



Study Highlights: Arrest and Prosecution of Bestiality Offenders in the United States, 1975-2015

Demographics:

- Studied: 456 arrests involving direct sexual contact with an animal (SWA), solicitation for SWA, coercion or facilitation of another to commit SWA, or production/collection/distribution/use of animal pornography
- Animal sex abuse occurs throughout US without regard to size of community
- Arrests have been rising sharply & steadily since 2004
- # women offenders increasing; most acted as part of a couple
- Males offender later in life than previously reported
- Wide range of offender ages (18-80); average age 37
- Whites still predominant, but number of Hispanics and Blacks is increasing
- 51% have prior criminal histories that include animal & human sex abuse, domestic & interpersonal violence, and property crimes (e.g. trespass/B&E)
 - 3% were registered sex offenders at the time of the bestiality arrest
- 28% repeat offenders

Range of sex acts:

- 64% of offenders had direct SWA animals; majority of animals abused lived with or were known to the offender
 - 93% involved penetration; 12% involved violence resulting in significant injury or death
- 34% of arrests involved the sexual abuse of humans (mostly kids under age 12)
- 10% facilitated SWA (e.g. filmed, provided animal), but did not have sex w/animal themselves
- 7% coerced a child or adult to have SWA (most of these acts were filmed and posted online)
- 6% diagnosed as sexually deviant (necrophilia, S&M, crushing)
- 4% solicited SWA
- 34% collected animal porn
 - 17% of collectors used aniporn to groom kids for sex with the offender or with an animal;
 - 5% of the animal porn collections were anime (cartoon porn involving childlike & animal-like characters)
- 9% of arrests resulted in the death or significant injury of an animal
 - Killed prior to sex (Kuch, Livermore)
 - Killed animal during sex (Basoflas, Bessigano)

- Killed after sex (Haimes, Errante, Heyes)
- Animal died/euthanized as a result of sex (Haimes, Lewis)
- Horse impaled on fence; sexually assaulted (Baker)
- Horse fisted or raped with object (Weigel, Rachwal)
- Cat penetration (Alexander, Herbeck, Martinez, Milchak, Tannenholz)
- Ritual killing (Farrell)
- Crushing (Richards)

Adjudication:

- 61% of bestiality offenders get charged with animal sex abuse
 - 39% get convicted
 - 54% of those convicted are sentenced to an average of 24 months incarceration
 - i.e. 21% of people who have sex (violent, deadly, or otherwise) end up in jail for any length of time.
- Reporting party:
 - 47% LEO investigation
 - 39% relative, roommate, other known to offender
 - 19% animal owner, neighbor, known to animal
 - 7% service providers (Social svcs. 5%, Vets <1%, PETA/HSUS <1%, mental/physical healthcare = .05%)