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# Understanding Zoosexuality:
## Prevalence, Impact, and Links to Criminal Behavior

Chandler Edwards.org

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- Field Researcher and Special Animal Crimes Investigator
  - Current study: Prevalence and Impact of Pornography in Animal Sex Crimes
- Instructor
  - Advisor to Univ. MO LETI, NACIS
  - Creator of specialized courseware for enforcement officers, veterinarians, and healthcare professionals
- Author, Actor
  - Multiple print and online publications
  - Documentary film on animal sex abuse:  “Zoo”

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- Clinical Social Worker
  - Provider: Swedish Family Medicine Residence
- Faculty Member
  - Dept. of Family & Social Work – University of Washington
  - Swedish Family Medicine
- Behavioral Sciences Consultant
  - Chandler Edwards

# Caveats

- Taboo subject
- Research limited, but ongoing
- Elements of an 8-hour workshop
- Experiential v academic
- Images may be difficult to view

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# Gavillor's Story



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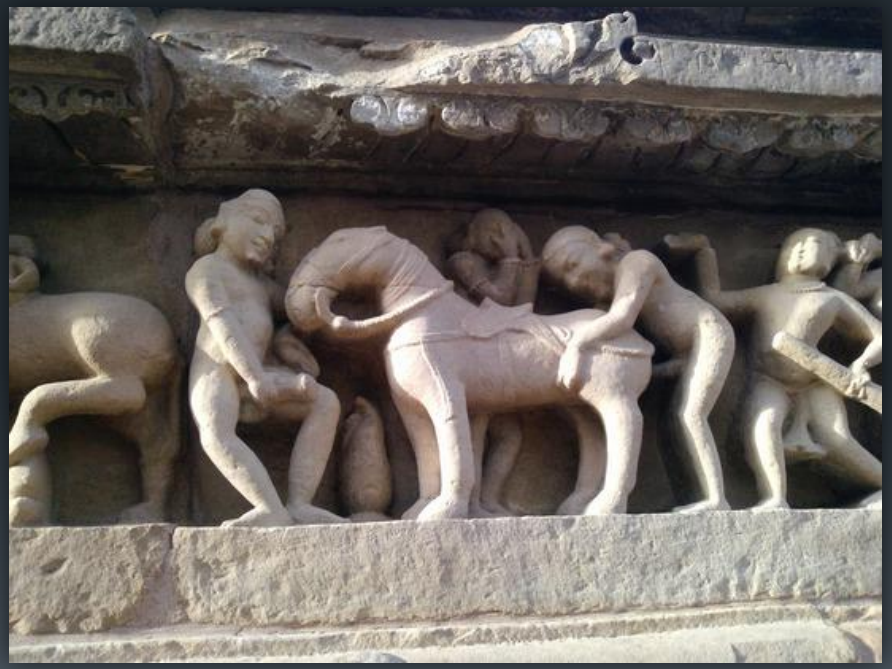
- July 2005
- Boeing Engineer
- Sex parties
- Perforated colon
- Intn’l attention
- Human & Animal victims
- 2006 law



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# What is Zoosexuality?

- Paraphilia
- Crime
- Lifestyle
- Many Terms



# Our Definition

- Enduring pattern of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attraction of a human to an animal
- Includes a range of behaviors
- May or may not include physical contact

**See: Aggrawal, A. (2011), Miletski, H. (2002)**

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# Also Known As …

- Bestiality
- Zoophilia
- Crime against nature
- Sodomy
- Deviate or deviant act
- Animal sex abuse or assault

# Current Research Project

- Relationship of animal sexual abuse to other forms of antisocial or criminal behavior
- 227 adjudicated cases in the US between 1995-2012
- Multiple factors and relationships considered
- Partially funded through Humane Research Council - humaneresearch.org
- For more info – jenny.edwards@chandleredwards.org

# Questions we might Answer

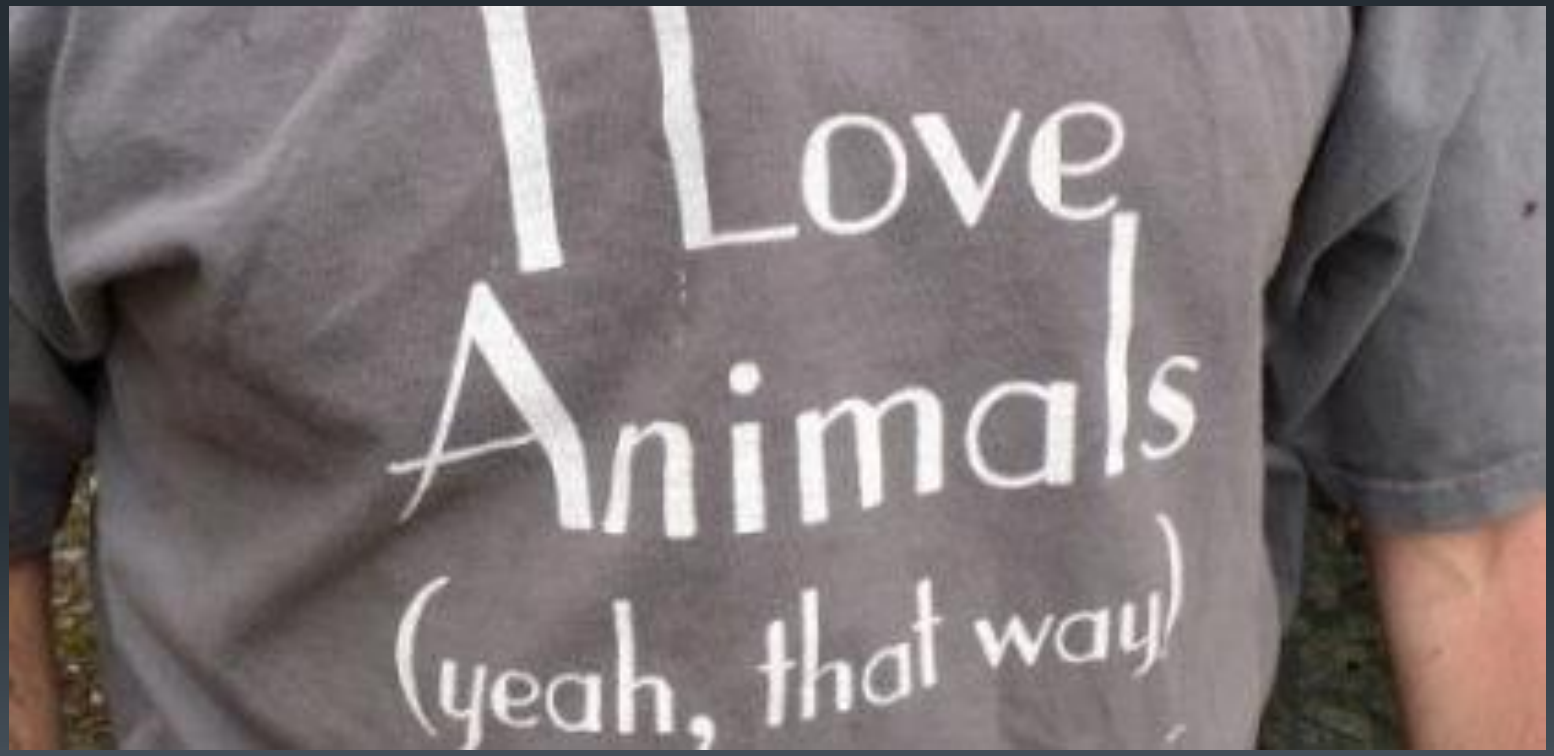
- Is the “problem” growing?
- Where is it most prevalent?
- How do sentences vary?
- How often are children also a victim?
- What is the role of pornography?
- Do offenders have prior sexual assault history?
- Who’s most likely to report?

# Where could we go from here?

- Animal outcomes
- Sentencing guidelines
- Treatment guidelines
- Legislative refinement
- More accurate view of comorbid crimes, pathologies

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# Zoosexuality 101



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# In General

- Causes are unknown
- More common in men than women
- May or may not be a “problem”
- Recurring, lifetime behavior
- Imagery plays a role

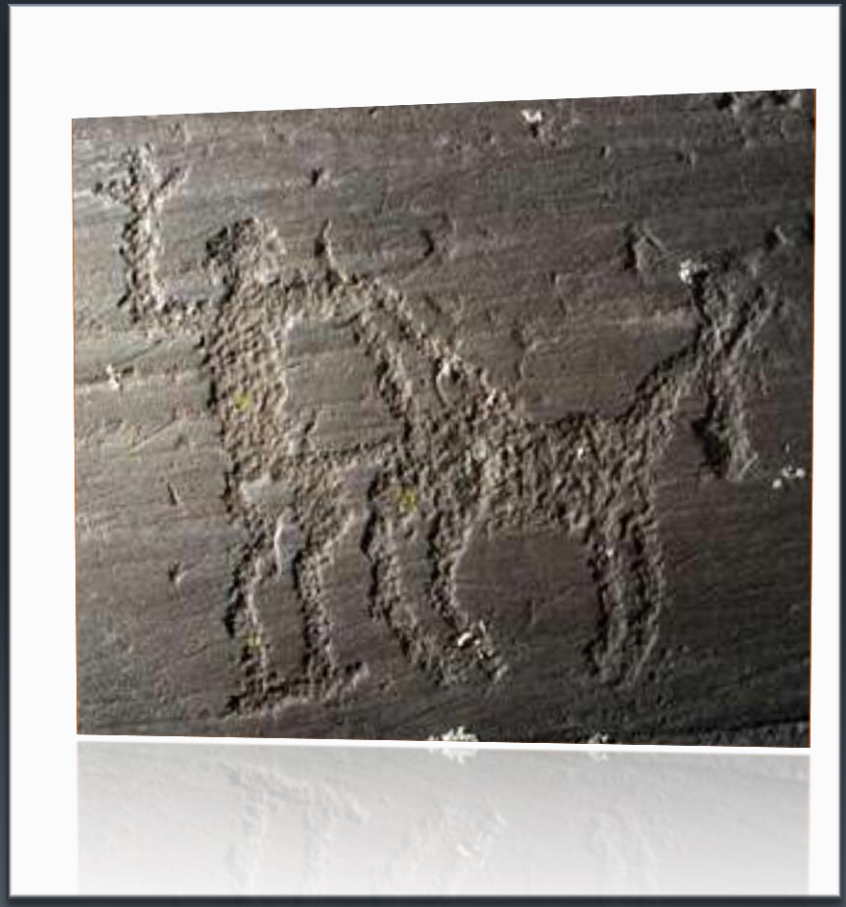


**[Literature Cited at end of presentation]**

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# Does this really happen?

- 45,000 Years
- George Spencer & Benjamin Gourd
- 1 – 5 - 55
- 30



Rosenberger *(1968)*, Murrin, John M. (2011), Hunt (1974); Edwards (2013)

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# A worldwide community



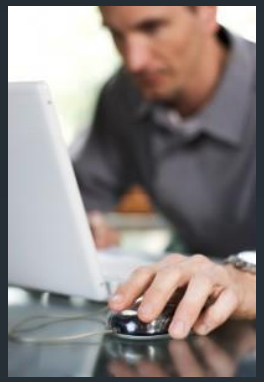
- 15,000,000 hits
- 874,000 members
- 90:1
- International

Google, Wikipedia

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# Who Does it?

- Curiosity Seekers
- Role Players
- Criminals
- Lovers






# Proposed Zoosexuality Framework

- ZS1 – Affinity
- ZS2 – Role Playing
- ZS3 – Erotic Fantasy
- ZS4 – Touching, Preoccupation
- ZS5 – Romantic attachment
- ZS6 – Opportunistic contact
- ZS7 – Predatory contact
- ZS8 – Necrophilic contact
- ZS9 – Coercive contact
- ZS10 – Sadistic, violent, or homicidal contact

Edwards, Glasser, Kiernan (2013) – In development; adapted from Aggrawal (2009)

# Curiosity Seekers, in general

- Unknown number
- Curiosity, Affinity, Preoocupation
- Rule 34
- Craigslist





*Rules of the Internet*, attributed to an Internet comic series (2004)

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# Internet Meet-ups, C/L Sting: Walker, Walker, Aucker

- AZ – 2/12
- Swinger couple & BF
- Advertised on Craigslist
- “Dreams of dog”
- CID Sting



Sarah Dae Walker, 33

Robert Aucker 29, K9 Decoy

Shane Walker, 38

# Role players, in general

- 45,000 Furries (est.)
- Benign
- Some posers



Fur Affinity Forums, estimate by Kisoura as of 6/18/10

# Domestic Violence, Fetish: Ingram & Kintz

- MO – 5/12
- Cell phone photos
- Leash & collar
- Stray dog ran away





# Porn Enthusiasts

- Unknown number – 40% AP & KP
- Porn collection often extensive (animal & human)
- May sexually fantasize about animals
- May be illegal



Edward Wong, Long Island Case Sheds Light on Animal-Mutilation Videos, 149 N.Y. Times B4 (Jan. 25, 2000)

# Link between AP and CP: Reese, Nelson, & Quebedeaux

- LA – 2/12
- $750,000 for videos
- Incest & bestiality
- Kids 2, 6, & 9



# Crush Videos: Richards and Justice

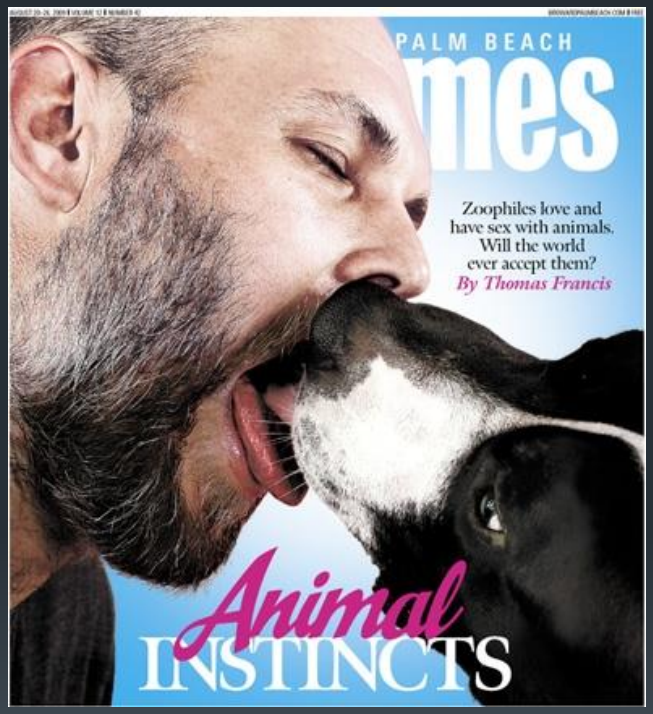
- Title 18, Sec. 48 (federal)
- “Extreme animal cruelty”
- Penalty 7 years max
- First case: TX – 8/12
- Cat and dog tortured & crushed



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# Lovers, in general

- Most studied
- 5-8%
- 90:1
- White males – 53




Kinsey (1948, 1953)
Miletski (2002) Understanding Bestiality and Zoophilia

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# Drug & Animal Trafficking: Doug Spink

- WA – 4/10
- 2003 conviction for drug trafficking
- 2010 parole violation
- Mice, dogs, horses
- Pimped his dogs
- 2013 Animal cruelty charge



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# “Traveler”: Stephen Clarke

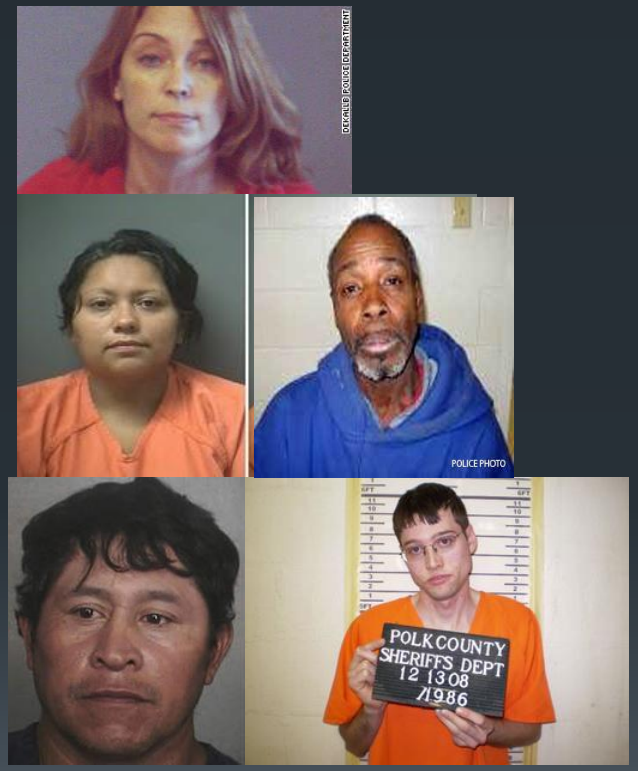
- WA– 4/10
- Priors for child sexual assault in home country
- Videotapes
- 30 days; deported



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# Criminals, in general

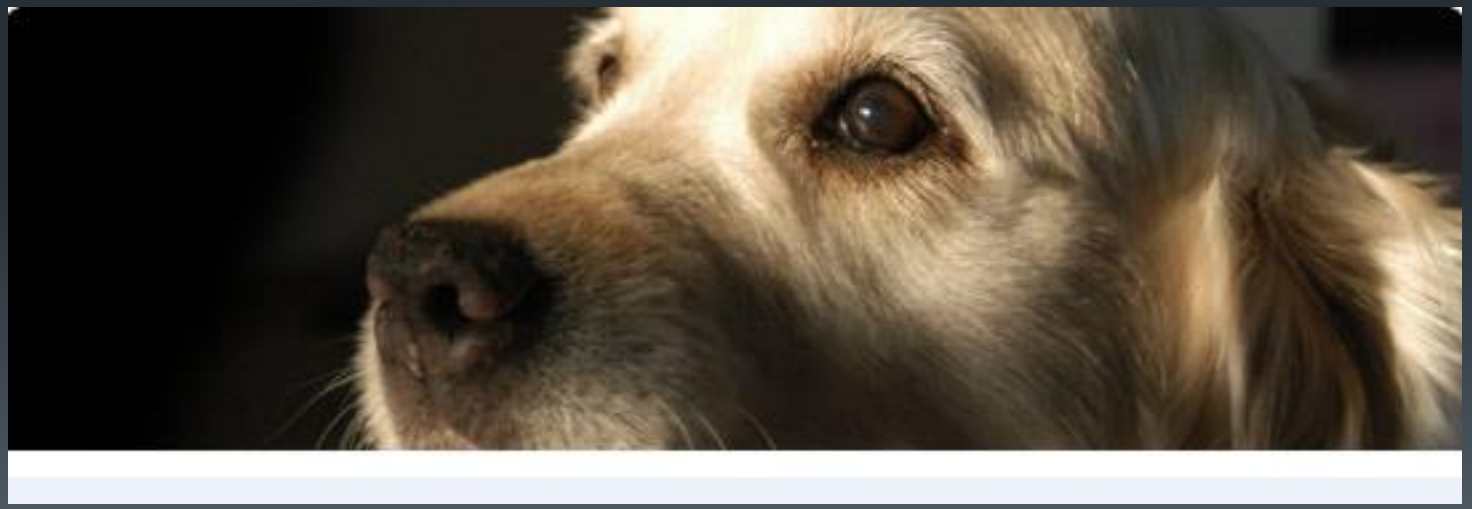
- White, 45 (91%)
- Women, 36 (11%)
- Geometric increase
  - Pre-2005: 1- 3
  - 2005-2010: 11
  - 2010: 22
  - 2012: 33




Edwards, Glasser (2013) in progress

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# What about the Animals?



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# An Equal Opportunity Problem

- Both domestic and wild animals
- Most living, but some necrophilia
- Bears, snakes, insects also in videos

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# How animals are obtained

- 46% - Known to offender
- 42% - Unfamiliar to offender
- Shelter
- Craigslist

Edwards, Glasser (2013) in progress

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# Why don’t we hear more about it?



- The “ick” factor
- Training
- Internet

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# Under-reported

- Goes by many “names”
- Youth records are generally sealed
- Names redacted
- Some states are in denial
- Cross-reporting is minimal

Zilney and Zilney (2005)

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# Under-studied

- Academic reluctance
- Few studies
- Selected populations
- Statistics changing



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# Under-investigated



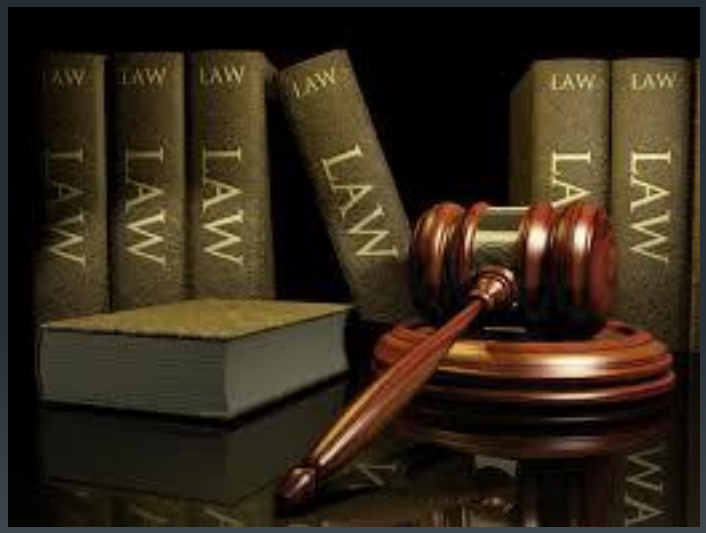
- Occurs in secret
- Victim can't tell
- Who's job is it?

Zilney & Zilney (2005)

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# Under-prosecuted

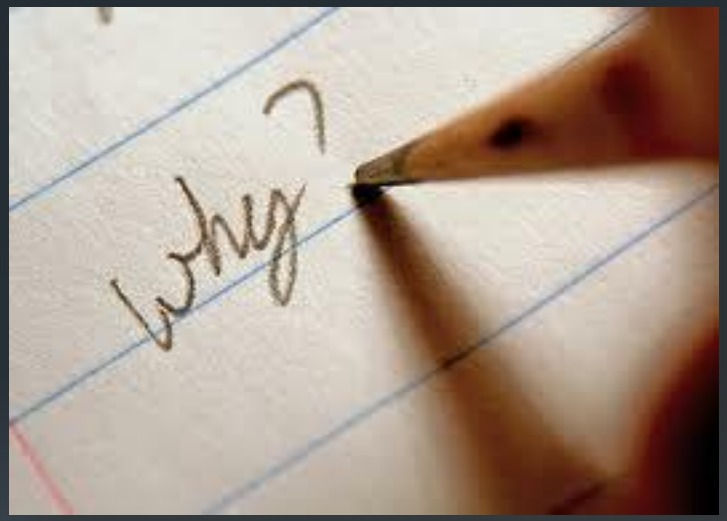
- Laws may be
  - Inconsistent
  - Too restrictive or too broad
  - Unclear
  - Not applied at all
- Human crimes take priority



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# Why do they do it?

- Causes unclear
- No “cure”
- Desire for affection
- Early learning
- Opportunistic
- Thrill-seeking



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# Paraphilia (NOS)

DSM-IV-TR-

- Recurrent, intense, sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges or behaviors
- generally involving 1) nonhuman objects, 2) the suffering or humiliation of oneself or one's partner, or 3) children or other nonconsenting person
- that occur over a period of at least 6 months

(Criterion A)

and

- cause clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning

(Criterion B)

(APA, 2000 p.566)

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# Designated Paraphilias

| Diagnostic Code | Nosology | Category |
|---|---|---|
| 302.2 | Pedophilia | Sexual Disorders, Paraphilias |
| 302.3 | Transvestic Fetishism | Sexual Disorders, Paraphilias |
| 302.4 | Exhibitionism | Sexual Disorders, Paraphilias |
| 302.81 | Fetishism | Sexual Disorders, Paraphilias |
| 302.82 | Voyeurism | Sexual Disorders, Paraphilias |
| 302.83 | Sexual Masochism | Sexual Disorders, Paraphilias |
| 302.84 | Sexual Sadism | Sexual Disorders, Paraphilias |
| 302.89 | Frotteurism | Sexual Disorders, Paraphilias |
| 302.9 | Paraphilia, NOS | Sexual Disorders, Paraphilias |

(APA, 2004 p.)

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# Paraphilic Behaviors

- Are infrequent among homosexual men and heterosexual women
- Two studies of undergraduates indicate that between 5% and 9% have pedophilic fantasies
- A study of 94 men indicate that 5.3% engage in sexual fantasies which involve bestiality
- Neither psychometric measures nor life history data can reliably identify paraphiliacs

(Feierman & Feierman, 2000)

# How do we define mental illness?

- …clinically significant behavioral or psychological syndrome that is associated with distress, disability (i.e. impaired function), or increased risk of suffering, death, pain, disability, or an ***important loss of freedom***. (APA, 2004 p.xxxi)
  - Is incarceration or threat of incarceration sufficient to make engagement in activity a psychopathology?
  - What role should the substitution of social judgment for individual judgment play in this designation?
  - Is there unnecessary pathologizing?
  - What about distress to others in relation to the individual?

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# Criticisms of Nosology and Clinical Utility of Current Clinical Criteria

- Ideation versus behavior issue
- Criterion B alternative criteria for only 4
- Lack of utility for clinical risk assessment
- Fails to account for vacillation in frequency and intensity
- Fails to account for psychosocial disequilibrium, comorbidity or increased opportunity for enactment
- "Classification by psychiatric diagnosis, evinced in successive *DSMs* is fraught with problems at present that render it devoid of utility in the management of sexual offenders" (Polaschek, 2003, p.167)

# Ethical Considerations

- Service
- Social Justice
- Dignity and Worth of the Person
- Importance of Human Relationships
- Integrity
- Competence

(NASW, 2009)

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# Implications for the Social Worker

- Micro-
  - Identification of EBP for intervention
  - Continuing education
  - Broadened assessments
  - Ecological Perspective

- Mezzo/Macro-
  - Education of local law enforcement, animal control officers, etc
  - Legislative advocacy
  - Research

# Challenges of Research

- Small and slowly growing amount of literature and data available on the subject
- Sources of study most frequently are self-selected or forensic populations
- Pseudoscientific endeavours abound
- Sequalae and natural history of these behaviors vary from person to person and paraphilia to paraphilia
- Veterinary sciences are not educated to consider ASA in differentials or structured resources for reporting if suspected

# What is a mental disorder anyway?

- …clinically significant behavioral or psychological syndrome that is associated with distress, disability (i.e. impaired function), or increased risk of suffering, death, pain, disability, or an ***important loss of freedom***. (APA, 2004 p.-------)
  - Is incarceration or threat of incarceration sufficient to make engagement in activity a psychopathology?
  - What role should the substitution of social judgment for individual judgment play in this designation?




Thank You!

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