

Criminal Histories of Animal Cruelty Offenders


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Introduction

- BAU – Who we are and what we do?

- Why we are studying this topic?
 - HI case that started this project
 - Offender killed an adult woman
 - Offender killed cats

 - Goal for the project



BAU Services Provided

- Crime analysis
- Profiles of unknown offenders
- Linkage analysis in serial cases
- Investigative suggestions
- Interview/interrogation strategies
- Threat assessment
- Search Warrant affidavit assistance
- Personality Assessment
- Media strategies
- Prosecutive strategies
- Expert Testimony
- Critical incident analysis

Stalking a serial killer
Investigators compile profiles of Tamiami stranger

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — Investigators with the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU) are working to identify a serial killer in the Tampa Bay area. The killer has been active since 2004 and has killed at least three people. The BAU is currently reviewing the case and has provided suggestions to the local law enforcement agencies. The BAU is also providing assistance with the search for a suspect. The BAU is also providing assistance with the search for a suspect. The BAU is also providing assistance with the search for a suspect.

BAU Research Topics

- *BAU I*
 - DV Homicide
 - Threatening Communications
- *BAU II*
 - Elderly Homicide
 - Serial Rape
 - Sexual Homicide
 - Edged Weapons
 - Fire/Arson study

BAU III Crimes Against Children

- *BAU III*
 - Child Abductions/Child Abductors who kill
 - False Allegations of Child Abduction
 - Maternal Filicide
 - Sexual Exploitation of Children
 - Suicide Among Child Sex Offenders
 - Juvenile Prostitution
 - Validation of the General Assessment Questionnaire
 - Criminal Histories of Animal Cruelty Offenders

Animal Cruelty is “a harbinger of potential predisposition to harm human beings”

- Margaret Mead (1964)

Overview

- Brief overview of the association between animal cruelty and violence towards humans
- Current results from our study
- Study could impact a variety of fields; forensic psychology, clinical psychology, law enforcement, legal, medical and veterinary areas of study

Definitions

- **Animal Cruelty (AC)**: intentional harm to animals causing unnecessary pain, suffering, distress or death
- **Interpersonal Violence (IPV)**: violence between individuals, including community violence, family & intimate partner violence (i.e. domestic violence-DV)
- **Other Interpersonal Offense (IPO)**: offenses such as knowingly violating a restraining order; harassment; reckless endangerment & threatening & intimidating a victim or witness from reporting among other offenses

Definitions continued

- **Active Animal Cruelty**: physical abuse towards animals such as torture, beating, burning, drowning, suffocating, shooting & other forms of physical abuse
- **Passive Animal Cruelty**: failure to provide minimally adequate food, shelter, and medical care to an animal
- **Sexual Abuse (Bestiality)**: Vaginal, anal, and/or oral penetration; using an object; or oral-genital contact of an animal
- **Torture**: infliction of prolonged, excruciating pain or suffering on an animal

**Three Primary Contentions
in Animal Cruelty Research**

- Association between AC and human violence:
 - 1- *Children who abuse animals are more likely to become violent towards humans*

 - 2- *Adults who abuse animals are more likely to commit IPV*

 - 3- *AC in the home typically indicates that there is IPV within the home*

History of Animal Cruelty

- Association between animal cruelty and human violence has been referenced throughout history

– (Pythagoras and Porphyry to Thomas Aquinas and John Locke (1632-1704) (Unti, 2009 as cited in Ascione, 2009).

Preliminary Classification

Preliminary Classification of Motivations for Cruel & Extremely Aggressive Behavior Toward Animals:

- To control an animal
To control or shape an animal's behavior or eliminate presumably undesirable characteristics of an animal
- To retaliate against an animal
Extreme punishment or revenge for a presumed wrong on the part of an animal
- To satisfy a prejudice against a species or breed
May be associated with cultural values

Preliminary Classification

- To express aggression through an animal
Instilling violent tendencies in the animal in order to express violent aggressive behaviors toward other people or animals
- To enhance one's own aggressiveness
To improve one's aggressive skills or to impress others with a capacity for violence
- To shock people for amusement
To "entertain" friends

Preliminary Classification

- Displacement of hostility from a person to an animal
Displaced aggression against authority figures
- Nonspecific sadism
Absence of any particular provocation or especially hostile feelings toward an animal

Additional Aspects Predicting Future Violence Towards Humans

- 1- Direct involvement with cruelty rather than simply witnessing the act;
- 2- Lack of restraint or evidence;
- 3- Lack of remorse
- 4- A variety of cruel acts;
- 5- A variety of species victimized; and
- 6- Actions against socially valuable animals (i.e. dogs not rats)"

Kellert & Felthous (1986)

Complexity of AC

- AC is a complicated form of deviance
- AC is not simply a cause and effect relationship
- AC may not lead directly to human violence
- Arluke et al (1999)

Overall Results from Literature

The results from studies suggested an association between IPV (DV)

AC may serve as a predictor of future violence towards humans



Purpose of FBI BAU III Study



- *Project examining criminal histories of AC offenders re the potential link between AC and IPV/violent and nonviolent criminality*

Pioneering Research:
BAU Study

- First national study of perpetrators of animal cruelty
- First examination of demographic differences between such offenders

Project Information

- **What** was the **criteria** for the cases?
 - Any animal cruelty case – neglect, active, and bestiality
- **Where** were the **cases** obtained?
 - State, local law enforcement agencies, animal cruelty agencies
- **Who** were the **subjects**?
 - 150 Male Animal Cruelty offenders 2004-2009

Purpose of BAU III Study
& Study Design

- Demographics and relational factors involved in violence towards animals
- Official records as sources of animal abuse and criminality documentation rather than self reports

BAU III Study
Types of Animal Cruelty/Victims

- Active – n=65 (total= over 200)
- Passive – Neglect – n=50
 - basic care and feeding
 - medical
 - emotional
- Sexual abuse/bestiality – n=35
- Species of animal victims – 17 types
- 67% (n=100) victims were dogs

BAU III Study
Basic Case Demographics

- States covered – 36

- 83% of cases involved a single offender

BAU III Study
FBI Offender Demographics

■ Average age - 32	
■ Range - 18-59	
■ Race	
■ Caucasian - 68% (102)	
■ African-Am -17% (25)	
■ Hispanic -8%(12)	

**BAU III Study
Offender Demographics**

- **Employment Status** (54% known)
 - **Employed 45%**
 - **Unemployed 21%**
- **Living Status** (66% known)
 - **41% (61) living with spouse or intimate partner**

Active Animal Cruelty Acts

- Most frequent active acts included:
 - 15% Beating (22)
 - 9% kicking (14)
 - 9% throwing (14)
 - 9% strangling (14)
 - 9% choking (14)
- Most common weapons used offender's hands or feet (25%)

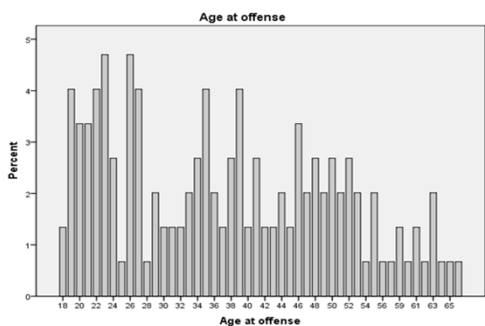
**BAU III Study
Types of Motivations**

- Top three:
 - Perceived misbehavior of the animal (21%)
 - Part of domestic dispute (13%)
 - Kill animal (12%)
- 75% of AC acts to retaliate against another had arrest for IPV
- 58% of those had arrest for DV

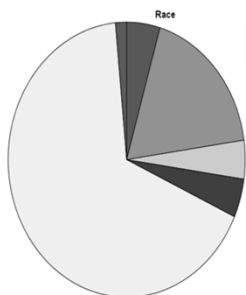
Passive Neglect Acts

- 91% (48) cases involved in no or inadequate food or water
- 26% offenders failed to provide veterinary care
- 19% offenders failed to provide adequate shelter
- 9% offenders failed to provide supervision

BAU III Study Age of Active AC Offenders at Offense



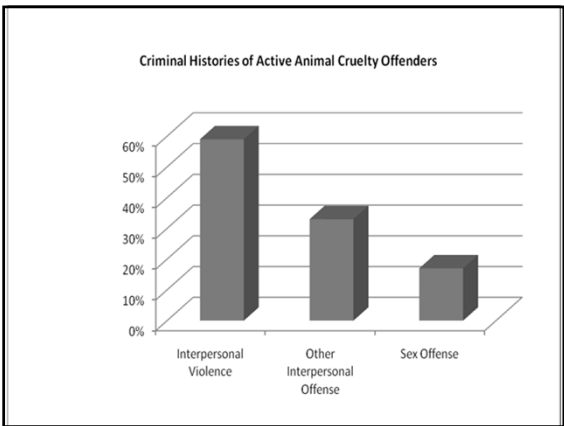
BAU III Study Race of Active AC Offenders



- Yellow: 67% Caucasian
- Green: 18% African-American
- Tan: 5% Hispanic
- Purple: 4.5% Asian
- Blue: 4.5% Native American
- Red: 1.5% Other

BAU III Study
Criminal Hx Active AC Offenders

- Interpersonal Violence: 58%
- Other Interpersonal Offense: 33%
- Sex Offense(s): 18%

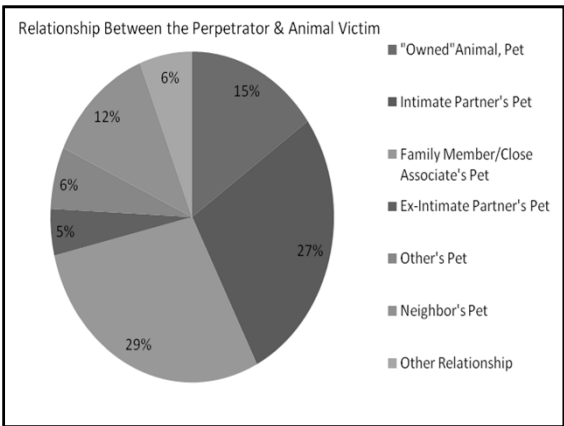


BAU III Study
Addl Criminal Hx

Active AC Offenders	Passive AC Offenders
• 39% for assault	• 9% for DV
• 38% for DV	• Sexual Abuse of Animal
• 36% had a prior arrest for drug possession	• 3% for DV
• 33% for other IPOs	

BAU III Study
Active AC Offenders Substance Abuse

- 38% were intoxicated at the time of arrest
- 64% had official or unofficial hx of substance abuse



Criminal Histories of Bestiality Offenders

- Significant relationship between arrests for sexually abuse of animal and arrests for sexually abusing a human
- 33% were arrested for both
 - Compared to 18% Active AC and 9% Passive AC
 - Over 50% human victims were minors

Limitations

- Small sample
- Sample obtained from petabase.com – public information – may be worse cases
- Arrests – may not be convicted

Relevance of Research to Law Enforcement Practices

- The BAU's data results & other research indicated that the majority of AC perpetrators committed some form of criminal behavior including violence against persons, which indicates a potential for increased violence or lethality

Relevance of Research to LE Practices

- Answering a report of AC may lead to detection of other criminal acts against persons
- Incorporate AC questions in interview techniques & investigative practices may lead to improved effectiveness in arrests for other criminal acts, such as IPV
- Additional charges of AC for offenders of IPV & other crimes may result in enhanced sentencing

**Relevance of Research to
LE Practices**

- Addl evidence could be obtained from SW (i.e. animal fighting or guard dogs) executed at the offender's residence
- Crime might be reduced or prevented by improved collaboration between LE, MH, medical & legal professionals resulting in I/C effective identification, assessment, txt, convictions & enhanced sentencing for offenders of IPV, AC, other crimes

BAU III Research Directions

- Initial Research: Lacy Leavitt's Dissertation titled: *The Criminal Histories of Animal Cruelty Offenders*
- Polytomous logistic regression data analyses were also conducted and suggested that age is a statistically significant predictor of type of animal cruelty however the practical significance needs to be further examined once more data is collected

Future BAU III AC Research Goals

- Complete coding Active AC cases
- Analyze final sample to further examine the relationship between:
 - AC and IPV
 - AC and Bestiality
 - Active AC and Passive ACC (neglect)
 - Examine predatory vs affective types of violence
 - How this relates to potential future risk of violence



Questions

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