

Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Section - 2012

117 Case Study: Paraphilias Carried to the Limit — Child and Dog Victims of a Subject With Schizoid Personality Traits

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand how an individual's paraphilic fantasy allowed a lonely 53-year-old man to use his own dog to sexually abuse an 11-year-old boy. In this case, the prosecutor along with the criminal profiling unit, through a behavioral analysis, explained the case to a judge, who finally condemned the man.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by showing how the investigation of this case led physical evidence and behavioral evidence to the understanding of a man with schizoid personality traits with paraphilic fantasies, who conditioned his dog to respond to sexual erotic maneuvers and who later used his dog to sodomize a child. This unique case is the only one of its kind ever documented, which seems more to be part of the plot of a psychological police thriller than a real criminal case.

The criminal profiling unit was called to assist in the investigation of an extremely complex case. Initial reports came from the preliminary account of an 11-year-old boy, who claimed he had fallen in the forest and had been accidentally injured in the anal area. However, the emergency services found injuries consistent with a possible sexual offense. After analyzing the samples, sperm was found that had a morphology that was not human and was possibly canine. Later, with the support of the profiler, the child was interviewed using the protocol RATAC. In the interview, the child reported that while playing in the woods, a man had approached him and called a dog who penetrated the child's anus with his penis. The offender then fled the area. The case was not "a dog who had raped a child" anymore. With this information, research activities were initiated and corroboration of information and it was during this profiling unit conducted a behavioral analysis of the facts, which yielded a report giving an account of the behavior one would expect the aggressor and as some investigative strategies. Finally, the man was identified, arrested, and the dog found.

Subsequently, the man's psychological tests established the presence of schizoid traits. Meanwhile, the dog was tested and showed a conditioned sexual response to certain kinds of touching. The behavior and concern of the owner toward the dog during these tests suggested a link between pet and master that went beyond the normal link between dog and master. These aspects together suggested that the dog had been used as an object of sexual activity, which in turn become the means of satisfaction of his master, who then wanted to extend it to others.

The case, despite its difficulty, was brought to trial. The profiler attended court as an expert adviser to the prosecution. At the trial the main work was aimed at establishing the conditioning to which the dog had been subjected, that the defendant had used the dog as an implement to violate the child, and therefore the child had told the truth.

The case was decided in favor of the prosecution and the defendant convicted of the crime of "aggravated violent sexual intercourse with child under 14."

Behavioral Analysis, Sex Crime, Schizoid Personality Traits