

Checklist for Factors in the Assessment of Dangerousness in Perpetrators of Animal Cruelty

Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

- 1. High victim vulnerability
- 2. Two or more victims in the same instance
- 3. More than one instance or attack with 24 hours
- 4. Injury resulted in death of victim(s)
- 5. Multiple injuries inflicted on one or more victims
- 6. Multiple *types* of injuries inflicted on one or more victims
- 7. Act involved restraint of or direct contact with victim
- 8. Victim was bound or otherwise physically incapacitated
- 9. Use of fire
- 10. Abuse or injury took place over a relatively long time frame
- 11. Act was preplanned rather than reactive or opportunistic
- 12. Act involved overcoming obstacles to initiate or complete the abuse
- 13. Act was committed with high risk of detection or observation
- 14. Other illegal acts were committed at the scene of the animal cruelty
- 15. Individual was the instigator of an act involving multiple perpetrators
- 16. Animal cruelty was used to threaten, intimidate or coerce a human victim
- 17. Act of animal cruelty involved hypersensitivity to real or perceived threats or slights.
- 18. Absence of economic motive
- 19. Past history of positive interactions with victim
- 20. Animal victim was subjected to mutilation or postmortem dismemberment
- 21. Animal victim was sexually assaulted or mutilated in genital areas or perpetrator indicated sexual arousal as a consequence of the abuse
- 22. Act of cruelty was accompanied by sexual symbolism associated with the victim
- 23. Perpetrator projected human characteristics onto victim
- 24. Perpetrator documented the abuse through photographs, video or diary entries
- 25. Perpetrator returned at least once to scene of the abuse, to relive the experience
- 26. Perpetrator left messages or threats in association with the act of cruelty
- 27. Animal victim was posed or otherwise displayed
- 28. Animal cruelty was accompanied by ritualistic or "satanic" actions
- 29. Act of abuse involved staging or reenactment of themes from media or fantasy sources
- 30. Perpetrator reportedly experienced altered consciousness during the violent act
- 31. Perpetrator reportedly experienced strong positive affective changes during the violent act
- 32. Perpetrator lacks insight into cause or motivation of the animal abuse
- 33. Perpetrator sees himself as the victim and/or projects blame onto others