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LONG-TERM OUTCOMES IN ANIMAL HOARDING CASES

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Animal hoarding is a form of abuse that affects thousands of animals each year, yet little is known about how cases are best resolved, the effectiveness of prosecution, and how sentences relate to the severity of the offense. This lack of information has hampered effective resolution and the prevention of recidivism. This study obtained information about the hoarder, animals, charges, prosecution, sentencing, and recidivism for fifty-six cases identified through media reports. The results showed a disparity between the ways different jurisdictions handled hoarding cases, as well as a lack of communication between agencies. Cases generally lacked follow-up, and it was difficult to determine compliance with court-ordered psychological evaluations and counseling. Additionally, none of the shelters that were ordered to receive restitution has yet received it. Shortcomings in state anti-cruelty statutes contributed to poor outcomes, and current prosecutorial approaches often left officials struggling between the conflicting goals of aggressively prosecuting hoarders and avoiding further institutionalization of the animals. Unfortunately, lenient treatment of hoarders in exchange for immediate custody of the animals appeared to contribute to recidivism. More rapid identification of offenders as hoarders and more creative sentencing involving long-term monitoring could simultaneously speed resolution of cases and avoid extending the suffering of animal victims.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Animal hoarding is a problem that few people recognize as an important community concern and even fewer people study. Nonetheless, animal hoarding continues to affect hundreds of communities each year across the United States and causes untold suffering to many thousands of animals.[1] An animal hoarder has been defined as an individual who accumulates a large number of animals, who fails to provide the animals with adequate food, water, sanitation, and veterinary care, and who is in denial about this inability to provide adequate care.[2] The inside of the individual's home is usually unsanitary, often covered in animal waste, trash, and sometimes even rotting animal carcasses.[3] Even so, the hoarder fails to recognize the conditions in which he or she is living as well as the neglect and abuse inflicted on the hoarded animals.[4]

Demographically, studies have found that animal hoarders are typically middle-aged or older females who are often disabled, retired,

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[1] Gary J. Patronek, *Hoarding of Animals: An Under-Recognized Public Health Problem in a Difficult-to-Study Population*, 114 Pub. Health Rpts. 81, 83 (Jan. 1999).

[2] Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium, *Animal Hoarding, General Overview about Hoarding Behavior*, http://www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa/hoarding/abthoard.htm#A1 (accessed Nov. 16, 2004) [hereinafter *Animal Hoarding*].

[3] Patronek, *supra* n. 1, at 85.

[4] *Animal Hoarding*, *supra* n. 2, at http://www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa/hoarding/abthoard.htm#A1.

or unemployed, living alone in homes without working appliances.[5] Animal hoarders frequently hoard inanimate objects as well.[6] Despite evidence supporting this stereotype of a low-income, older, single female; hoarders may also be male, any age, and may come from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, including the health professions.[7]

While the psychological underpinnings behind animal hoarding have not yet been established, there is increasing evidence of a mental health component in animal hoarding behavior.[8] Numerous psychological models have been proposed to explain this behavior, including focal delusion, addiction, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), zoophilia, and dementia.[9]

The deplorable conditions found in animal hoarders' homes severely jeopardize both human and animal welfare. At the most basic level, waste accumulation caused by animal overcrowding poses a variety of potential health risks from unsanitary conditions. One potential human risk stems from exposure to high ammonia levels caused by accumulated waste.[10] Although the exact side effects of ammonia exposure are not yet known, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) report that an ammonia concentration of fifty parts per million (ppm) or higher is an extreme irritant.[11] An ammonia concentration of three-hundred ppm or greater is an immediate threat to life and health.[12]

Although ammonia levels are typically not measured in hoarding situations, the ammonia level in one hoarder's home was measured at 152 ppm, even after the home had been opened and ventilated.[13] It is

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[5] Dooley Worth & Alan M. Beck, *Multiple Ownership of Animals in New York City*, 3 Transactions & Stud. of the College Phys. of Phila. 280, 284 (Dec. 1981) (finding seventy-six percent of hoarders were female, and eighty-three percent of hoarders were ages forty and older); Patronek, *supra* n. 1, at 84 (finding male-to-female ratio was 3:8 for owners of cars and 4:7 for owners of dogs).

[6] Worth & Beck, *supra* n. 5, at 291; Patronek, *supra* n. 1, at 85.

[7] Gary J. Patronek & Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium, *The Problem of Animal Hoarding*, 42 Mun. L. 6, 6 (May/June 2001).

[8] *See e.g.* Randy Frost, *People Who Hoard Animals*, 17 Psychiatric Times 25, 25–29 (Apr. 2000) (analyzing psychological models of animal hoarders and noting lack of specific research).

[9] Frost, *supra* n. 8, at 26 (suggesting focal delusion); Randy Lockwood, *The Psychology of Animal Collectors*, 9 Am. Animal Hosp. Trends 18, 19–20 (1994) (suggesting addiction, zoophilia, and OCD); Patronek, *supra* n. 1, at 86 (suggesting early stages of dementia).

[10] *See* Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium, *Health Implications of Animal Hoarding*, 27 Health & Soc. Work 125, 130 (2002) (noting possibility of extreme environmental contamination in hoarding situations, particularly from ammonia concentrations) [hereinafter *Health Implications*].

[11] 54 Fed. Reg. 2332, 2450 (Jan. 19, 1989).

[12] Natl. Inst. for Occupational Safety & Health, *Documentation for Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health Concentrations (IDLHs)*, http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/idlh/intridl4.html (accessed Nov. 16, 2004).

[13] *Health Implications*, *supra* n. 10, at 130.

suspected that the ammonia concentration in many hoarders' homes is much higher.

Obviously, animal hoarding is also detrimental to the animals involved. Aside from the general neglect caused by lack of food, water, sanitation, and veterinary care, these animals may also suffer from behavioral problems caused by severe and unnatural crowding and lack of socialization.[14] Even after the animals are seized by authorities, their health and behavioral problems may prevent them from being quickly adopted.[15] This, of course, places them at a higher risk of euthanasia.

Being faced with a large number of unhealthy animals to care for strains local animal shelter and community resources.[16] It often takes a team of animal control officers and shelter workers hours and sometimes even days to seize all of the hoarded animals in a single case.[17] When animals are removed from the hoarding site and taken to a shelter for veterinary care, food, and housing for prolonged periods, it is usually at the shelter's expense.[18] Rescue and removal may also require the assistance of firefighters or policemen who have the equipment and training to work in or around hazardous materials (e.g., high ammonia concentrations, unstable structures, fire hazards).[19] The local government may also incur bills for numerous visits by health and county zone inspectors to the hoarder's property, cleanup or demolition of the property, court appointed attorneys for some offenders, and the cost of administrative hearings.[20]

Public ignorance of animal hoarding does nothing to alleviate the situation. Media portrayals often perpetuate public ignorance by failing to illuminate the real problem and its consequences.[21] In his arti-

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[14] Geoffrey L. Handy, *Handling Animal Collectors, Part 2: Managing a Large-Scale Animal Rescue Operation*, 17 Shelter Sense 3, 11 (July 1994); N.Y. St. Humane Assn., *Adopting an Abused Animal — What You Should Know*, http://www.nyshumane.org/Education/abused.pdf (accessed Mar. 12, 2005).

[15] Handy, *supra* n. 14, at 11; *see also* Gary J. Patronek, *Tips for Veterinarians Involved in Removal or Rescue of Animals from Hoarding Situations* 4, http://www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa/hoarding/pubs/removeresc.pdf (updated Dec. 9, 2002) (noting that hoarding situations require animal shelters to take on a number of unhealthy, poorly socialized pets that may require euthanasia).

[16] Robert Prejean, *Man Bites Dogs!* N.C. Tex. Am. Plan. Assn. News 2, 6 (July/Aug. 2003) (available at http://www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa/hoarding/pubs/texas.pdf).

[17] *See generally* Handy, *supra* n. 14, at 3 (describing a rescue operation that took a team of workers and volunteers fourteen hours each day, for four days, to rescue four hundered animals).

[18] *Id.* at 6.

[19] *See Health Implications*, *supra* n. 10, at 130 (noting toxic levels of ammonia present in hoarders' homes); Patronek & Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium, *supra* n. 7, at 8 (noting fire hazards caused by excessive clutter); Randall Lockwood & Barbara Cassidy, *Killing with Kindness*, 33 Humane Socy. U.S. News 14, 18 (Summer 1988) (noting that health, fire, sanitation, and housing or zoning workers can be helpful in hoarding situations).

[20] Prejean, *supra* n. 16, at 5.

[21] Arnold Arluke et al., *Press Reports of Animal Hoarding*, 10 Socy. & Animals 113, 130–32 (2002).

cle entitled *Press Reports of Animal Hoarding*, Arnold Arluke analyzed one hundred articles about animal hoarding.[22] Arluke suggests that, rather than presenting a realistic picture of animal hoarding that captures the complexity of the issue, the media presents animal hoarding in a stream of different emotional themes.[23] While drawing the reader's attention, these themes are more likely to elicit revulsion, sympathy, or humor from the reader rather than understanding of the hoarding issues themselves.[24]

Arluke concludes that these emotional themes "present an inconsistent picture of animal hoarding that can confuse readers about the nature and significance of this behavior."[25] Portraying hoarders' stories in this light can cause the public to be sympathetic and even supportive of the hoarder and her actions.[26] Some hoarders even receive donations or offers of more animals.[27]

Vague and often inaccurate media portrayals of animal hoarders may also contribute to the lack of awareness by government agencies about the role they should play in addressing animal hoarding. Thus, many cases "fall between the jurisdictional cracks of numerous state and local government agencies," inevitably postponing resolution.[28] In some cases, agencies blatantly dodge animal hoarding cases.[29] Perhaps one of the most famous hoarding cases is such an example. For weeks, Vicki Kittles traveled cross-country from jurisdiction to jurisdiction with 115 dogs confined to a school bus.[30] When officials recognized there was a problem, rather than addressing the issue, they gave her money for a tank of gas and told her to leave town.[31] Kittles was eventually arrested in April 1993, but her case was not brought to trial until February 1995.[32] From there, Kittles used every effort to tie up the system; and it worked.[33] It took eight attorneys, six judges, and three prosecutors before Kittles was eventually found guilty of animal neglect in the first and second degrees.[34]

Agencies are equally baffled regarding how to legally address animal hoarders. Because the same approach cannot be applied to

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[22] *Id.* at 116.

[23] *Id.* at 117.

[24] *Id.* at 130–32.

[25] *Id.* at 130.

[26] *Id.* at 126–27; Samantha Mullen, *Animal Collectors, Unlimited*, 9 Am. Humane Assn. Advoc. 18, 21 (Summer 1991).

[27] Mullen, *supra* n. 26, at 21; *see* Lockwood & Cassidy, *supra* n. 19, at 17 (describing method of accumulation of animals by taking in strays in the neighborhood).

[28] Patronek & Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium, *supra* n. 7, at 6.

[29] Joshua Marquis, *The Kittles Case and Its Aftermath*, 2 Animal L. 197, 197 (1996).

[30] *Id.*

[31] *Id.*

[32] *Id.*

[33] *See id.* at 197–98 (describing how defendant legally prevented animals from receiving medical treatment, conducted a five-week-long trial, cross-examined witnesses for hours, and was held in contempt seventeen times through the course of proceedings).

[34] *Id.*

every case, it is often easier for agencies to simply turn their heads and ignore the situation.[35] To date, only one state, Illinois, explicitly defines hoarding in its animal protection statute.[36] In other states, it can be unclear where many of these cases fit into the law.[37] Most states use broad anti-cruelty laws to address animal hoarding.[38] While these laws mandate that owners must provide animals with adequate food, water, and shelter, they leave ample room for interpretation. For example, suppose a hoarder does, in fact, provide food, water, and shelter for her two hundered cats. Based only on this information and on the governing law, one could argue that the animals were being properly cared for. However, in truth, the hoarder only visited the vacant home once a week when she would throw an open bag of cat food into the middle of a room. The cats' only access to water was from an open toilet bowl. Although these animals clearly had food, water, and shelter, the question remains whether it was adequate.

Some municipalities may avoid such ambiguity by using a hodgepodge of pet limitation, animal licensing, dangerous animal, and rabies vaccination ordinances; health, zoning, and fire safety codes; wildlife statutes; and agriculture or market codes to intervene.[39] Unfortunately, these laws address neither the scope of hoarding conditions nor the multidimensional complexity of dealing with animal hoarders. Thus, they often result in a less than satisfactory resolution and do little to prevent recidivism.

Despite a plethora of press reports about animal hoarding, very little is known or reported about long-term outcomes. In one study, many officials indicated that animal hoarding cases are long and difficult to resolve.[40] The same study found that after animals are removed from the home, many hoarders begin collecting animals again.[41] For example, in one case, a woman changed residences every few years

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[35] Mullen, *supra* n. 26, at 21.

[36] 510 Ill. Comp. Stat. 70/2.10 (2004) (providing: "'Companion animal hoarder' means a person who (i) possesses a large number of companion animals; (ii) fails to or is unable to provide what he or she is required to provide under Section 3 of this Act; (iii) keeps the companion animals in a severely overcrowded environment; and (iv) displays an inability to recognize or understand the nature of or has a reckless disregard for the conditions under which the companion animals are living and the deleterious impact they have on the companion animals' and owner's health and well-being.").

[37] Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium, *Animal Cruelty Laws*, http://www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa/hoarding/cruelty.htm (accessed Mar. 12, 2005).

[38] *See e.g.* Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 167.325 (2003) (providing a misdemeanor penalty: "A person commits the crime of animal neglect in the second degree if, except as otherwise authorized by law, the person intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence fails to provide minimum care for an animal in such person's custody or control"); Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 272, § 77 (2004) (providing a felony penalty for: "whoever, having the charge or custody of an animal, either as owner or otherwise, inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon it, or unnecessarily fails to provide it with proper food, drink, shelter, sanitary environment, or protection from the weather").

[39] Handy, *supra* n. 14, at 7–8.

[40] Patronek, *supra* n. 1, at 86.

[41] *Id.*

when her home became uninhabitable.[42] In another case, after 82 live cats and 108 dead cats were seized from three women, they fled and were found two days later in a new home with 7 cats and 2 dogs.[43] Without a long-term plan and support for the hoarder, the available evidence indicates that recidivism approaches one hundred percent.[44] Interventions that may be effective in helping hoarders change their behavior include a combination of counseling, veterinary assistance, and animal care instruction.[45] However, no strategy has been formally evaluated.

The final outcomes of animal hoarding cases are difficult to study. There is no standard form for reporting these cases, and no national law enforcement database exists listing persons prosecuted and convicted for animal hoarding (or any other form of cruelty to animals). As a consequence, there is no readily available data to study long-term outcomes in animal hoarding cases. The effect of the diversity of statutes used to prosecute hoarders, the range of possible penalties, the severity of an offense, the occurrence and effect of recidivism, as well as the relationship among these factors, are all unknown.

Because media reports are the most readily available index for locating hoarding cases, this study utilized a national sample of media reports in order to learn about the prosecution, sentencing, outcomes, and recidivism of cases involving animal hoarders. Although these media reports tend to focus primarily on the initial investigation, including the removal of the animals and the hoarder's story, the reports often provided identifiable contact information for further investigation.

II. METHODS

This study began with a convenience sample of 210 electronic newspaper articles from 2001 and 2002 that were collected by the Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium (HARC), a research group that has been studying and collecting hoarding data since 1997.[46]

The focus of this study is on hoarding cases in which it was evident that charges had been filed. Therefore, media reports were judged as potentially useful if they contained information about a sentence,[47]

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[42] *Id.*

[43] Patronek & Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium, *supra* n. 7, at 8.

[44] Humane Socy. of the U.S., *Behind Closed Doors: The Horrors of Animal Hoarding*, "Long-Term Solutions," http://www.hsus.org/ace/21192 (accessed Mar. 12, 2005) (stating that "[m]ost hoarders revert to old behaviors unless they receive ongoing mental health assistance and monitoring.").

[45] Lockwood & Cassidy, *supra* n. 19, at 18.

[46] For more information about the Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium, see their website, Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium, *The Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium*, http://www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa/hoarding/index.html (accessed Nov. 19, 2004).

[47] n=15 (in this and all subsequent footnotes, "n" refers to the number of cases).

plea-bargain,[48] suspended sentence,[49] conviction,[50] or the possibility of prosecution.[51] Media reports were excluded from the study if they did not have sufficient information,[52] did not list charges,[53] or if they indicated that charges were either dropped[54] or never filed.[55] Media reports were also excluded if the animal hoarder intended to sell or adopt the animals.[56] These cases were excluded on the belief that individuals who sell animals or run rescue groups and shelters may be differently motivated than other types of hoarders.

Next, a questionnaire was designed to systematically gather details of each case.[57] In developing the questionnaire, we recognized the difficulty in accurately measuring case severity based solely on the number of animals present. This difficulty arises in part because the resources and attention involved in caring for small and large breed animals are vastly different. Therefore, we tried to capture the severity of the cases by also noting whether dead animals were found on the hoarder's property. The verdict of a case was labeled as "guilty" if the judge or jury found the defendant guilty of the majority of the charges. The verdict was labeled as a "plea agreement" if the defendant agreed to plead guilty to at least one charge in exchange for a predetermined sentence.

Each electronic article was given a case number, and then information from the article was abstracted to a separately numbered questionnaire form.[58] Once this was done, we used an internet search engine and telephone directory to contact humane societies and other officials involved with the case and mentioned in the articles. We kept a call log and removed a contact from the case if the individual was unable to be contacted after five attempts. If no one involved with a case was able to be contacted, the case was considered dormant.

After each case questionnaire form was completed, a written narrative report documenting the case from beginning to end was compiled. Quantitative data was then entered into a computerized database for summary statistics.

III. RESULTS

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This case series involved discussions conducted under an assumption of confidentiality; therefore results

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[48] n=4
[49] n=1
[50] n=1
[51] n=112
[52] n=34
[53] n=7
[54] n=2
[55] n=4
[56] n=30
[57] *Infra* app. A, 190–91.
[58] *Infra* app. A.

are presented either in summary format or with identifying information removed.

A. *Population*

Of the original 210 media reports, 133 were eligible for further study. From these 133 cases, we were able to obtain additional information on 56 cases from 26 different states. Cases that had only one defendant accounted for 64.3% of the cases,[59] 32.1% had two defendants,[60] and 3.6% had three defendants.[61] In the forty-one cases where the information was available, 39% of the primary defendants had a record of previous animal-related charges filed against them.[62] The majority (73.2%) of the primary offenders in this study were female. Although ages were missing in eight cases, just over one-half (54.5%) of the primary female offenders were between fifty and fifty-nine years of age. Only 33.3% of the primary male offenders were between fifty and fifty-nine years of age.[63]

B. *Animals*

Cats and dogs were the most popular animals to be hoarded. Dogs were the predominant animal in 46.4% of the cases.[64] Dogs were present in thirty-nine cases. The number of dogs ranged from 1 to 218.[65] Cats were the predominant animal in 33.9% of the cases.[66] Cats were present in forty cases. The number of cats ranged from 1 to 400.[67] Species other than cats or dogs were the predominant species in a minority of cases: birds (5.4%),[68] farm animals (5.4%),[69] rabbits (3.6%),[70] horses (3.6%),[71] and an assortment of exotic species (1.8%).[72] Up to 500 farm animals, 400 cats, 262 exotic animals, 218 dogs, 200 birds, 138 rabbits, and 130 horses were found in individual cases.[73] The largest case reviewed involved 500 cattle and 60 horses; the second largest case involved 400 cats and 4 dogs. The smallest case involved 5 dogs and 3 cats.

In nineteen cases (33.9%), at least one dead animal was found, often in an advanced deteriorated state. Dogs were found deceased in

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[59] n=36
[60] n=18
[61] n=2
[62] n=16
[63] *Infra* app. B, fig. 1.
[64] n=26
[65] Mean 55.1, median 27.
[66] n=19
[67] Mean 55.7, median 17.5.
[68] n=3
[69] n=3
[70] n=2
[71] n=2
[72] n=1
[73] Mean 122.

47.4% of these cases,[74] and cats were found deceased in 31.6% of these cases.[75] Birds and horses were found deceased in 10.5% of the cases in which dead animals were found,[76] and farm animals and exotic species were each found deceased in 5.3% of such cases.[77] Animals of unknown species were found deceased in 5.3% of the cases.[78]

C. *Charges*

In forty-one of the fifty-six cases, the primary defendant was charged with at least one misdemeanor count of animal cruelty. The number of counts ranged from 1 to 182. In five of these cases, the defendant was also charged with at least one felony count of animal cruelty. In fifteen cases, no misdemeanor count was charged. Of these cases, four defendants were charged with at least one felony count of animal cruelty, and three defendants were charged with a summary animal cruelty violation. The number of felony counts charged ranged from 1 to 128, and the number of summary violations charged ranged from three to seventy counts. In eight cases, including one case in which deceased animals were found, the defendants did not receive any form of animal cruelty charge.

In addition to animal cruelty charges, defendants were also charged with failure to maintain sanitary conditions,[79] violation of pet limitation ordinances,[80] failure to provide rabies vaccinations,[81] failure to license animals,[82] and other miscellaneous charges including criminal nuisance and business and zoning violations.[83]

D. *Veterinary Involvement*

In forty-five cases, a veterinarian examined the animals and completed a health or behavioral evaluation, or both. In all cases but one, the attending veterinarian prepared a written report documenting the animals' overall health. In fifteen of these cases, the veterinarian participated in the trial. The total number of animals found did not seem to affect the occurrence of a veterinary evaluation. Information about veterinary involvement was not available for five cases. Because most of this study's cases resulted in a guilty verdict or plea-bargain, it was not possible to compare veterinary involvement and case outcome.

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[74] n=9
[75] n=6
[76] n=2
[77] n=2
[78] n=1
[79] n=7
[80] n=6
[81] n=6
[82] n=5
[83] n=15

E. Case Characteristics and Outcomes

The outcomes of cases are characterized in Table 2 in Appendix B.[84] In the cases in which a finding was made and no applicable data was missing, nearly one-half (48.9%) of the defendants hired a private attorney to represent them in court,[85] 29.8% had court appointed attorneys,[86] 10.6% had both a private and court appointed attorney during their trial,[87] 8.5% acted without representation,[88] and 2.1% represented themselves.[89]

In just over one-fourth (26%) of the cases in which charges were pressed and information was available, the court ordered the defendant to undergo a pretrial psychological assessment or mental health evaluation.[90] While pretrial psychological evaluations seemed more common among defendants who had dead animals on their properties, the association was not statistically significant. The number of animals found did have a significant correlation with the ordering of pretrial psychological evaluations where cats, dogs, horses, and birds were found, but not in cases where farm, exotic, or other animals were found.[91]

The average number of animals hoarded was not related to whether post-trial psychological counseling was ordered as part of sentencing. However, individuals who were ordered to undergo counseling tended to have a larger maximum number of dogs and cats. This trend was not present for individuals who had a larger number of farm animals, exotic animals, horses, or birds.

Nearly one-third (31.8%) of the defendants pled not guilty to their charges,[92] 22.7% of the defendants pled guilty,[93] 20.5% pled guilty to lesser charges,[94] 13.6% did not enter a plea,[95] and 11.4% pled no contest.[96] Plea information was missing for twelve cases. Three-quarters of the defendants were either found guilty (48.2%)[97] or entered a plea agreement (26.8%).[98] Five cases were dismissed for unrelated reasons, one defendant was found not guilty, and one defendant was not charged. Seven cases are still pending.

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[84] *Infra* app. B, 193–94 tbl. 2.

[85] n=23

[86] n=14

[87] n=5

[88] n=4

[89] n=1

[90] n=13

[91] $p<0.05$ (A low p-value for this test (less than 0.05 for example) means that there is evidence to reject the null hypothesis in favor of the alternative hypothesis, or that there is a statistically significant relationship between the two variables).

[92] n=14

[93] n=10

[94] n=9

[95] n=6

[96] n=5

[97] n=27

[98] n=15

Dead animals were found on the hoarder's property in 76.5% of the cases in which the defendant was found guilty.[99] Dead animals were found on the property in 23.5% of the cases in which the defendant entered a plea agreement.[100] The remaining two cases in which dead animals were found are still pending.

Of the forty-two cases in which there was either a guilty verdict or plea-bargain, 40.5% of the defendants were sentenced to time in jail.[101] Almost one-half (47.1%) of those sentenced were sentenced to less than six months in jail, with as little as fifteen days being ordered.[102] Defendants were sentenced to between six months and one year of jail time in 29.4% of the cases,[103] and 23.5% of the defendants were sentenced to serve ten years in jail.[104] However, all jail time was suspended in three of the cases where the defendant was sentenced to ten years in jail. A child was involved in the case where the ten-year jail sentence was upheld. Jail time was ordered more frequently in cases where dead animals were found[105] than in cases where they were not found.[106]

Just over one-third (38.1%) of the defendants who were either found guilty or who entered a plea-bargain were placed on probation.[107] In these sixteen cases, four of the defendants were placed on one year of probation. Three defendants were placed on two years of probation, three were placed on three years of probation, and two were placed on five years of probation. The remaining four defendants were placed on probation of six months, four years, six years, and nearly ten years. No information was available on whether the probations were supervised or unsupervised.

Almost one-half (45.2%) of the defendants who were found guilty or who entered a plea-bargain were fined.[108] The fines ranged from $100 to $17,500 including court costs.[109] Twenty-five percent of the defendants were ordered to pay restitution to the state and/or agencies that cared for the seized animals.[110] The amount of restitution ordered ranged from $500 to $44,106.[111] None of the agencies ordered to receive restitution from a defendant has yet received payment. Information on fines and restitution was missing in two cases.

Only four defendants were ordered to complete community service hours, with an average order of one hundred hours each. One defend-

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99 n=4
100 *Infra* app. B, 192 tbl. 1.
101 n=17
102 n=8
103 n=5
104 n=4
105 n=12/19; 63.2%
106 n=7/37; 13.5%
107 n=16
108 n=19
109 Mean $2,986.
110 n=10
111 Mean $10,063, median $2,240.

ant was ordered to complete her hours at an animal shelter. The compliance rate for the remaining sentences was only available for one case, in which the individual failed to comply with the terms of her probation.

Only eight of the defendants were ordered to undergo post-trial psychological counseling. An order for post-trial counseling was not related to the average number of animals, but individuals who did receive counseling orders tended to have a larger number of dogs and cats. The reverse trend was seen for horses, birds, farm animals, and exotics. No information was available on the degree of compliance with the orders to undergo counseling.

In three cases (5.4%), the defendants were prohibited from ever owning or possessing animals. In eleven cases (19.6%), the defendants were forbidden from owning or possessing animals just during their probation. In two cases (3.6%), the defendants were allowed to keep a limited number of animals during their probation. Additionally, in eight cases (14.3%), defendants who did not receive probation were given limits as to the number of animals they could own or possess in the future.

IV. DISCUSSION OF CASES

A. *Imbalance between Addressing Offenders and Caring for the Hoarded Animals*

It is sometimes difficult for officials to strike a balance between helping both the hoarder and the animals involved. In six cases, the officials expressed that they were caught between using the legal system to address the hoarding problem and doing what they believed was best for the animals. That is, officials were caught between a desire to prevent a return to the original hoarding situation and fear that the animals would languish in a shelter pending resolution of the court action. Consequently, the officials decided to either forego charges or push for plea-bargains, which would guarantee the hoarder a lesser charge in exchange for custody of the animals.

One case in particular illustrates the consequences of such a trade-off.[112] The first-time officers were called to the property, where they found sixteen dogs, five cats, and three squirrels living inside the hoarders' home, in an abandoned vehicle, and tethered outside. There was no food or water, and the animals were living amidst a buildup of urine and feces. No charges were pursued in exchange for custody of the animals. Three years later, thirty-seven animals including dogs, cats, and chickens were taken from the same home and property. Again, although there was no food or water and the conditions were unfit for habitation, no charges were pursued in exchange for custody of the animals. Four years after the second investigation, twenty ema-

[112] Case 004: Maryland, 2002 (*see* Confidentiality Notice, *supra* pt. III (on the removal of identifying information from the cases listed in app. A)).

ciated dogs were found inside the home. After the third investigation, one of the individuals living in the home was charged and convicted, and the animal shelter finally gained custody of the animals during the trial.

B. *Long-Term Holding of Animals*

Most of the animals involved in these cases were seized and taken to a shelter, evaluated by a veterinarian, and then placed for adoption, but some were held until the end of the trial. In one case the animals were held for over a year.[113] Long-term holding of these animals not only absorbs a shelter's resources and space that could be used for other animals,[114] but also adds to the stress that hoarded animals have already experienced, essentially victimizing them for the second time.

C. *Lack of Communication and Cross-Reporting*

In several cases, there seemed to be little communication between different county divisions such as code enforcement, the health department, and animal control. The consequences surfaced both before and during the trials. In one case, the county's Health Department and Code Enforcement Division spent over a decade dealing with a hoarder and her animals before either agency notified the local animal shelter of the problem.[115] In a similar case, the Health Department dealt with the conditions caused by a woman and her eighty-seven cats for years.[116] It was not until her house burst into flames, trapping the cats inside, that the animal shelter was notified of the problems.

In yet another case, police called the animal shelter when they found twenty malnourished dogs at a hoarder's property.[117] The municipal animal shelter seized the animals. Although the hoarder was a second time offender, all twenty dogs were returned to him. Several weeks later, the local private SPCA was called to investigate a case involving twenty malnourished dogs in a different part of town. The officers seized the animals and charged the individual with a misdemeanor count of animal cruelty. Later, they found out that the dogs they had taken into custody were the same animals the local animal shelter had seized and returned three weeks before. Because the two shelters did not communicate with one another, the SPCA did not know that the individual was now a third time offender, which automatically elevated his crime from a misdemeanor to a felony offense. Fortunately, the local magistrate was cooperative in altering the charges.

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113 Case 051: Kansas, 2001.
114 Prejean, *supra* n. 16, at 6.
115 Case 024: Pennsylvania, 2002.
116 Case 048: New Hampshire, 2001.
117 Case 057: Texas, 2001.

The lack of shared information between departments works against the monitoring of animal hoarders. One shelter believed that it was protecting against animal offenders by running background checks on potential adopters.[118] Because the background check did not reveal information on the woman involved in this case, she was allowed to adopt two dogs. Not long afterwards, police responded to complaints and found twenty-one birds, fourteen dogs, fourteen cats, and a number of rabbits, assorted reptiles, turtles, chinchillas, and scorpions living inside the same individual's home. As it turned out, the woman already had a record of animal cruelty and health violations from four years before. Had there been a mechanism for checking past cruelty convictions in the state, shelter employees might have known about the woman's previous history and may have been able to make a better decision about allowing her to adopt animals. The problem of cross-reporting is even worse for crimes committed in another state, particularly since most animal cruelty charges are misdemeanors or lower, which are not reported to other states.

Lack of communication may also be detrimental at trial. In a case where sixty emaciated horses and six hundered starving cattle were found, the miscommunication and lack of cooperation between the city's police department and the district attorney's office led to dismissed charges for two of the three defendants.[119]

D. "Sanctuaries" and "Rescue" Groups

In nine cases, respondents confirmed a growing trend of hoarders identifying themselves as directors of sanctuaries and rescue groups. In four cases the individuals were actually managing organizations with legitimate nonprofit status. In the other five cases, the individuals claimed they were running a rescue organization only after they were charged and questioned by police, perhaps as a last attempt to excuse themselves of their wrongdoings. In fact, a shelter director who was involved with one case noted that in the past three years his shelter had taken in over seven hundered animals from six cases where the hoarder claimed to be running an animal rescue group or sanctuary. Although we initially attempted to exclude this type of case from this study, their continued presence may suggest that the lines between hoarders who identify themselves as a rescue organization and those who do not may not be so clearly defined.

E. Unwillingness to Accept the "Hoarder" Label

The classic hoarder stereotype (single, older female) has been supported by several studies, including this one.[120] Unfortunately, wide-

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[118] Case 064: Indiana, 2001.

[119] Case 037: Colorado, 2002.

[120] *See e.g.* Worth & Beck, *supra* n. 5, at 284 (finding male-to-female ratio was 3:8 for owners of cats, and 4:7 for owners of dogs; fourteen total cases of cat ownership, and thirteen total cases of dog ownership); Patronek, *supra* n. 1, at 84 (finding seventy-six

spread acceptance of this caricature has the potential to hinder some cases. In one such example, an individual was keeping up to forty-five dogs on his property at any given time and was confronted by police officers five times over a nine-year period.[121] After five confrontations, the sheriff's deputy in the case noted that his department still had an extremely difficult time convincing a judge to convict the individual of the alleged criminal nuisance and animal cruelty charges because he did not fit into the "classic hoarder" model. Most obviously, this accused individual was a male, placing him in the minority of documented animal hoarders. Also, he claimed to be running a shelter, frequently soliciting donations from the public. Furthermore, city records indicated that he licensed an average of just over 110 animals a year, clearly indicating that he cared for the animals on some level and released these animals to others' care from time to time. Even so, this man was harboring an exorbitant number of animals on his property and was failing to provide them with adequate care. The man repeatedly refused to acknowledge the problem despite numerous complaints by neighbors who reported an overwhelming stench of urine and feces coming from the property.

Although labeling the individual as a hoarder was not critical to the successful prosecution of this case, the prosecuting attorney felt that labeling the man a hoarder would indicate a mental disorder and the need for psychological counseling. To the contrary, while the judge eventually agreed that the defendant was a hoarder, he refused to acknowledge that animal hoarding should be called a mental disorder. He denied the prosecution's request that the defendant receive a psychological evaluation and counseling.

Judges in three other cases were also openly hesitant to recognize a mental health component in hoarding behavior. Thus, it was not surprising to find that overall, few hoarders were ordered to undergo a pretrial psychological evaluation or post-trial counseling. In the eleven cases where the primary defendant was ordered to undergo a psychological assessment, only one was found to be mentally unsound. Although one might think that such a finding would expedite the trial, after nearly two years the case is still pending trial.

Only in cases where animals were taken from outside sources did officials seem sympathetic. In one case involving twenty-one dogs, nineteen horses, four cats, four pigs, three cows, two llamas, and one goat, the chief of police explained that the hoarder loved and cared about the animals and only took them in because she feared that they would be euthanized if she did not.[122] He added that, in his opinion, the case was a prime example of "an animal lover, who got caught up in a situation of not wanting to face the fact that she had more animals

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percent of hoarders were female, eighty-three percent of hoarders were ages forty and older, and sixty-five percent of hoarders owned cats).

[121] Case 002: Florida, 2002.

[122] Case 015: Wisconsin, 2001.

than she could actually take care of."[123] No charges were pressed because the officers did not feel there had been any "intentional neglect."[124]

F. Inconsistent Handling of Cases

1. Time Frame

Several themes emerged regarding the length of time and way in which cases unfolded. One theme relates to the amount of time that elapsed between the actual seizure of animals and the conclusion of trials. Six cases are still pending trial up to two years after the alleged crime originally took place. One case in particular has been pending since March 2001 and was not set to go to trial until January 2004.[125] This same case also provides an example of how hoarders receive inconsistent treatment by the justice system. Eight months after the animals were seized from the hoarder's home, the judge ordered that all fourteen animals be returned to the defendant before the trial even began. In other cases, animals were held for the duration of the trial.

The second theme relates to the length of time it takes to process appeals submitted by the defendant. Some states allow a defendant to stay the execution of the sentence while the defendant appeals either the verdict or the sentence itself.[126] If the stay is granted, any restrictions imposed by the sentence are lifted until the appeal is resolved.[127] A delay between the verdict and imposition of the sentence restrictions provides the defendant an opportunity to relapse into more hoarding behavior. One defendant's attorney appealed the ninety-day jail sentence and the $5,970 order of restitution.[128] Months later, the appeal is still pending trial, and animal control has been notified that the defendant has begun collecting cats again inside her home.

2. Number of Charges

There were also inconsistencies in the number of charges offenders received. In sixteen cases, individuals were charged with one count of animal cruelty for their entire group of animals rather than one count of cruelty for each animal involved. In several other cases, hoarders were only charged with one count of failure to license or provide a rabies vaccination when there were dozens of animals in violation.

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[123] *Id.*

[124] *Id.*

[125] Case 050: Utah, 2001.

[126] *See e.g.* Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 138.135 (2003) (authorizing judge to grant stay pending appeal); Mass. R. Crim. P. 31 (authorizing judge to grant stay pending appeal).

[127] *See e.g.* Or Rev. Stat. Ann. § 138.135 (2003) (authorizing court to grant stay pending appeal for sentence of confinement or imposition of fine); Mass R. Crim. P. 31 (authorizing court to grant stay pending appeal for sentence of confinement, imposition of fine, or probation).

[128] Case 067: Pennsylvania, 2000.

One unanticipated explanation for the failure to charge for each animal involved was that prosecutors and judges openly discouraged multiple charges against hoarders because they felt they "clogged" the system. While in one jurisdiction the neglect of two hundered animals would result in two hundered counts of animal neglect, in another jurisdiction, the same behavior would result in only one count of animal neglect.

Another explanation for not charging more than one count per violation was the problem of proof. In order to charge a count for each animal, the prosecutors and animal agencies involved must positively match each animal with its corresponding count number. Because inbred and single breed animals are often seen in these cases, it is difficult to guarantee a consistent positive identification of each animal. A single count for every charge is viewed as an easy solution to this problem. To counteract this trend, rescue teams should take steps to positively identify all animals, dead and alive, that are encountered during a response to a hoarding situation through collars and photographic documentation or microchip.[129]

The courts' frustration with multiple counts was also seen in a case where officers inaccurately charged the hoarder.[130] The individual was found living with forty-seven animals of various species. After their seizure, two litters of puppies were born, bringing the total to fifty-three. Animal control charged the hoarder with fifty-three counts of failure to provide rabies vaccinations, a vaccination that only applies to dogs at least four months of age or older.[131] The judge expressed his disapproval and frustration at the trial and lowered the number of counts from fifty-three to the appropriate eleven.

G. Limitations Imposed by Statutory Language

There was evidence in this study that the language of state anti-cruelty statutes often fails to capture the severity of the crime. Under the typical state anti-cruelty statute, a hoarder could be cited for failure to provide proper food, water, shelter, and a sanitary environment.[132] Potentially these could be separate counts for each animal

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[129] *See* Handy, *supra* n. 14, at 4–5 (discussing team approach to identifying animals at hoarding site).

[130] Case 050: Utah, 2001.

[131] This age requirement exists in most states, primarily for the health of the dog. *See* The Family Veterinarian, *What Vaccines Should My Dog Have and When?* http://www.familyvet.com/dogvac.htm (accessed Mar. 13, 2005) (providing general recommendations for dog owners).

[132] *See e.g.* Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 167.325 (2003) (providing a misdemeanor penalty: "A person commits the crime of animal neglect in the second degree if, except as otherwise authorized by law, the person intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence fails to provide minimum care for an animal in such person's custody or control"); Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 272, § 77 (2004) (providing a felony penalty for: "whoever, having the charge or custody of an animal, either as owner or otherwise, inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon it, or unnecessarily fails to provide it with proper food, drink, shelter, sanitary environment, or protection from the weather").

involved, but as indicated above, often charges are reduced because of redundancy. For example, one hoarder in South Carolina was found living with fifty-three dogs, nine cats, and two birds on her property.[133] The animals were emaciated and dehydrated, and most of them had mange. All but seven dogs, one cat, and the two birds were euthanized because of their conditions. The hoarder was only charged with one count of ill treatment to animals and one count of keeping domestic animals in unsanitary conditions. Rather than encompassing what the sixty-four animals in this case experienced, the actual charges only addressed a small sliver of the violations. An official indicated that the individual was charged with only one count each of the two minor charges because those involved felt sorry for her. The individual in this case was near the end of a battle with cancer. The official added that there would have been no point in adding more counts to each charge because it would have served no purpose to prosecute a woman at the end of her life.

This case also involved the hoarder's self-neglect. Her home was covered in feces and debris and lacked working plumbing or appliances. The hoarder used a bucket for a toilet and often consumed cans of dog food, while she fed her animals moldy bread and other spoiled food. There was no statutory provision that would address the self-neglect, the potential underlying medical or mental health problems, or the need for a follow-up program to help prevent recidivism.

Unfortunately, even if multiple counts are accepted by the court, there is no statutory means of charging the offender that captures the extent and duration of animal suffering that occurs as a result of chronic neglect and extended confinement in substandard conditions.

H. Lack of Information and Case Follow-up

This study indicated that there was little follow-up of cases once the investigation and trial were over. Although the majority of respondents could provide verdict and sentencing information, few were able to say if the hoarder had fulfilled the sentence. Also, few individuals knew where the hoarder was currently. Most of those who provided follow-up information said that they relied on citizen reports and complaints rather than on a systematic strategy for oversight. In other cases, shelter records were stored in an inaccessible location after only a few years, thereby seriously hampering basic data management about hoarding cases.

Even in cases where the defendant was given a sentence that required regular follow-up visits by authorities, officials were unable to confirm with certainty that the follow-up or counseling had actually occurred. Sometimes the failure to follow up was due to a lack of manpower, and sometimes the sentencing provisions did not provide hu-

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[133] Case 003: South Carolina, 2002.

mane agents access to the home. Information about attendance at mandated counseling was similarly unavailable.

I. An Alternative Model

Three cases in particular serve as excellent examples of the potential success that can come from an agency's effort to develop and maintain a relationship with an animal hoarder. The first case is perhaps the best example of an officer's attempt to develop a relationship with the hoarders, to work with them on an appropriate solution to the problem, and to ensure that their hoarding behavior will not begin again.[134] Upon the first visit to their home, the officer was met by a very hostile couple, who claimed they had a few dozen dogs living in their home. Because the couple would not allow the officer inside, he had to work diligently to gain the husband's trust over the next several months. Finally, after realizing that the officer was not there to patronize him, the man agreed to surrender eighteen to twenty of the dogs as long as the officer would allow him to bring them out to the vehicle on his own. After five trips between the couple's home and the shelter, the officer had collected 120 dogs from the home.

As the officer and the town officials deliberated about what charges should be brought, it became clear that if the husband and wife were each charged with 120 counts of animal cruelty, there would be a chance they might each receive a $150,000 fine plus jail time. Because the officer knew the couple would not be able to afford such a stiff sentence, and because the husband had claimed that all of the dogs were his, the officer offered the man a plea-bargain. The plea-bargain allowed the man alone to plead guilty to eighty-eight counts of unlicensed dogs and accept a fine of $4,000. The charges were based on the eighty-eight dogs that were old enough to be licensed. The agreement also allowed the defendant to retain custody of five of the dogs, provided that the dogs were spayed and neutered within four days of the agreement. After those dogs died, the defendant and his wife would no longer be allowed to keep any more animals.

The individual signed the agreement and graciously took five of his dogs back home. At the time of this study, the officer was continuing to conduct surprise visits to the couple's home. He said they had proven to be responsible pet owners, in part because of the way the case was handled. Clearly, the successful outcome in this case was due to cooperation rather than the use of animal cruelty statutes.

In a similar case, a hoarder was allowed to keep three of her dogs after several local church groups protested the removal of all of her animals. The church groups offered to help clean her home and see that she properly cared for the animals.[135] Reluctantly, animal service officials agreed. The house was gutted and rebuilt, and the individual was allowed to live in the home with her three dogs. After nearly three

[134] Case 035: New York, 2002.
[135] Case 072: Tennessee, 2001.

years of frequent, unannounced inspections, the individual is continuing to cooperate with animal services. Because of their careful follow-up, the officers were able to ensure that the individual was properly caring for the animals and was not in a position where she could revert to her hoarding behavior.

In the third case, eighty-two dogs and fourteen cats were found living with one couple in their three-bedroom home.[136] The local humane society followed the case through court, making weekly home visits. Even while awaiting the sentencing hearing, the society continued to visit the home not only to form a relationship with the hoarders, but also to make sure that they were not continuing to hoard animals. So far, the couple has not relapsed into their old behavior and is continuing to cooperate with humane officers.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Animal hoarding is increasingly being recognized as a problem by professionals in animal care and control, social services, and law enforcement.[137] Because current responses to hoarding cases have often been ineffective in producing long-term solutions, new approaches must be explored. This may necessitate several changes in how such cases are handled. Such changes may include:

- Revision of animal cruelty statutes to be more responsive to problems of neglect.
- Education of prosecutors and judges about the nature of animal hoarding and its consequences for the animals and people affected by it.
- Education of mental health, social services, and veterinary professionals about the nature of animal hoarding and the individuals involved.
- Better planning, communication, and coordination of all stakeholder agencies likely to be called upon to respond to hoarding situations.

One immediate step that must be taken is to provide a better balance between prosecuting and rehabilitating hoarders and protecting the welfare of the animals involved. One way of achieving this balance is to remove the "choice" that some animal control officers feel they have to make between the hoarder and the animals. Officials should focus on developing better agreements at the time of plea-bargaining. These agreements should include comprehensive sentencing provisions and should stipulate all aspects of animal ownership and care. Plea-bargaining agreements should also require mandatory supervision with unannounced home visits for an extended period (years). Supervision must be delegated to an agency with the authority, motivation, and resources to perform such a function.

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136 Case 031: Hawaii, 2002.

137 *See e.g.* Patronek, *supra* n. 1, at 82 (noting in a 1999 study that no formal recognition of the syndrome and no systematic reporting of cases existed); *Health Implications*, *supra* n. 10, at 125 (demonstrating increased awareness of animal hoarding as a public health problem).

Lines of communication encouraging a relationship between the different agencies that encounter animal hoarders must also be opened in order to better identify, rehabilitate, and monitor hoarders. Communicating agencies should include public health departments, adult and child protective services, zoning, utilities, and municipal code officials. Standardized protocols for dealing with hoarders should be implemented, and when state anti-cruelty statutes are revised, they must address the full spectrum of issues evoked by animal hoarding. Because hoarding is an organized, persistent problem, animal protection groups would also be wise to develop more sophisticated methods to collect and share data on their cases amongst themselves and other stakeholder agencies.

If we hope to increase the number of hoarders who are ordered to undergo psychological assessments and counseling, more research on the mental components of animal hoarding is needed to produce hard data for the courts. This could be facilitated if the members of the justice system were more vocal about the deficiencies in this area. Judges and attorneys also need to be aware that they may encounter individuals who do not fit into the classic hoarder stereotype, particularly among those who identify themselves as running animal shelters, rescue groups, and sanctuaries. Whether there is any difference in the underlying factors among the more isolated hoarders as opposed to those claiming an organizational affiliation is not clear at this time. However, their behavior shares the same outcome for the animals, including failure to provide proper care, failure to maintain sanitary living conditions, and failure to recognize the impact of hoarding on both human and non-human victims. These common traits are valuable and consistent indicators of animal abuse. They can provide a standard for evaluating animal hoarding cases that is less ambiguous and imposes greater objectivity. Evaluating all cases against the same standard will hopefully result in more effective and creative sentencing and case resolution, decreased recidivism, and decreased suffering by the animal victims.

VI. APPENDIX A: CASE LIST AND QUESTIONNAIRE

Case 001: Texas, 2002
Case 002: Florida, 2002
Case 003: South Carolina, 2002
Case 004: Maryland, 2002
Case 005: Virginia, 2002
Case 006: Missouri, 2001
Case 007: North Carolina, 2002
Case 008: Removed
Case 009: Virginia, 2001
Case 010: Illinois, 2001
Case 011: South Carolina, 2000
Case 012: Virginia, 2001
Case 013: Minnesota, 2001
Case 014: Florida, 2001
Case 015: Wisconsin, 2001
Case 016: Skipped Case Number
Case 017: Oregon, 2002
Case 018: Removed
Case 019: Wisconsin, 2002
Case 020: Kentucky, 2002
Case 021: Montana, 2002
Case 022: Removed
Case 023: Minnesota, 2002
Case 024: Pennsylvania, 2002
Case 025: Removed
Case 026: Missouri, 2002
Case 027: Missouri, 2002
Case 028: Missouri, 2002
Case 029: Removed
Case 030: Utah, 2001
Case 031: Hawaii, 2002
Case 032: Skipped Case Number
Case 033: Pennsylvania, 2002
Case 034: California, 2001
Case 035: New York, 2002
Case 036: Removed
Case 037: Colorado, 2002
Case 038: Removed
Case 039: Florida, 2002
Case 040: Removed
Case 041: Removed
Case 042: South Carolina, 2002
Case 043: Removed
Case 044: Skipped Case Number
Case 045: Wisconsin, 2003
Case 046: Maine, 2002
Case 047: Minnesota, 2000
Case 048: New Hampshire, 2001
Case 049: Pennsylvania, 2002
Case 050: Utah, 2001
Case 051: Kansas, 2001
Case 052: Wisconsin, 2001
Case 053: Florida, 2001
Case 054: Removed
Case 055: Removed
Case 056: California, 2001
Case 057: Texas, 2001
Case 058: California, 2001
Case 059: No Contact Made
Case 060: Kansas, 2001
Case 061: No Contact Made
Case 062: Wisconsin, 2001
Case 063: Texas, 2000
Case 064: Indiana, 2001
Case 065: South Carolina, 2001
Case 066: Tennessee, 2003
Case 067: Pennsylvania, 2000
Case 068: No Contact Made
Case 069: Kentucky, 2001
Case 070: No Response
Case 071: Removed (unidentified defendant)
Case 072: Tennessee, 2001
Case 073: No Contact Made
Case 074: Skipped Case Number
Case 075: No Contact Made
Case 076: No Contact Made
Case 077: No Contact Made
Case 078: West Virginia, 2001
Case 079: Illinois, 2001
Case 080: No Contact Made
Case 081: Florida, 2001
Case 082: Skipped Case Number
Case 083: No Contact Made
Case 084: No Contact Made
Case 085: New Jersey, 2001
Case 086: Removed (unidentified defendant)
Case 087: No Contact Made
Case 088: No Contact Made

QUESTIONNAIRE

Case#: _____ Case date: _____ File location: _____
City: _____ State: _____ County: _____
Primary defendant:
gender: _____ age: _____ health status: _____
Any previous convictions? _____
Secondary defendant:
gender: _____ age: _____ health status: _____
Any previous convictions? _____
Children involved? Yes No Vulnerable adults involved? Yes No
Type of animal confinement? _____

ANIMALS:

Animal Type	Number dead	Number alive, but euthanized for medical or behavioral problems	Number alive and in good condition	Total

Hoarding time frame? < 1 year 1-3 years 4-5 years > 5 years
How was time frame determined? _____

CHARGE:

Charge-felony/misd.?	How many counts?	Based on which animals?	Under which section was the charge made?	Primary defendant's plea

TRIAL:
Pre-trial or pre-sentencing psychological assessment of defendant? _____
Defendant's representation? _____
Veterinary involvement pre-trial? _____ Veterinary testimony? _____
Court Ruling? guilty not guilty plea bargain other
SENTENCE: _____

NOTES: _____

LOCAL CONTACTS:

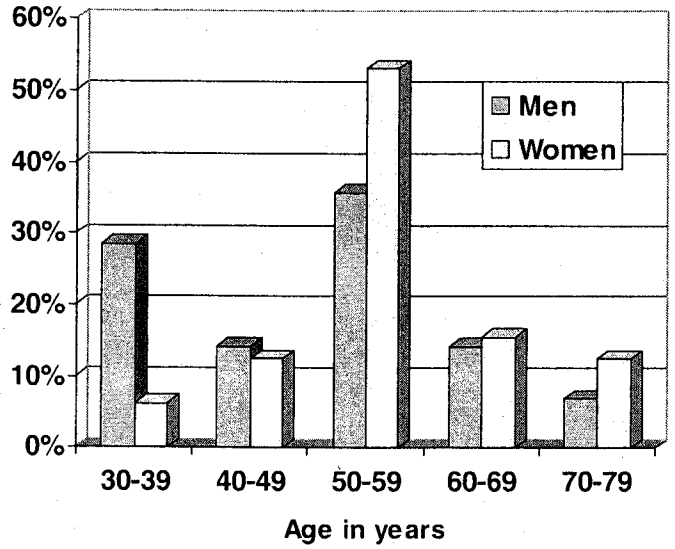
Name: _____ Name: _____
Organization: _____ Organization: _____
Phone Number: _____ Phone Number: _____
Email: _____ Email: _____
Name: _____ Name: _____
Organization: _____ Organization: _____
Phone Number: _____ Phone Number: _____
Email: _____ Email: _____

CALL LOG:

	Person	Date	Time	Notes
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

VII. APPENDIX B: TABLES AND FIGURES

A. *Figure 1: Age of Primary Offender in Fifty-Six Cases of Animal Hoarding*



B. *Table 1: Association between Case Outcomes and Presence of Dead Animals in Fifty-Six Cases of Animal Hoarding*

	Dead animals found		No dead animals found	
	N	%	N	%
Verdict				
Guilty	13	76.5	14	56.0
Plea agreement	4	23.5	11	44.0
Jail time				
Yes	12	63.2	5	13.5
No	7	36.8	32	86.5

C. *Table 2: Characteristics and Outcomes of Fifty-Six Cases of Animal Hoarding*

		Charges				Case outcome								
Number animals	Dead animals	Felony	Misd.	Sum.	Other	Plea	Verdict	Jail time	Probation	Fine	Rest.	Comm Serv.	Couns.	Animal limit
560	no		11			NCONT	PB							
404	yes		100			GLT	GLT	59 d (cr)		$1,000	$2,000	100 hr	yes	
349	yes			12	3	UNK	GLT	90 d			$5,970			
299	yes	5	28		1	NGLT	GLT		84 mo		$100,411			no animals
264	no				8	NGLT	GLT			$3,500				< 6 (ferrets)
258	no		200			GLT/LSR	PB			$1,000	UNK			< 2
242	no		2		1	GLT	GLT	90 d	12 mo	$1,000	UNK			no animals
227	yes		2	1		UNK	GLT							
223	yes		1	1	1	UNK	GLT	30 d(cr)	12 mo	$141				< 1 cat
221	yes	3	15			NGLT	PB	1 yr(cr)	12 mo				yes	
206	yes	2				NGLT	PND							
187	no		6	1	1	UNK	GLT	10 yr			$35,000			
182	no		5			GLT	GLT		24 mo				yes	< 2 (sterile cats)
182	yes		182			NGLT	GLT	120 mo (sus)						no animals
143	no		1			NONE	TERM							
130	yes	128				GLT/LSR	PB	195 d	60 mo					no animals
127	no		1		2	NCONT	PB			$161	$500	100 hr		
126	no	109				GLT/LSR	PB	15 d (cr)	60 mo					no animals
120	no				88	NONE	PB			$4,000				< 5 (sterile dogs)
116	no		112			NGLT	GLT			$17,500				
113	no		100		90	GLT/LSR	PB							< 3
110	no		1			NGLT	PND							
109	no		1			NGLT	GLT		24 mo	$1,000	$2,786			
108	no				2	NGLT	GLT			$500		50 hr		
107	yes			3	23	NGLT	GLT			$17,000				
106	no		93		1	GLT	GLT			$6,200		150 hr		< 5
102	yes		1		2	UNK	GLT	6 mo(sus)						
96	no		85			GLT/LSR	PB							
92	yes		92			NONE	PND							
90	no	1	90			UNK	PB		36 mo	$259	$1,829		yes	no animals
85	yes		2		3	GLT	GLT	90 d(sus)	36 mo	$1,000				

		Charges				Case outcome								
Number animals	Dead animals	Felony	Misd.	Sum.	Other	Plea	Verdict	Jail time	Probation	Fine	Rest.	Comm Serv.	Couns.	Animal limit
78	no		21			UNK	DISM							
67	no			1	1	GLT	GLT		24 mo	$100				no animals
64	no		1	1		GLT	PB							
63	yes	4	75			NCONT	PB	10 yr(sus)	72 mo		$44,106		yes	no animals
62	no		1		3	NGLT	NGLT							
62	yes		33			UNK	GLT	10 yr(sus)	117 mo				yes	no animals
61	No		7			NCONT	PB				$2,295			sterile only
57	no		1	1	66	NONE	PND							
57	no	1	2			UNK	GLT	360 d	9 mo					no animals
54	no					NONE	None							
54	no		2			GLT/LSR	PB	180 d(sus)	12 mo	$500				
50	no				3	GLT	PND							
50	yes			70		UNK	GLT			UNK				
47	yes			1	3	GLT	PND							
45	no		2		1	GLT/LSR	GLT		6 mo	$660			no	< 6
42	no				30	NONE	DISM							
39	yes		1			NCONT	GLT	9 mo						
39	no		2		1	GLT/LSR	PND							
36	yes	1			9	GLT/LSR	PB	60 d(sus)	48 mo	$500	$1,548		yes	< 2
35	no		1			NGLT	GLT		36 mo				yes	
26	yes		21			NGLT	GLT			$1,620				
26	no		21			UNK	DISM							
19	no		1			NGLT	DISM							
18	no		1		1	UNK	GLT							
8	no		8			GLT	GLT				$4,600			

KEY:

Charges:
Felony: Felony animal cruelty
Misd: Misdemeanor animal cruelty
Sum: Summary offense or unsanitary conditions
Other: Failure to license, failure to vaccinate for rabies, over pet limit, etc.

Case Outcome:
GLT: Guilty
GLT/LSR: Guilty to lesser charge
NCONT: No contest
NGLT: Not guilty
PB: Plea Bargain
PND: Pending

DISM: Dismissed
UNK: Unknown
Cr: Credited for time served
Sus: Suspended
Comm Serv: Community service
Couns: Psychological counseling