

Compiled Studies of Human Sex Offenders and Animal Sexual Abusers (1986-2016)

Sexual contact with animals is the single largest risk factor and strongest predictor of increased risk for sexually molesting a child.

- According to an Education Directorate of the American Psychological Association written by Mary Lou Randour (as cited in Abel, 2009), a study of 44,202 adult males evaluated for sexual misconduct found that sexual contact with animals is the single largest risk factor and strongest predictor of increased risk for sexually molesting a child. (Abel 2008).
- Out of 20 men adjudicated for animal sexual abuse in Fairfax County, VA, 5 offenders committed hands-on sexual offenses with children, 6 possessed child pornography, 3 solicited sex from a minor online, and 2 committed sexual battery of an adult (Hoffman, J. 2016).
- In a study of 36 perpetrators of sexually motivated murderers, 23% reported an interest in sexual contact with animals (Ressler, et al. 1986).
- In a study of 137 rapists and 132 child sexual abusers, Simons, Wurtele, and Durham (2008) found child molesters were three times more likely to report having engaged in bestiality (38%) than rapists (11%).

The sexual abuse of animals is linked to the sexual abuse of women and children.

- Domestic violence can involve the use of animals for degradation and sexual exploitation of the battered partner. (Kowal, 1998).
- Child sexual abusers may sexually abuse animals to enhance, expand or extend the abuse of the genuinely powerless and unsuspecting victim (Adams, 1994).
- 41% of 400 women interviewed who had past relationships with battering partners had said their batterer asked them to perform unusual sex acts such as having sex with animals. (L.E. Walker 2009).
- There have been studies of sexual abuse of children that include reports of forcing children to interact sexually with animals (Ascione, 1993).

Citations:

Randour, Mary Lou. What every clinician should know about the link between pet abuse and family violence. Education Directorate of the American Psychological Association.

<https://www.apa.org/education/ce/pet-abuse-family-violence.pdf>

Abel, G. G. (2008, May 16). What can 44,000 men and 12,000 boys with sexual behavior problems teach us about preventing sexual abuse? Paper presented at the California Coalition on Sexual Offending 11th Annual Training Conference, Emerging Perspectives on Sexual Abuse Management, San Francisco, CA.

Abel, G. G. (1999). Assessing and treating sex offenders. Paper presented at the Specialized Services Conference Presentation on Assessing and Treating Sex Offenders: Chicago, IL, August.

Ascione, F. R. (1993). Children who are cruel to animals: A review of research and implications for developmental psychopathology. *Anthrozoos*, 6(4), 226–246.

Hoffman, J. 2016. Bestiality and the sexual exploitation of children [Powerpoint slides]. Retrieved from <https://www.apa-inc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/The-Connection-between-Bestiality-and-Human-Sex-Offending-Slides.pdf>.

Kowal, L. W. (1998). Recognizing animal abuse: What veterinarians can learn from the field of child abuse and neglect. In American Humane Association (Ed.), *Recognizing and reporting animal abuse: A veterinarian's guide* (pp. 40–49). Denver, CO: American Humane Association.

Ressler, R. K., Burgess, A. W., Hartman, C. R., Douglas, J. E., & McCormack, A. (1986). Murderers who rape and mutilate. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 1.

Simons, D. A., Wurtele, S. K., & Durham, R. L. (2008). Developmental experiences of child sexual abusers and rapists. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 32:549–560.

Walker, Lenore (2009). *The Battered Woman Syndrome*. (New York: Springer 2009)