



Statement of

Jo-Anne Basile, Executive Director

CT Votes for Animals

Before the Judiciary Committee

In Support of HB 6714, An Act Concerning Animal Cruelty

March 1, 2023

Chairmen Senator Winfield and Representative Stafstrom, Vice Chairs Senator Flexer and Representative Quinn, Ranking Senator Kissel and Representative Fishbein, Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

CT Votes for Animals is a grass roots animal advocacy organization. CVA is dedicated to improving and protecting the lives of all CT animals by championing legislative changes at the CT General Assembly and mobilizing animal supporters in every legislative district of the state.

CVA strongly supports HB 6714, AAC Animal Cruelty. The bill targets three areas of Connecticut law that are either deficient or are needed to combat CT's animal cruelty.

HB 6714 updates and strengthens CT's sexual assault law concerning animals. Currently CT's statute is ill defined making it ineffective to be used in cases of bestiality. You will hear testimony about situations in Connecticut where there was animal sexual assault but the Courts were unable to move forward with charges because of the deficiency of CT's law. HB 6714 offers a contemporary update to the definition of sexual assault with an animal to reflect the situations we know occur. The proposed language also addresses situations of pornography concerning sexual contact with an animal.

Attached to my testimony are pages from "Beast forum" an online solicitation and meet up site for those interested in sex with animals. Even though the information dates to 2009, it demonstrates how pervasive this crime is throughout the State. And even though it is dated the crimes have not gone away they have just gone underground into the dark web.

Some examples of chatter from site include:

East of New Haven: "What experience you have - have licked and touched a male K9 but want more"

Agwam and Enfield: “Do i have animals? I dont but my sex partner is my friends dogs Jacob. What experience? I have had sex with Jacob for around 7 years now and have been active in zoophilia since i was younger”

Southeastern CT: “Meet with women for first bestiality experience. Looking for any animal with a vagina that I can stick my dick in. Dog, Horse, sheep, whatever.”

Animal sexual abuse happens far more often than most of us realize: According to the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law

- The number of bestiality-related arrests has risen by nearly 800% since 2000
- Every U.S. state has reported incidents of animal sexual abuse
- It occurs as often in large cities as it does in rural areas¹

The updated language on sexual assault in HB 6714 is greatly needed. It will greatly improve the ability of prosecutors to charge those who sexually assault an animal appropriately.

Section 7 of the bill will impose a ban on possessing animals for those convicted of animal abuse and having sexual contact with an animal. The new language will prohibit those convicted of animal cruelty or sexual abuse from possessing or working with animals for a period of five years from the date of conviction or release from imprisonment for the offense, whichever is later.

Possession bans are one way to keep offenders away from potential new victims. It also helps reduce the rate of recidivism often found in animal cruelty cases. An important element to these bans is to remove access to animals not only in the home but in places of work or volunteering, such as animal shelters. Understanding the disdain for registries, the bill provides a vehicle to make the information only available to select law enforcement, including animal control.

Lastly, Section Six of the bill mandates veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse to appropriate law enforcement. In instances of suspected cruelty associated with animal fighting, the bill allows reporting to be done anonymously. It further provides civil liability protection for reporting cases. CT Votes for Animals believes it is crucial the law empower veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty when they encounter signs of abuse in their practice. Not only are veterinarians often the only witnesses to animal abuse, but they are uniquely qualified to identify the signs of cruelty.

The mandatory reporting requirement is not dissimilar to mandatory reporters for children. Currently CT is only one of 13 states that has no veterinary reporting system for suspected cruelty.

¹ Edwards MJ. Arrest and Prosecution of Animal Sex Abuse (Bestiality) Offenders in the U.S., 1975-2015. J Amer Acad Psychiatry and Law, 2019

The three provisions contained in HB 6417 offer a trio of measures directed at combatting animal cruelty. Each year the Animal Legal Defense Fund ranks all 50 states on their efforts to protect animals. The 2022 US States Animal Protection Laws Ranking shows that rather than rising, CT's ranking is falling. For those of us who work hard to see that good policies are put in place to keep animals safe, this is discouraging news. CT now hovers in the lower third of all states. Passage of HB 6417 will raise CT's standards and more importantly provide the necessary legal protections for CT's animals.

CT Votes for Animals wants to thank Representative Dorinda Borer and Representative Craig Fishbein for bringing this bill to the legislature. We strongly encourage the Committee pass HB 6714.

Thank you for your consideration.

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<p>k9boy3</p>  <p>Beginner Group: Members Posts: 57 Member No.: 867476 Joined: 26-April 09</p> <hr/> <p>Rate Member: 10</p>	<p>Posted: Oct 14 2010, 09:29 AM</p> <p>Anyone from Ct.</p> <p>State location/area What your looking for If you have any animals What experience you have Sexual orientation</p> <p>Attached Image (Click on thumbnail to view full size image)</p> 
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[?](#) [AIM](#) [?](#)

<p>kirby06324</p> <p>Newbie</p>	<p>Posted: Oct 16 2010, 02:37 PM</p> <p>State location/area: northeast CT What your looking for: women, couples, men, dogs, horses for friends and fun</p>
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<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Group: Members Posts: 10 Member No.: 856290 Joined: 29-March 09</p> <hr/> <p>Rate Member: 10</p>	<p>If you have any animals: none What experience you have: none Sexual orientation : bi-curious</p> <p>This post has been edited by kirby06324 on Oct 16 2010, 02:38 PM</p>
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<p>fenrir8u</p>	<p>Posted: Oct 18 2010, 12:26 AM</p>
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<p>Newbie <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Group: Members Posts: 20 Member No.: 1106198 Joined: 12-October 10</p> <hr/> <p>Rate Member: 10</p>	<p>State location/area: Bristol area, CT What your looking for: chat, meets, male or female, animals or human If you have any animals: none What experience you have: played with male and female dogs Sexual orientation: bi</p>
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<p>Neonblackstar6</p>	<p>Posted: Oct 18 2010, 05:16 PM</p>
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 <p>Enthusiast <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Group: Members Posts: 158 Member No.: 52987 Joined: 4-October 04</p> <hr/> <p>Rate Member: 10</p>	<p>State location/area: New London area, CT What your looking for: chat with females, meets with females, female or male animals. No interest in chatting with men, sorry. If you have any animals: none What experience you have: played with male and female dogs, nothing more than being licked. Sexual orientation: straight</p> <p>----- I am but flesh, and flesh is the weakness.</p>
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<p>ctshur4fun</p>	<p>Posted: Oct 19 2010, 01:08 PM</p>
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<p>Newbie <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Group: Members Posts: 25</p>	<p>South east CT No animals Bi Dogs,horses</p>
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Member No.: 41904
Joined: 17-August 04

Rate Member: 10



jrc **Posted:** Oct 23 2010, 06:21 PM 

Enthusiast
  

Group: Members
Posts: 165
Member No.: 153565
Joined: 28-August 05

Rate Member: 10

Age: 22
Gender: Male
Orientation: Bi
Experience: Limited experience, mostly just oral.
Animals: Dogs
Pet owner: small breed girl. to small to do anything
Looking for: Chat buddies, or even close friends here in Connecticut. Mainly looking for someone to teach me more about the lifestyle. male, female, or couple. just want to start off with a male or female canine.
Location: Northwest Connecticut

asilidae **Posted:** Nov 15 2010, 01:57 PM 



Newbie


Group: Banned
Posts: 6
Member No.: 931766
Joined: 13-October 09

Rate Member: 10


State/ Area: Massachusetts, Agawam/ Enfield area


What im looking for: Fellow zoos in the area with experience, or even meet.




Do i have animals? I dont but my sex partner is my friends dogs Jacob.

What experience? I have had sex with Jacob for around 7 years now and have been active in zoophilia since i was younger.

Sexual Orientation? Bisexual.

pinkbonek9nyc **Posted:** Nov 15 2010, 04:05 PM 

Addict
  

Group: Members
Posts: 206
Member No.: 929601
Joined: 7-October 09

State location/area: Danbury, CT

What your looking for: chat / meet with females, couples.

If you have any animals: well trained Lab, 95 lbs. 10"

What experience you have: my buddy has been with a few gals and couples, but we do not kiss and tell

Sexual orientation: straight

Rate Member: 10

Attached Image (Click on thumbnail to view full size image)



ktctcpl

Posted: Dec 12 2010, 03:50 PM



Enthusiast



Group: Members
Posts: 171
Member No.: 214138
Joined: 1-January 06

CT Couple here. From Southeast Corner. No experience with pets. Looking for other couples and singles with pets to teach us.

Rate Member: 10



ctmanhole

Posted: Dec 27 2010, 03:33 AM



Newbie



Group: Members
Posts: 44
Member No.: 339332
Joined: 30-August 06

State location/area CT / East of New Haven

What your looking for Friends, possibly an animal connection

If you have any animals none

What experience you have have licked and touched a male K9 but want more.

Rate Member: 10

Sexual orientation bi



lj69

Posted: Feb 12 2011, 04:54 PM



Newbie



Group: Members
Posts: 4
Member No.: 1156336
Joined: 9-February 11

State location/area - CT Manchester

What your looking for - Guys, chat, meet.

If you have any animals - no

What experience you have - none, very curious














Sexual orientation - gay

Rate Member: 10



ktctcpl

Posted: Mar 26 2011, 06:46 PM

 <p>Enthusiast  Group: Members Posts: 171 Member No.: 214138 Joined: 1-January 06</p> <hr/> <p>Rate Member: 10</p>	 <p>AGE: 45 GENDER: Married BI Female LOCATION: Mystic CT POSITION: SUB WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR: looking for K9 and horse to fuck suck and swallow as well as lifestyle friends for lasting and weekly erotic relationships and knotting. PET OWNER: none TAKEN: Married Hub Watches and Takes Pics</p>
<p>luv4K9</p> <p>Newbie  Group: Members Posts: 2 Member No.: 1192941 Joined: 8-May 11</p> <hr/> <p>Rate Member: 10</p>	   <p>Posted: May 8 2011, 12:46 AM</p> <p>State location/area - Northwestern CT What your looking for - Men (any age over 18), chat, meet. Looking for my first experiences with K9. If you have any animals - no What experience you have - none, very curious Sexual orientation - bisexual</p>
<p>CTYank23</p> <p>Newbie  Group: Members Posts: 5 Member No.: 1195089 Joined: 13-May 11</p> <hr/> <p>Rate Member: 10</p>	  <p>Posted: May 13 2011, 05:08 AM</p> <p>State location/area: South Eastern CT What your looking for: Meet with women for first bestiality experience. Looking for any animal with a vagina that I can stick my dick in. Dog, Horse, sheep, whatever. If you have any animals: No. What experience you have: None. Looking for my first. Sexual orientation: Straight.</p>
<p>ctk9er</p> <p>Newbie  Group: Members Posts: 9 Member No.: 271992 Joined: 27-April 06</p>	  <p>Posted: May 27 2011, 06:39 AM</p> <p>straight mwm bristol ct. buster and i have exp. but bruser is 2yo boxer is virgin. please only real requests</p>

Rate Member: 10



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	Topic Title	Topic Starter	Replies	Views	Last Action
	Looking For Others In Mystic Area	ctshur4fun	1	124	4th October 2018 - 11:57 AM Last Post by: HorseLover07
	Human Pup/sub Needs To Be Breed!	Bitchboy123	1	146	29th September 2018 - 01:09 PM Last Post by: Bitchboy123
	25 Bi Male Looking For A Top. Please?	Onetheonly	0	111	1st August 2018 - 11:18 PM Last Post by: Onetheonly
	My Two Intact Males(non-owners - keep Moving) Two male German Shepherds for owners	haillin	1	262	31st July 2018 - 05:26 PM Last Post by: Gay4horsesanddogs
	Looking For Female	67chevy	2	210	10th July 2018 - 06:49 PM Last Post by: hotrod01580
	Guy Looking For Girl Guy looking for girl	piptwo	2	121	6th July 2018 - 11:16 AM Last Post by: piptwo
	Ct M Seeking F Into K9 Looking to meet local females	BEAVRSEEKR	0	93	29th June 2018 - 03:39 PM Last Post by: BEAVRSEEKR
	Northwest Corner (Pages 1 2) Anyone in the NW corner of ct?	jrc	16	864	16th June 2018 - 10:22 AM Last Post by: rotytnme
	Young Dane Needing Love Male dane pup searching for future fun	rotytnme	2	250	16th June 2018 - 09:29 AM Last Post by: rotytnme
	Looking To Adopt A Male Dog ISO male dog	lilkitty1987	1	188	12th June 2018 - 10:02 AM Last Post by: arrow429
	Bi White Male/29yo	CTBeast	0	100	11th June 2018 - 08:13 PM Last Post by: CTBeast
	Gwm "near" Winsted Ct	zebra bark	7	518	2nd June 2018 - 03:11 AM Last Post by: Onetheonly
	Anyone Ever Have Luck Here, At All? Is this wishful thinking, or possible?	Onetheonly	6	293	2nd June 2018 - 03:08 AM Last Post by: Onetheonly
	Looking For A Bitch To Have Fun With!	Bitchboy123	0	96	31st May 2018 - 06:59 PM Last Post by: Bitchboy123

	Looking For Dog Owner And Dog Fun Time	MoonStory	<u>0</u>	149	27th May 2018 - 09:54 PM Last Post by: MoonStory
	Dog Knot? Guy looking for girl to knot.	beastboyct21	<u>0</u>	131	24th May 2018 - 09:45 PM Last Post by: beastboyct21
	Very Passable Crossdresser Looking	LeiaSexySubCDinCT	<u>4</u>	342	15th May 2018 - 03:49 AM Last Post by: MARKOCHAIN
	Any Fellow Zoos On Mass Or Northern Ct?	asilidae	<u>14</u>	794	29th April 2018 - 12:41 AM Last Post by: man1973
	Connecticut (Pages 1 2 3.) Roll call	k9boy3	<u>33</u>	2453	21st April 2018 - 09:44 AM Last Post by: mattnorse
	Women's Roll Call Single women only!	Dalmation101	<u>0</u>	115	19th April 2018 - 10:08 PM Last Post by: Dalmation101
	Two Young Guys Looking For Experience	Startrain	<u>1</u>	171	6th April 2018 - 12:03 PM Last Post by: HorseLover07
	New Bill Closes Down Craigslist Personals. Well shit....	Onetheonly	<u>0</u>	145	5th April 2018 - 11:26 PM Last Post by: Onetheonly
	Looking For A Guy Friend. Sort of friend with benefits?	Onetheonly	<u>1</u>	189	5th April 2018 - 10:12 PM Last Post by: Onetheonly
	Still Searching For New Experience	bh0294	<u>3</u>	155	5th April 2018 - 09:28 PM Last Post by: Onetheonly
	Ct Dead? Seems inactive here.	Onetheonly	<u>1</u>	94	24th March 2018 - 12:22 PM Last Post by: HorseLover07

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**In Support of HB 6714 An Act Concerning Cruelty to Animals
Before the Judiciary Committee**

March 1, 2023

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am Dr. Virginia Maxwell, Professor in the Forensic Science Department and Henry C. Lee Endowed Chair in Forensic Science at the University of New Haven, and board member of Connecticut Votes for Animals. As a professor I teach classes in the Forensic Investigation of Animal Cruelty, I guest lecture on topics related to animal cruelty, I have written book chapters and articles about animal cruelty, and I have recently co-authored a textbook entitled Investigating Animal Abuse Crime Scenes (publication date May 2023). I have approximately 30 years of experience in Forensic Science, including 15 years at the State of Connecticut Forensic Science Laboratory. I consider that I am well versed in the issues of Animal Cruelty. I would like to offer testimony in support of HB 6714 An Act Concerning Cruelty to Animals. Please note that the opinions expressed herein are my own and may not represent the opinions of the University of New Haven.

HB6714 seeks to expand the definition of sexual assault of animals; to require a ban on possessing animals for those convicted of animal cruelty; and introduce a mandatory requirement for veterinarians to report cases of suspected cruelty to animals. These are all important steps forward in animal protection, and indeed public safety, and I would like to briefly address some of these issues.

Bestiality is a heinous crime involving sexual contact between humans and animals by acts to which an animal is not able to give consent. Indeed, in most cases the animals are subdued using sedatives, a blow to the head, or by restraint on a device designed for that purpose. In other cases, the animals are submissive as a learned behavior through training. I will spare the committee the more graphic details related to this crime. What is very important to consider is that those individuals who indulge in bestiality have a high rate of crossover to sexual crimes against humans, especially children. Indeed, there are numerous cases in which children were forced into acts of bestiality so that it could be filmed by the adult offender for the production of pornography. Further, animal pornography is used to groom children for sexual behavior, and 11% of those convicted of bestiality have prior convictions for child pornography possession¹. By expanding the definition of sexual assault of animals, we are making progress towards addressing this heinous, and often secret, crime and protecting vulnerable humans.

Thirty-nine states³ have already enacted possession bans for those convicted of animal cruelty. Connecticut is one of only two states in the Northeast, New Jersey being the other, that does not have a law preventing ownership of animals by those convicted to felony animal cruelty. Bans range in scope from five-year bans for first offenders to lifetime bans for repeat offenders. Recidivism is very common among those who are cruel to animals and reaches 100%

for some types of animal cruelty such as hoarding. It is clear from their actions that these people do not value the life of an animal and will continue to act in this way until removed from the objects of their abuse. Enacting a possession ban in Connecticut will provide much needed protection for animals in this state but will also preserve public resources that might otherwise be used to investigate and address repeat offenses by animal abusers.

As of 2022, only 14 states² had no laws that allow or require veterinary reporting of animal cruelty. Without a doubt, veterinarians and other veterinary professionals play a critical role in the investigation of animal cruelty because in their professional capacity they can see and recognize victims of animal cruelty, and by introduction of a clear reporting mechanism, prevent future harm. The link between human violence and animal cruelty is well documented¹, and a history of animal cruelty is a predictor of current and future violence directed against people, indeed, in sexual assault, a history of animal cruelty is a best predictor than previous convictions for homicide, firearms offenses or arson¹. The connection between human violence and animal cruelty clearly shows that animal cruelty is a problem affecting more than just animals and emphasizes the importance of reporting instances of animal cruelty and punishing those who are responsible. It is an important mechanism by which early intervention of violent behavior can occur and, through mandatory cross-reporting with welfare service, by which we can protect vulnerable people.

It is equally important that veterinarians report all types of suspected abuse, including neglect, and not restricted to only considering cases of aggravated cruelty. While neglect is thought of as being a crime of omission, the effects of long-term neglect cause no less pain, suffering and distress as other more obvious forms of cruelty. It is not a benign form of animal abuse. I also support the inclusion of the provision of anonymous reporting in the case of suspected dog fighting. If we require our veterinarians to report animal cruelty, we must also protect them.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support and strengthen laws pertaining to animal cruelty by supporting HB 6714.

References:

1. The National Link Coalition <https://nationallinkcoalition.org>
2. Michigan State University Animal and Legal and Historical Center 2022 <https://www.animallaw.info/content/map-veterinary-reporting-laws-animal-cruelty>
3. Michigan State University Animal and Legal and Historical Center 2023 <https://www.animallaw.info/content/anti-cruelty-laws-restrain-future-ownership-animals>

Name: Karen Laski

Title: Advisory Board Member

Organization or Agency: CT Votes for Animals

Topic: HB06714 - AAC CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.
Supports

Testimony:

Honorable Judiciary Committee Members,

I strongly support the expansion of Court Advocacy for Animals in Proceedings for Animal Welfare SB 1060. So many times cruelty cases are dismissed. We will induce more compassion in CT by passing this bill. I also support House Bill 6714 An Act Concerning Cruelty to Animals for the same reasons.

Thank you,

Karen Laski