



### W02 Heavy Petting: A Forensic Expert's Guide to Bestiality and Zoophilia

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the history of human-animal sexual intercourse in various cultures across time as well as the development of laws around the world to prosecute this behavior. Attendees will learn current conceptualizations of bestiality and the related diagnosis of zoophilia from the psychiatric perspective. Lastly, attendees will be able to describe current approaches to the evaluation of bestiality cases from the point of view of a forensic pathologist and law enforcement officer.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by improving the understanding of bestiality, a rarely discussed sexual behavior, and its relevance to the fields of forensic mental health, forensic pathology, and criminal investigation.

This multidisciplinary session featuring forensic mental health experts, a forensic pathologist, and a law enforcement officer will educate attendees about bestiality (i.e., human-animal sexual intercourse). The history of bestiality across cultures as well as the development of legislation to prosecute this behavior will be described. The body of literature on individuals who engage in bestiality will be reviewed, providing practical recommendations for psychiatric and medical evaluation and treatment. The Enumclaw horse sex case will be reviewed from a forensic pathologist's perspective and current practices and examples of the forensic investigation of such cases will be described.

Human-animal intercourse, or bestiality, has occurred since earliest recorded human history. Some ancient cultures were permissive of such behavior, most commonly in the setting of religious practice. On the other hand, many early civilizations punished individuals accused of having sex with animals. Over time, the majority of nations around the world have established legislation to punish individuals deemed to have engaged in bestiality. Various legal grounds for punishing acts of bestiality exist, including moral or religious proscriptions, treating animals as property, and considerations of animal rights.

Though many nations and states have severe sentences for violations of anti-bestiality law, the scientific community knows relatively little about the people who have sex with animals. Alfred Kinsey's original research indicated that human-animal sexual contact was a relatively common phenomenon, at least among farm-raised boys.<sup>1</sup> More recent research has identified various types of individuals who have sex with animals, including self-identified "zoophiles" who report being sexually attracted to or having relationships with their pets as well as incarcerated sexual offenders who report histories of bestiality in addition to other forms of animal cruelty. Case reports describe individuals with autism spectrum disorder who engage in sexual acts with animals, possibly as a component of restricted or atypical interests. Lastly, some individuals have sex with animals for secondary gain, such as financial compensation from pornography or sex shows.

Despite research providing an incomplete understanding of bestiality, there have been multiple efforts to categorize those who have sex with animals. In terms of psychiatric nosology, the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, Fifth Edition* classifies "zoophilic disorder" under the diagnosis of "other specified paraphilic disorder," which requires that an individual's sexual interest in animals causes distress or impairment or results in harm or risk of harm to self or others. Notably, the diagnosis may fail to capture all individuals who engage in sex with animals, depending on whether or not a clinician determines that bestiality incurs a risk of harm to others. In 2011 Aggrawal proposed a novel categorization of bestiality based on his necrophilia classification scheme, which he stated could be used for sentencing offenders, despite the lack of any evidence that his classification separated offenders based on their risk of violence or recidivism.<sup>2</sup> In 2017, Holoyda and Newman summarized the current understanding of bestiality in a classification scheme based on offenders' motivations.<sup>3</sup>

In 2005, the Washington state Enumclaw horse sex case brought bestiality into the public eye. A 2007 movie, *Zoo*, described the life and death of Kenneth Pinyan, an American man whose anal intercourse with a horse led to the perforation of the man's colon.<sup>4</sup> Subsequent to Mr. Pinyan's death, Washington state passed its own anti-bestiality bill. Though somewhat rare, law enforcement agencies do investigate reports of animal cruelty that involve bestiality. For example, in 2015, investigators identified two adult males who engaged in sexual intercourse with a miniature on a farm in Whatcom County, WA. Utilizing an online forum for individuals interested in bestiality, the detectives were able to obtain evidence incriminating the two defendants. Further analysis of the forum revealed ties to the original Enumclaw animal sex farm as well as another case in which a man was running a dog brothel in Sumas, WA.

Poorly understood and in need of further research, bestiality remains a taboo topic in much of the world. Despite the lack of scientific evidence, societies and law enforcement agencies have developed — and, in some cases, been forced to develop — legislation and investigative techniques to identify and punish individuals who have sex with animals. Further research will spur improved scientific and legal understanding and help guide legal bodies in their management of offenders.

#### Reference(s):

1. Alfred Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* (Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1948), 667-78.
2. Anil Aggrawal. "A new classification of zoophilia," *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine* 18 (2011): 73-78.
3. Brian Holoyda and William Newman, "Zoophilia and the Law: Legal Responses to a Rare Paraphilia," *J Am Acad Psychiatry Law* 42 (2014): 412–20.
4. *Zoo*. Directed by Robinson Devor. 2007. THINKFilm, DVD.

#### Bestiality, Zoophilia, Sexual Offender