
- ▶ Occurs in secret and the animal can't tell
- ▶ Is much more prevalent than most people realize
- ▶ Has been linked to human sex offending<sup>2</sup>, interpersonal and domestic violence<sup>3</sup>, animal cruelty<sup>4</sup>, and property-related crimes like trespass and theft<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Associated Press. Bestiality crimes targeted by new state laws. Wisconsin Gazette. April 3, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Ressler, Burgess, & Hartman. Murderers who rape and mutilate. Journal of Interpersonal Violence 1, 273-287. 1986

<sup>3</sup> Walker, LEA. The Battered Woman Syndrome, Fourth Ed. New York: Springer Publishing Company. 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Australian Police. Animal Cruelty: Common in many killers. Sunbury/Macedon Ranges Leader. 2005.

<sup>5</sup> Edwards, MJ. Arrest and prosecution of animal sex abuse (bestiality) offenders in the United States, 1975-2015. Journal of American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law. Accepted for publication, February 2019.

# The Big Picture



# Not talking about it doesn't make it go away

- ▶ Difficult subject
- ▶ Deviant behavior
- ▶ Involving sex with vulnerable beings
  - ▶ Animals
  - ▶ Children
  - ▶ Vulnerable adults
- ▶ Common reaction to turn away
  - ▶ Or believe it rarely happens
  - ▶ Or that no one is injured

# Criminal Justice Concern

Inmates Admitting to Bestiality	
23%	Sexual murderers (Ressler, 1986)
37%	Sexually violent predators (Simons et al 2008 & Frazier 1997)
38-56%	Adult sex offenders (Simons 2005, English 2003)
33-81%	Juvenile sex offenders before/after polygraph (Schenk 2014)
7%	Violent human offenders (Merz-Perez 2001, 2003)
23%	Animal cruelty offenders (Levitt 2016)
<b>30%</b>	<b>Non-incarcerated “Zoos” admit forcing their animals to have sex (Zoo poll)</b>

- Bestiality committed as a child significantly predicted future recurring interpersonal violence (Henderson 2011)
- Offenders sexually abused as children reported higher rates of bestiality than children without that history (Ressler, 1986)

# Public health concern

## ▶ Healthy lifestyle

*That one feels disgust at something ... does not make it morally wrong, but the enduring and universal social taboo relating to bestiality makes it reasonable to accept that it is wrong.* -- Clive Hamilton, Philosophy & Ethics professor

## ▶ Community safety & well-being

### ▶ Fear and anxiety

*Identifying offenders who commit acts of zoophilia (sic) is important since these individuals may be at an increased risk of committing a variety of other sexual and nonsexual violent acts against humans.* -- Brian Holoyda, MD, MPH



# But it's rare, right?

- ▶ Difficult to estimate or investigate
  - ▶ Occurs in secret
  - ▶ Victim can't tell
  - ▶ Offender's good at hiding
- ▶ Statistics are unreliable or unavailable
  - ▶ Animal crimes reporting not required \*
  - ▶ Crosses jurisdictions



\* Beginning 2015, law enforcement agencies could voluntarily begin reporting animal cruelty & bestiality. Reporting thus far has been limited so results aren't statistically reliable yet.

# Impact of the internet is unknown

- ▶ Social media – 90:1 (Miletski 2002)
- ▶ Travelers, solicitation, cybercrimes
- ▶ Animal Pornography
  - ▶ 26% of pornography offenders (Carr, 2004; Seigfried-Spellar, 2016; Edwards, 2019)



*The internet is a valuable learning tool. It unfortunately is also a doorway for deviant sexual predators who trade and sometimes act ac these vile and disturbing collections ....” – Queens D.A. Brown*

# Online solicitation

- ▶ Offender seeking animal
- ▶ Offender seeking person to have sex with his/her animal
- ▶ Offender responding to illicit ad

Pages: (23) [1] 2 3 ... Last » ( Go to first unread post )

ADD REPLY NEW TOPIC NEW POLL

Me And My Female Collie, penetration and full body shots

Track this topic | Email this topic | Print this topic

**Moondoggie** Posted: Mar 15 2005, 05:42 AM [Quote](#)



These have been floating around on the internet for a few years, but I don't think I've seen the entire set here yet.

I greatly appreciate the guys posting new home made stuff on here, it's a great feeling to find something new and GOOD! (and I'm especially partial to the guy/female dog stuff) 😊

Don't worry, there will be more to come from me in the future

Attached Image ( Click on thumbnail to view full size image )



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**Experienced zoo and owner of German Shepherds near Reno, NV!!!**

And I'm always looking to meet other ACTIVE zoos. What I am NOT looking for is people who are curious or new to this or have always wanted to try, and want someone else to make their dreams come true for them.

Some of my personal pics / videos:

[Out Exploring... Look What I Found \(female dog\)](#)

[Starting out with a new sheppy girl pt. 1 \(toys\)](#)

[Starting out with a new sheppy girl pt. 2 Tailhole Tag Team!](#)

Hardcore  
■■■■■

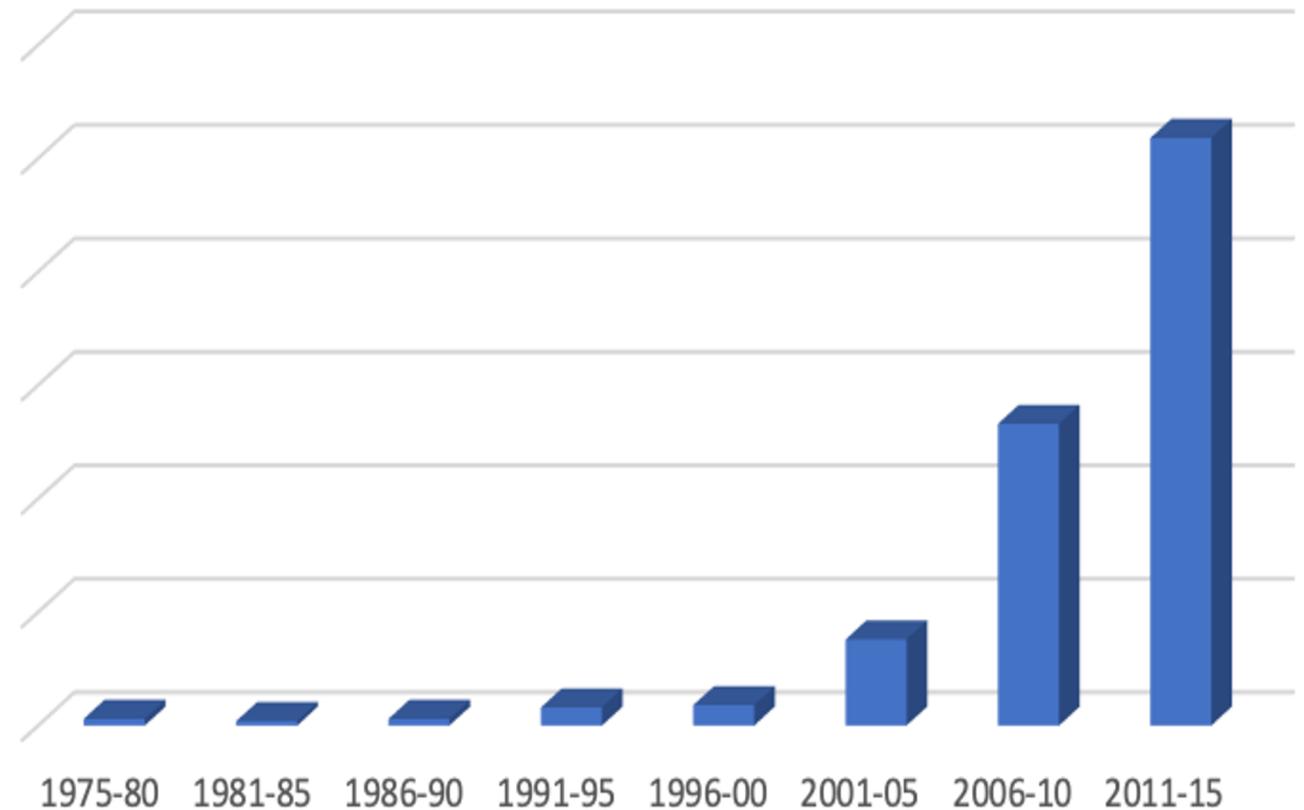
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# Animal sex offenses in the United States

- ▶ Have been rising sharply and steadily since 2004
  - ▶ Direct contact offenders who rape animals anally, vaginally, and orally or willingly accept penetration from an animal
  - ▶ Repeat offenders
  - ▶ Deviant offenders who have sex with dead animals
  - ▶ Indirect offenders who coerce children or battered spouses to have sex with animals
  - ▶ Noncontact offenders who collect animal and child pornography
- ▶ There is NO LAW prohibiting animal sexual abuse in New Mexico

## Bestiality-Related Arrests 1975-2015



# Animal sex abuse in New Mexico

- ▶ 2001 - David Parker Ray, 60 (Bernalillo) (serial killer, sexual sadist) – convicted 2001, coerced one or more females to have sex with a German Shepherd
- ▶ 2005 - Jason Michael Allen, 25 (Curry) – court-martialed in DC (based at Cannon AFB in Clovis). Served 4y for child and animal porn. Allen was later arrested for multiple additional crimes: DV 2008; aggravated battery 2010; stalking, DUI, & drug possession 2013; attempt to commit a felony crime, 2014, and arson in 2016
- ▶ 2008 – shelter rapist Bernalillo County - Broke into at least 4 shelters; outcome unknown.
- ▶ 2014 – Shari Lynn Walters, 53 (Bernalillo) had sex with roommate's male German Shepherds; attempted to poison boyfriend and a roommate after being discovered.
- ▶ 2015 – Taos Suspect - / Trish Hernandez, wrote article on animal sexual abuse and someone report that their neighbor was regularly abusing his dog. Case appears to have not been investigated.

# Who Does this?

- 86% Male
  - Number of women and couples are rising
- 71% White
  - Number of non-Whites are rising
- 53% have a criminal history of sex offenses and interpersonal violence
- 28% are repeat offenders
- 8% have other deviant sexual interests like pedophilia, necrophilia, and S&M



# What about the Victims?

## ANIMALS, CHILDREN, ADULTS

- ▶ 49% belonged to the offender
- ▶ 24% belonged to someone they knew
- ▶ 14% were unknown to the offender
- ▶ 26% involved significant injury or death
- ▶ 34% Children and Adults
  - ▶ Coerced
  - ▶ Solicited
  - ▶ Extorted



# The Hidden Victims

- ▶ *“When you realize that this was happening behind your back and understand why your dog is acting the way she does, you think ‘How stupid was I not to know’.”*

-- S.G., Psychiatric Nurse, Owner of sexually abused Shih Tsu

- ▶ *“I’m exhausted. Our dog meant everything to us. People keep asking me ‘Why didn’t you ....’ and I don’t know the answer. I just want it all to go away.”*

-- J.S., Engineer, Owner of sexually abused Labrador

Retriever

- ▶ *“My father started abusing me when I was four. He made me have sex with my dog and would tell me ‘My secret was safe with him.’ I’ve never been to counseling because I’m just too embarrassed.”*

-- Anonymous Survivor of coerced bestiality





# 32% of arrests involved child sexual abuse

- ▶ 50% were <10
- ▶ 50% lived with or knew their offender
- ▶ One in seven were forced to have sex with the family pet
  - ▶ Groomed with animal pornography
  - ▶ Videotaped and posted on the Internet
- ▶ ASOs who sexually offended against children & adults were more likely to also have a prior record of sexual offenses including child pornography

<= Not a sexual abuse victim; photo for illustration purposes only.

# 15% involved domestic abuse or interpersonal violence

- ▶ 50% involved physical violence against intimate partner
- ▶ 45% involved assault of unrelated person
  - ▶ #s lower than reality due to lack of reporting

# 39% involved animal pornography

- ▶ 70% of which also involved child porn
- ▶ Images included
  - ▶ Known and unidentified animals
  - ▶ Drawn and computer-rendered images (anime, manga, hentai)
  - ▶ Altered images
- ▶ Images used to
  - ▶ Solicit or groom children & minors
  - ▶ Solicit animals for sex
  - ▶ Harass and threaten minors & adults

# Solicitation is common

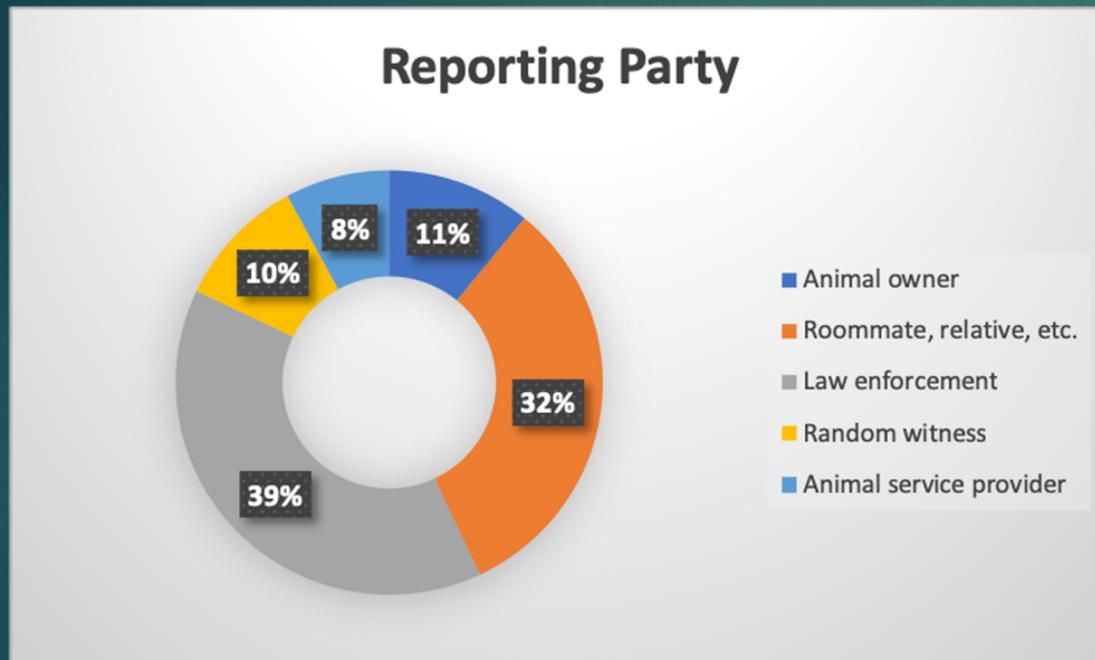
- ▶ Solicitation for swa is also common – and not yet prohibited
- ▶ Minors solicited online. Groomed and encouraged to share topless photos.
  - ▶ Escalates to sexually explicit images often involving their pets
- ▶ Adults advertise seeking an animal for sex, or posting they have an animal available for sex
  - ▶ Some US cases, people travel thousands of miles to hsw animals and sometimes children
- ▶ Zoophiles often use apps like Facebook Messenger (Kik, Reddit) to set up “gatherings” where groups of people get together and share animals for sex, often performing in front of each other

# How do they do it?

	Direct	Solicitation	Coercion	Pornography
Age	38	42	37	38
Females	18.4%	<1.0%	14.8%	<2.0%
Sex with Child	16.9%	<1.0%	19.1%	21.6%

- **Direct:** touch, fondle, masturbate, penetrate, or “receive”
- **Intended:** solicited for sex with an animal or advertised animal as available for sex with someone else
- **Indirect:** facilitated or coerced someone else to have sex with animal
- **Exploited:** non-contact with animal, but filmed or collected animal pornography

# What triggers an arrest?



- ▶ Proactive investigation (e.g., child pornography)
- ▶ Photo/Video on Internet
- ▶ Witness

## Key Takeaways

- ▶ Bestiality is a tough, but important topic
- ▶ It's not as rare as you may think
- ▶ The Internet normalizes the behavior
- ▶ There are significant, measurable links to other criminal or antisocial behaviors
- ▶ Strong, enforceable laws are tools that help prevent child and animal abuse

# Please support the creation of an act to prohibit the sexual abuse of animals

- ▶ Support for this bill ensures the citizens and animals of New Mexico are well-protected
- ▶ Creation of this law provides law enforcement with a tool to disrupt criminal activity across the State.
- ▶ Passage of this bill moves New Mexico to the forefront of states that consider animal sexual abuse a serious, felony crime



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