



September 13, 2019

Hon. Andre' Jaccque
Room 7 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Re: SB 139 (LRB-0164/1) to amend current laws prohibiting bestiality

I am a criminologist and subject matter expert on bestiality based in Seattle, Washington and am writing in support of SB139. This is an important piece of legislation that protects not only Wisconsin animals but its citizens from a pervasive and often deadly form of sexual assault.

Recently, my study of bestiality-related arrests throughout the United States over a 40-year period was published in the [*Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*](#).¹ The most important findings were that:

- **Nearly one-third of bestiality offenders also sexually abuse children.** Half of these children are under the age of 10, and *one in seven children are forced to have sex with the family pet.*
 - Christian and Dannie Stolfus, 19 and 18 (Grant) were arrested for having sex with at least six family members as well as a cow and a horse over a 4-year period.
 - Nicholas Bradley, 22 (Dodge) was arrested in 2015 for sodomizing his girlfriend's dog. In 2016 he was arrested in Alaska for sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl.
 - Kenneth Risch, 36 (Taylor) had a prior history of assault and battery, embezzlement, and other charges at the time he was convicted of felony sexual assault of a child in 2012. In 2013 he was arrested for having sex with a dog.
 - Barry Herbeck, 36 (Dodge) was convicted in 1989 of raping his 6-year-old stepdaughter. In 1998 he was convicted for sodomizing and killing numerous cats and dogs; some of them in front of children.
 - Tod Bergemann, 25 (Brown) had a long history of sexual acts with family members, including his sister, two foster brothers, a 2-year-old baby, and incest with both parents. In 1997 he admitted to having sex with the family dog multiple times and was deemed a sexually violent predator. In one incident he forced another child to have sex with the dog and then posted the images online to threaten her with silence.

¹ Edwards M J (2019). Arrest and Prosecution of Animal Sex Abuse (Bestiality) Offenders in the United States, 1975-2015. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 47 (3). DOI: 10.29158/JAAPL.003836-19. Available online at <http://jaapl.org/content/early/2019/05/16/JAAPL.003836-19>

- Dyllon Lazic, 19 (Waupaca) sexually assaulted multiple children over a 5-year period. One of the victims was made to watch him have sex with a dog.
- **More than one-quarter of arrests result in significant injury or death of one or more animals.** Some violent offenders torture and mutilate their animals for sexual motivation. In other, more deviant cases, the offenders kill the animal first and then have sex with the animal's corpse.
 - Sterling Rachwal, 18-54 (Brown) brutalized, mutilated and killed numerous horses in at least six Wisconsin counties over a 30-year period. Regardless of the number of charges, or the heinous acts committed on the animals he raped with his fist and with broom handles, he was never successfully charged with anything more than a misdemeanor. He's currently serving 2 years' probation for his most recent rapes.
 - Bryan Hathaway, 24 (Douglas) already had a juvie record for weapons, lewd behavior, property damage, and animal cruelty at the time of his arrest in 2005, when he shot and killed a horse for the purpose of having sex with it. In 2006 he was arrested for having sex with a roadkill deer. In 2014 he was arrested for theft and assaulting a police officer.
 - John Bullock, 24 (Racine) was arrested for raping an unconscious woman. Then, his roommate Damonta Jones, 25 brought his live pet snake into the bedroom and helped Bullock rape her once again, this time with the snake. Bullock has a prior criminal history and Jones is a registered sex offender. Neither man was charged with bestiality.
- **More than half (53%) of animal sex offenders have a criminal history** involving interpersonal and domestic violence, child pornography, animal cruelty, substance abuse, and other criminal behavior.
 - Jared Kreft, 30 (Marathon) was arrested for breaking into a barn where he smoked pot and had sex with a horse. He had previously been arrested for drug possession and told officers that viewing animal pornography had motivated him to have sex with an animal. He received 2 years' probation for the drug charges; the bestiality charges were dropped.
 - Jamie Garcia, 33 (Outagamie) was arrested after posting images on the Internet of himself having sex with his mare. One of his online posts said he'd like to meet others near his home who would like to have sex with his horse. At the time of his arrest, he was in possession of crystal meth and admitted to having had sex with multiple animals since he was a teenager. He received 12 months' probation for the bestiality charge.
 - Amy Lew, 20 (Eau Claire) had 83,000 subscribers on her YouTube channel where she posted "how-to" videos and live chats about having sex with her dog. She and her boyfriend were arrested in Florida and extradited to Wisconsin, where the boyfriend had an outstanding warrant for felony child pornography and where Lew had videotaped herself performing sexual acts in public. Lew was charged with disorderly conduct, and lewd and lascivious behavior instead of bestiality.
 - Mackenzie Behrmann, 18 (Manitowoc) had previously been arrested for child sexual assault and was under investigation for child pornography when officers found videos of him having sex with two different dogs. He was charged with 2 counts of sexual assault of a child and the bestiality charges were ignored.
- **Animal sex offenders are nearly four time more likely to reoffend** than people convicted of human sex offenses². What's alarming about that number is a) these are the cases we know about which is likely lower than the actual number who reoffend b) the statistic does not include human sex offenders who sexually assault animals after being released, and c) many offenders who are rearrested are not returned to prison or sent for sex addition or other counseling.

² U.S. Dept. of Justice, Special Report on Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from State Prison: a 9-year follow-up (2005-2015). May 2019. Available online at <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rsorsp9yfu0514.pdf>. According to this report, among 20,195 prisoners, 8% reoffended within a nine-year period following release.

The bottom line is that bestiality is an insidious crime that deserves our serious attention. It is a complex behavior that often takes years to detect, and the victim is not able to speak out.

SB139 is a strong, enforceable bill, and I urge that it be passed, making bestiality a felony crime in Wisconsin.

Regards,
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