

## **Animal Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Statistics<sup>1</sup>**

Animal sexual abuse is intentional sexual contact between a person and an animal that may result in injury or death (of the person or the animal); exploitation involves the filming, photographing, breeding, or sharing animals for sexual purposes.

### **There's no single profile of an animal sex offender**

- 86% are men aged 18 to 82, with a mean age of 38
- 13% are women between the ages of 18 and 61, with a mean age of 34.
- 63% of female offenders act as part of a male/female couple
- 53% of animal sex offenders have a criminal history involving
  - sexual abuse (animals & children),
  - child pornography, and
  - interpersonal & domestic violence,
- 34% have also sexually abused children or adults
- 28% are repeat animal sex offenders
- 8% have deviant sexual interests including pedophilia, S&M, necrophilia, and zoophilia
- 4% are registered child sex offenders

### **A wide range of sex acts occur**

- 64% involve rape, penetration, or sodomy of animals
- 8% are violent sex acts resulting in serious injury or death of the animals
- 7% involve the coercion of a child or adult who is forced to have sex with an animal in front of their abuser
  - Most of these acts are filmed and posted online

### **Prosecution and Sentencing varies**

- 64% of offenders are prosecuted; the average sentence is 2 years' probation
- 25% of bestiality cases are declined for prosecution
- 10% of convicted offenders are ordered to register as sex offenders

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<sup>1</sup> Edwards MJ. Arrest and Prosecution of Animal Sex Abuse (Bestiality) Offenders in the U.S., 1975-2015. *J Amer Acad Psychiatry and Law*, 47 (2). 2019. Available online at <http://jaapl.org/content/early/2019/05/16/JAAPL.003836-19>