



## Key findings from a 2019 study of 456 bestiality-related<sup>1</sup> arrests in the United States

### Highlights:

- Animal sex abuse occurs throughout US without regard to size of community
- Arrests have been rising sharply & steadily since 2004
- Males offend later in life than previously reported (age range of offenders: 18 to 80)
- The number of **female offenders is increasing**, most acted as part of a couple
- **Two-thirds of offenders committed child sexual abuse or were in possession of child pornography**
- Race, ethnicity is becoming more diverse (85% Caucasian, 7% African American, 6% Hispanic, 2% other or not reported)
- **The majority of offenders were not charged** with a bestiality-related crime, regardless of existing laws

### Demographics:

- **51% have prior criminal histories** involving animal & human sex abuse, domestic & interpersonal violence, property crimes, and illegal substances
- **28% repeat offenders**
- **3% were registered sex offenders** at the time of the bestiality-related arrest

### Range of sex acts:

- 64% of offenders had direct sex with animals; more than half of animal victims lived with, or were known to, the offender
  - 93% of sex acts involved penetration; 12% involved violence resulting in significant injury or death
- **32% of arrests involved the sexual abuse of children** under age 12. All human victims lived with or were known to the offender. In 2% of arrests, an adult was also sexually victimized.
- 10% facilitated sex with an animal by another person
- **7% coerced a child or adult to commit bestiality - most acts were filmed and posted online**
- 6% of offenders were diagnosed as sexually deviant (necrophilia, S&M, crushing)
- 4% solicited sex with an animal through advertising online
- **34% collected pornography depicting bestiality<sup>2</sup>**
  - 17% of collectors used aniporn to groom children for sex with the offender or with an animal
  - 5% of bestiality collections were anime (cartoon porn involving childlike & animal-like characters)
- 9% of arrests resulted in the death or significant injury of an animal. Animals were sometimes killed prior to the sex act (necrobastiality) or died as a result of injuries inflicted during the act.

### Adjudication:

- 61% of all bestiality offenders were charged with animal sex abuse; 29% could have been charged but were not
  - 39% were convicted; 21% of that group received jail time of 3-24 months
  - **Fewer than 1% of offenders were diverted to mental health treatment**

<sup>1</sup> Population studied: 456 arrests involving direct or attempted sexual contact with an animal, solicitation of an animal for sex, coercion or facilitation of another to commit sex with an animal, and/or production/collection/distribution/use of obscene matter depicting sex acts between a person and an animal. Eleven juveniles were excluded from the study for privacy reasons.

<sup>2</sup> This group is *in addition to* the 34% who sexually abused children and adults