

# Fact Sheet

## Make Bestiality a Crime in Vermont

*Bestiality is sexual activity between an animal and a person.*

*Vermont is one of only 11 states in the country where it is legal.*

*We don't need to talk about it. We just need to outlaw it.*

### **Bestiality is a serious crime**

- It is one of four categories of cruelty the FBI has recently decided to track for its Uniform Crime Report (UCR).
- Vermont's animal cruelty reporting system, [www.ReportAnimalCruelty.com](http://www.ReportAnimalCruelty.com), tracks the number and type of animal cruelty complaints made in Vermont. To be consistent with the federal UCR tracking system, bestiality needs to be classified in Vermont's animal cruelty statute.

### **Bestiality has strong ties to sex crimes against people**

- Twenty percent of children who sexually abuse other children have histories of sexually abusing animals.
- Of juveniles who engage in sex with animals, 96% also admit to sex offenses against humans and reported more offenses against humans than other sex offenders their same age and race.
- The FBI found high rates of sexual assault of animals in the backgrounds of serial sexual homicide predators.

### **The Internet has allowed bestiality to flourish**

- Perpetrators use the Internet to find animals to have sex with and to promote bestiality.
- Detailed how-to guides, personal advertisements, and "pro-zoophile" resources can easily be found.
- BeastForum.com, the largest website for people seeking and providing animals for sex, has more than **one million** registered users. At any one time, there are nearly 100 BeastForum.com "want-ad" postings seeking animals to have sex with in Vermont.

### **Vermont's animal cruelty statute is deficient to address this crime**

- Unless the animal sustains physical injuries, charging perpetrators under the animal cruelty statute is extremely difficult..
- In 2007, a 56-year old Fayston man pleaded no contest to a charge of unlawful trespass in a case in which police say he admitted entering a dairy barn to have sex with the cows and, according to police, he is a repeat offender. No cruelty charges have been brought against the man.



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