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

Chandler Edwards.org

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  - 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
Gavillor’s Story
• July 2005
• Boeing Engineer
• Sex parties
• Perforated colon
• Int’l attention
• Human & Animal victims
• 2006 law
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

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 - humanereresearch.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
Zoosexuality 101
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]
Does this really happen?

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

A worldwide community

- 15,000,000 hits
- 874,000 members
- 90:1
- International
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, Preoccupation
- Rule 34
- Craigslist

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

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
Lovers, in general

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

Kinsey (1948, 1953)
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
“Traveler”: Stephen Clarke

- WA – 4/10
- Priors for child sexual assault in home country
- Videotapes
- 30 days; deported
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
What about the Animals?
An Equal Opportunity Problem

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

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

Edwards, Glasser (2013) in progress
Why don’t we hear more about it?

- The “ick” factor
- Training
- Internet
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)
Under-studied

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

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

Zilney & Zilney (2005)
Under-prosecuted

- Laws may be
  - Inconsistent
  - Too restrictive or too broad
  - Unclear
  - Not applied at all
- Human crimes take priority
Why do they do it?

- Causes unclear
- No “cure”
- Desire for affection
- Early learning
- Opportunistic
- Thrill-seeking
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)
### Designated Paraphilias

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnostic Code</th>
<th>Nosology</th>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>302.2</td>
<td>Pedophilia</td>
<td>Sexual Disorders, Paraphilias</td>
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<td>302.3</td>
<td>Transvestic Fetishism</td>
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<td>Sexual Masochism</td>
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<td>302.89</td>
<td>Frotteurism</td>
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<tr>
<td>302.9</td>
<td>Paraphilia, NOS</td>
<td>Sexual Disorders, Paraphilias</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Used by permission-B. Kiernan, MSSA, LICSW)
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?
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)
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?

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Thank You!
Literature Cited


Steiner, Eric T., & Silver N. Clayton. (2013), Raising Canine: Cross-Species Parallels in Parental Investment, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Nevada.

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