

Crimes Against Public Decency and Good Morals

NRS: Chapter 201.455

Bestiality

Current:

NRS 201.455 Bestiality; penalties.

Purpose: To permanently prohibit ownership, possession or immediate access to all animals. In addition, records of those convicted of bestiality may not be sealed.

Support: There's no single profile of an animal sex offender.

- 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;
- Eighty-six percent are men aged 18 to 82, with a mean age of 38;
- Thirteen percent are women between the ages of 18 and 61, with a mean age of 34;
- Sixty-three percent of female offenders act as part of a male/female couple;
- Fifty-three percent of animal sex offenders have a criminal history involving:
 - sexual abuse (animals & children),
 - child pornography, and
 - interpersonal & domestic violence
- Thirty-four percent have also sexually abused children or adults
- Twenty-eight percent are repeat animal sex offenders
- Eight percent have deviant sexual interests including pedophilia, S&M, necrophilia, and zoophilia
- Four percent are registered child sex offenders
- Fifty-six percent of male sex offenders, fifty five percent of female sex offenders, thirty-eight percent of child sex offenders and eleven of rapists report having sexually abused an animal
- Thirty-five percent of arrests for bestiality also involve child sex abuse or exploitation
- Forty percent of offenders have prior criminal records for bestiality, child sex abuse, domestic violence, battery, adult rape, public indecency and even murder
- Non-humans cannot provide consent so sex acts are never consensual and are inhumane

Prosecution and Sentencing varies:

- Sixty-four percent of offenders are prosecuted; the average sentence is 2 years' probation,
- Twenty percent of bestiality cases are declined for prosecution,
- Only ten percent of convicted offenders are ordered to register as sex offenders.

Proposed legislative action:

1. Require violators to permanently forfeit ownership, control or possession rights of all animals;
2. Prohibit violators from having their records of animal cruelty conviction(s) sealed; as bestiality is a crime whereas the defendant acted "knowingly and intentionally", in turn this charge is to be deemed a non-sealable offense and crime.

1 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>



Thank you for your review and consideration.

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