Make Animal Sexual Abuse Illegal in Vermont

Support H.325
Introduced by Rep. Curt McCormack

What is animal sexual abuse?
- It is the sexual molestation of an animal by a human. Animal sexual abuse, like rape, is the eroticization of violence, control and exploitation. It can also include the killing or injuring of an animal for sexual gratification.

Isn’t it illegal?
- Unless the animal sustains physical injuries, charging perpetrators under the animal cruelty statute is extremely difficult.
- Vermont is one of only eight states where it is legal to have sex with an animal. With the passage of laws in New Hampshire and Ohio last year, Vermont is now the only state north of West Virginia that permits animal sexual abuse.

How common is it?
- The Internet has allowed the sexual abuse of animals to flourish by making how-to guides, personal ads, and information regarding sex with animals readily available.
- BeastForum.com, an Internet forum for people who have sex with animals, claims more than one million users – a majority from the U.S. At any given time, there are dozens of BeastForum.com “want-ad” postings seeking animals to have sex with in Vermont. Even Craigslist.org publishes ads for people seeking or offering sexual encounters with animals.

Why does Vermont need this law?
- Animal sexual abuse is the single largest risk factor and strongest predictor of increased risk for committing child sexual abuse (Abel 2008).
- Multiple studies have found that nearly 40% of people who sexually abuse animals are also child sex offenders.
- The FBI found high rates of animal sexual abuse in the backgrounds of serial sexual homicide predators (Ressler 1988), which is why they now track bestiality as a separate crime in the same category with rape and murder.

What does H.325 do?
Prohibits:
- Engaging in sexual contact with animals, including in the presence of a minor
- Trafficking, offering, soliciting, or advertising animals for sex
- Organizing or promoting the sexual abuse of animals
Exempts:
- Accepted and lawful animal husbandry and veterinary practices

For additional questions, please contact Barry Londeree, VT State Director, The Humane Society of the United States, at (802) 598-9737 or blonderee@humanesociety.org.
State Bestiality Laws
2017

- **Alaska**
- **Hawaii**

- **Has Direct Prohibitions Against the Sexual Assault of an Animal**
- **No Direct Prohibition**

- **New Hampshire**
- **Vermont**
- **Massachusetts**
- **Rhode Island**
- **Connecticut**
- **New Jersey**
- **Delaware**
- **Maryland**
- **Washington, D.C.**
Compiled Studies of Human Sex Offenders and Animal Sexual Abusers (1986-2016)

**Bestiality is the single largest risk factor and strongest predictor of increased risk for committing child sexual abuse.**

- A study of 44,202 adult males evaluated for sexual misconduct found that bestiality is the single largest risk factor and strongest predictor of increased risk for committing child sexual abuse. (Abel 2008).

- Individuals convicted of bestiality are the most likely to “cross-over” into other forms of criminal behavior – moving from non-contact offenses like trespassing to contact offenses like rape (Abel 1999).

- 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 (J. Hoffman 2016).

- Forty percent (40%) of the perpetrators of sexually motivated homicides reported they had sexually abused animals (Ressler, et al. 1986).

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

- Domestic violence can involves 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).

- In a test group of women who had past relationships with battering and non-battering partners, 41% of the battering partners forced them to sexually interact with animals – compared to 5% of non-battering partners (L.E. Walker 2009).

- Case studies of sexual abuse of children often include reports of forcing children to interact sexually with animals (Ascione, 1993).
Citations:


Detective Jeremy Hoffman 2016. Court certified expert in bestiality; Child Exploitation Unit, Fairfax County, Virginia Police Department. Presented at the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys conference: Austin, TX 2016.


Feb. 22, 2017

To the Hon. Curtis McCormack and Clement Bissonnette, Vermont House of Representatives and Honorable Members of the Vermont General Assembly:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter of support for H.325. The National LINK Coalition – the National Resource Center on The Link between Animal Abuse and Human Violence – and our 3,200 members in 50 states and 53 countries, encourage your passage of this measure.

H.325 would join Vermont with 42 other states that now criminalize bestiality or, as we in a growing number of criminal justice, public safety, academic, and animal welfare communities prefer to describe it, animal sexual abuse. This issue has become so significant in recent years that 23 states now consider bestiality a felony, and 27 states require offenders to be placed on sex offenders’ registries.

While sex with animals is sometimes considered a humorous or titillating issue, or a common rite of passage among rural populations, the reality in contemporary society is far more serious. A growing body of academic literature, research by criminologists and law enforcement officials, and anecdotal reports confirm this:

- Detective Jeremy Hoffman, of the Fairfax County, Va. Sheriff’s Office, has called animal sexual assault “the single greatest predictor of people who will molest children.” Hoffman has reported that the vast majority of child pornography cases also revealed bestiality porn as well. Hoffman found that proactively investigating animal sexual abuse led to a lot of early success in revealing child sexual abuse.

- The FBI considers animal sexual abuse such a significant issue that when it modified the National Incident-Based Reporting System to include, for the first time, reported incidents of animal abuse that will enter the national crime database, animal sexual abuse was one of the four specific crimes added to the system.

- Forensic veterinarian Martha Smith-Blackmore has reported that the single most prevalent lesson she said she learned in her practice is that animal sexual abuse is always tied to other forms of abuse.
In Arizona, former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio was so appalled at a case in which a local elected official was acquitted after allegedly raping a lamb that he successfully pushed for a bestiality law in the state code. In the 10 subsequent years, Arpaio arrested 10 individuals on bestiality charges with a 100% conviction rate.

The passage of a similar bill in New Hampshire in 2016 was jeopardized by agricultural and veterinary interests who were concerned that standard operating practices with farm animals might inadvertently be misconstrued as bestiality and innocent people would be labeled as sex offenders. The Vermont bill exempts conduct that is generally accepted as otherwise lawful animal husbandry and veterinary practices, thereby easing those interests’ concerns.

The National Link Coalition’s case files include numerous cases where animal sexual abuse is linked to other crimes. Some recent examples include:

- **2016:** Police in Henrico, Va., serving a warrant on man wanted in Pennsylvania on charges of child rape and child pornography, wound up charging his roommate with bestiality and animal cruelty after they allegedly found multiple images of the roommate having sex with Rottweiler dogs.

- **2016:** A former Canadian TV star and his wife were charged with 26 counts of possessing pornography, sexual assault and bestiality following a months-long investigation in which thousands of images and videos were discovered on computers, hard drives and phones. Investigators believe the man and another woman engaged in sexual acts with children, between 2000 and 2006, which were posted online. They were said to have used such online screen names as “retrodeviant” and “dirty slave doll”.

- **2016:** A Long Island, N.Y. man who served as a foster parent of 140 children over two decades was indicted for alleged bestiality and the sexual abuse of seven boys, endangering the welfare of children who were reported to have rummaged through garbage for food. Cesar Gonzales-Mugaburu faces 16 charges of sexual misconduct and endangering the welfare of the boys and one charge of sexual misconduct with a dog.

- **2015:** A Geneva, Ala. man who reportedly wanted to get back at his wife because he felt she cared more about her dog than him was charged with animal cruelty for allegedly having sex with the dog. Law enforcement officers told WTVY-TV the case was one of the most disturbing that they have ever investigated. “We’ve dealt with hungry dogs, abandoned dogs, but never with a dog that was sexually abused. Speaking to her and him, he was upset because she paid more attention to the dog than him, and this was her baby,” said Geneva Police Lt. Ricky Morgan. “His way of causing her the pain was to mess with the dog.”

While bestiality is a topic that is difficult to address, it is a crime with far-reaching implications – not just for the animals but for the families who own animals that have been raped; the veterinarians who must treat the ones who are injured or die; for the detectives who must view tragic and obscene videos and seek clues to the identity of a perpetrator; for the prosecutor who must uphold the law; and for Vermont citizens who desire a safe and civil society.

We applaud your efforts to address this issue and offer our full support.
Sincerely,

Phil Arkow, Coordinator
The National LINK Coalition – the National Resource Center
on the Link between Animal Abuse and Human Violence
February 25, 2017

Dear Vermont General Assembly Members,

I am writing to express my support for H.325. The proposed legislation will make bestiality, or sexual acts between humans and animals, a crime in the state of Vermont. I am a psychiatrist currently practicing in the Division of Psychiatry and the Law at the University of California, Davis Medical Center. Over the last few years I have researched, published articles, and presented internationally on bestiality and the related psychiatric diagnosis of zoophilia (atypical sexual interest in animals). In addition, I have presented to and collaborated with veterinary forensic scientists on this important issue through the International Veterinary Forensic Science Association.

Though the volume of research on bestiality is relatively limited, it suggests that individuals who engage in sexual acts with animals may be at an increased risk of engaging in interpersonal offenses. In fact, one recent study on an inmate population found that of all the various forms of animal cruelty, bestiality was the only form that predicted recurrent interpersonal offending in adulthood (1). This suggests that bestiality is a marker of an individual’s potential for engaging in violence against humans.

Regardless of the risk that individuals who engage in bestiality pose to humans, the behavior certainly endangers the lives of their animal victims. Animals forced to engage in sexual intercourse with humans frequently experience physical injury, psychological distress, and even death due to complications from the sex acts (2). Animals are unable to provide consent to engage in sexual intercourse with humans, which makes bestiality a coercive behavior.

In my own line of research I have reviewed statutory law in the United States concerning bestiality (3). Most anti-bestiality laws utilize archaic language and do not specify which sexual acts are meant to be punished. H.325, however, is written in clear, modern language with explicit descriptions of punishable acts.
From the psychiatric perspective, there is evidence that indicates that individuals who sexually abuse animals are at risk of harming other humans. From an animal rights perspective, individuals who engage in sex with animals choose to violate and frequently injure living beings that cannot provide consent. From a legal perspective, these individuals require punishment, rehabilitation, and appropriate management if their risk to society is to be mitigated. For these reasons I support H.325 and I encourage you to do so, as well. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Brian Holoyda, M.D., M.P.H.
Division of Psychiatry & the Law
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
University of California, Davis Medical Center – Sacramento

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1 User(s) are browsing this forum (1 Guests and 0 Anonymous Users)
Hey Everyone,

My partner and I would be interested in meeting like minded people. We live in Washington near Barre, can host or travel to you, or meet for coffee first. I am a gorgeous 26yo fit lean, hairless bottom and has experienced kinks in his youth. My partner is your regular working man Vermont-born and raised, who enjoys drinking beer watching the Pats, and giving his boy what he needs. He is 5'11" two hundred lbs, with cropped silver hair and a great attitude. I can be very submissive to dominent men. I experienced my first knot at 15 and continued to until my boy died 4 years later. I have also blown a couple horses. My partner has never done anything with an animal before, but has never seen me more excited about the possibility. He'd like to watch and chat. We are both full time employed and love our work, I am in IT and my partner works in Medicine. We would be interested in meeting up sometime after New Years if that works for you. If you are interested in photos of the both of us or have any other questions, you can reach me at [EMAIL REMOVED - USE THE PM SYSTEM].

Thanks,

Joe and Chris

Same here. I would love to find an owner. I want to experience with any female animal (or male animals that are into anal).

Looking for a horse for my wife to play with and travel.

I want that too.
Tag

Posted: Apr 18 2016, 12:06 PM

I'm very close to Southern VT (Bennington/Manchester).

Have trained Male k9.

Females preferred

Xoftik1011

Posted: May 19 2016, 04:13 AM

29yr old male with 2yr old male Border collie in central VT, looking for females only. You must be able to host, either at your place or a pet friendly hotel/motel.

I'd be willing to drive as far south as West Lebanon or Rutland and as far north as Burlington or St Johnsbury.

Vikingaic

Posted: Oct 11 2016, 04:19 PM

Couple here from nh willing to meet up for a meet some time. This would be for her but he wants to watch. Shes 25 curvy an cute.

Pm us an we can try to set something up. We're very serious
Any other Southern VT connections?

Hey guys... Male here in the north capital district. Travel to the North Country and VT often... Looking to be mounted.

My girl and I will be visiting her family in mid-November at the weekend of Nov 4-6. If an owner could message us we would love to set something to get her knotted. She would be willing to take care of you as well, weather you are male or female. She has very little k9 experience from when she was younger but has never been mounted. She has a very perverted mind and is willing to do a lot of dirty things, she is quite entertaining. She is curvy but very cute and has a bubbly personality. Hope to hear from you 😘.
**Or喳 Moore Vermont, Male seeking**

**Bigbadnhard**

**Posted:** Feb 7, 2017, 09:26 AM

Hey, I'm very interested in finding like minded men or women! I'm up for most and would love to watch join.

This post has been edited by Bigbadnhard on Feb 7, 2017, 09:27 AM
Craigslist

☆ Young male looking to get tied for the first time - m4m (Chittenden County)  
Been wanting to experience a knot for years now, but it's so hard to find. Desperately want to be turned into a bitch for someone's stud. If you have my new best friend, please message me.  

• do NOT contact me with unsolicited services or offers

☆ Down on the Horse Farm - m4m (Upper Valley)  
Looking to meet an open minded horse farmer in the area that owns or cares for a young stallion or two. Maybe horsey needs some release. Been a fantasy for a while. Good shape, mid 50s, very discreet; maybe video if it works out. Give it some thought, maybe expand with bringing in a woman, they're out there.  

• do NOT contact me with unsolicited services or offers
sheep share? I have fond memories when I was young on a farm and wondering if anyone would share. I will even muck the barn.

- do NOT contact me with unsolicited services or offers