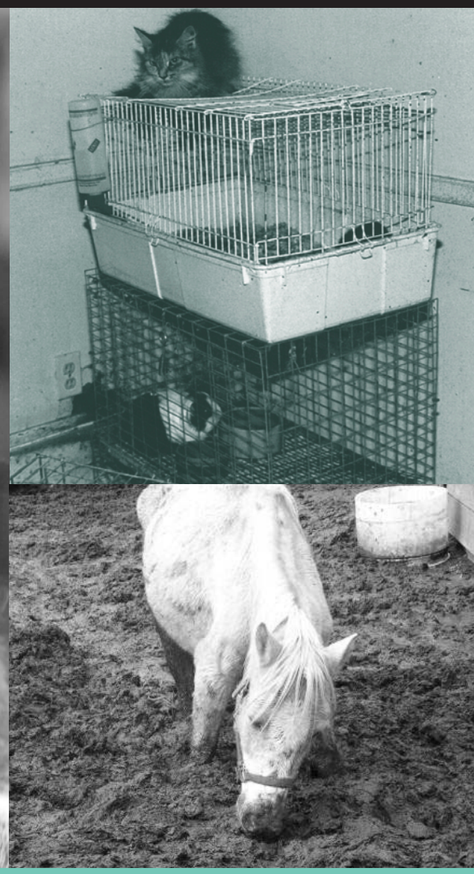
"[K]eeping a large number of animals in ill health and unsanitary conditions is both a crime and symptomatic of an illness."

—Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.

Information for Prosecutors, Judges, and Law Enforcement Agents

PETA

Animal Hoarders: Behavior, Consequences, and Appropriate Official Response



PETA

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
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"An animal hoarder is not simply a harmless and well-intentioned eccentric, but someone with a problem—a problem that results in the suffering of their animals."

—Animal Protection Voters of New Mexico

"For the rest of your life, you're going to have nothing to do with any animals. You have some deep, deep problems, and part of the problem is that you don't recognize it."

—The Honorable Clint Judkins, judge of the First District Court, Utah, ordering a hoarder never to own animals again

Contents

The Pathology of Animal Hoarding: The Consequences of Misjudging, Mishandling, and Misunderstanding

Animal hoarders exist in virtually every community. They were formerly referred to as “collectors” and thought of as well-intentioned people overwhelmed by the animal overpopulation crisis. However, current research by the Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium (HARC)—an interdisciplinary group of researchers established in 1997—to investigate hoarding from angles including animal protection, law enforcement, mental health, and social work indicates that collecting describes a “benign hobby.” Collecting fails to indicate what Dr. Randall Lockwood, a psychologist who has long studied issues affecting animals and advised agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has referred to as the “true pathology” that most hoarders’ behavior points to. The term also ignores the severity of hoarding’s consequences for the animals involved: The central issue is animal suffering, not the hoarder’s intentions.

Because the hoarding of animals is often misunderstood, otherwise capable law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judges frequently mishandle such cases. The consequences for hoarders, their human dependents, animals, and the community are serious and may even be fatal for animals.

Only with an understanding of the complex disorder of hoarding—and all that is at stake for humans and animals when it occurs—can an effective, enduring intervention be implemented to ensure the safety and welfare of all involved.

With this publication, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals hopes to contribute to that understanding and to help craft and promote such interventions.

Animal Hoarding Is Cruelty to Animals

"Hoarders are by definition oblivious to the extreme suffering, obvious to the casual observer, of their animals."

—Gary J. Patronek, V.M.D., Ph.D., Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium

How Hoarders Hurt Animals

There are three characteristics of hoarding behavior agreed upon by experts and seen in nearly every case of hoarding:

- Hoarders amass a large number of animals.
- Hoarders fail to meet the most basic physical and social needs of some or all of the animals in their charge. Animals are usually deprived of adequate food, water, shelter, veterinary care, sanitary living conditions, and proper, if not all, socialization. This neglect often causes malnourishment and starvation; dehydration; external and/or internal parasitic infestation; communicable illnesses such as respiratory infections, mange, and parvo; antisocial behavior; and death.
- Hoarders offer excuses for or altogether deny the conditions in which they and their dependents—animal and human—languish and the severity of their behavior's consequences for all involved. According to Gary J. Patronek, V.M.D., Ph.D., "Hoarders are by definition oblivious to the extreme suffering, obvious to the casual observer, of their animals."

Anyone Can Be a Hoarder

Though there is some limited statistical support of the stereotypical hoarder as an older woman accumulating animals in a suburban residence, hoarding knows no boundaries, including those based on age, gender, race, the species involved, or the setting. The accused's behavior—not his or her identity—is what should lead officials to suspect that the person is hoarding animals and to respond accordingly.

A 2002 study of animal hoarders found that nearly 17 percent of the accused were men. More than 80 percent of the suspects for whom age was confirmed were younger than 65.

The domestic animal overpopulation crisis and the alarming rate at which animals are abandoned and the attendant millions left homeless or unwanted enable hoarders to operate anywhere. Though their exact location may dictate the species they accumulate, hoarders can exist in any area of any jurisdiction. One study found that approximately 50 percent of hoarders lived in urban settings, with the balance nearly evenly distributed among suburban and rural locations.

For whatever the reason, many who hoard animals share a phobia of death. According to the Vermont Animal Cruelty Task Force—a statewide coalition of private and governmental agencies that prevents and responds to cruelty to animals through "communication, education, training, legislation and enforcement"—hoarders "find the thought of death so abhorrent that they deem an inhumane life far preferable to a humane death." This aspect of hoarding behavior is most visible and destructive in some purported "no-kill" facilities, where animals are warehoused—sometimes for years in deplorable conditions.

Those who hoard animals often amass inanimate objects also, such as newspapers, food, and garbage. This trend supports the suspicion that hoarders may suffer from obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) or obsessive-compulsive personality disorder (OCPD), both of which may be manifested in the hoarding of inanimate objects, according to the fourth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*.

Despite their mental condition and related behavior, many hoarders function seemingly well in society. A *Cincinnati Enquirer* investigation found that animal addicts "frequently manage to hold down jobs, pay their taxes and keep their lawns mowed—just enough normalcy to conceal the nightmare within" their homes. The combination of this competent appearance and what the New York State Humane Association calls hoarders' "shrewd ability" to garner sympathy and even support for their actions is often used to veil the nightmarish existence of animals in some so-called "no-kill" or "rescue" operations.

Any Animal Can Be a Victim

A group of Massachusetts veterinarians, medical doctors, sociologists, and law-enforcement agents who have studied animal hoarding, the Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium, concluded that "almost every conceivable type of animal can be a victim of hoarding." Although animals kept as companions—such as cats, dogs, rodents, and birds—are the most common species involved, exotic animals and wildlife are often victims of hoarding as well, as are "farmed" animals, including horses, goats, and pigs.

Hoarders' abysmal failure to meet the most basic physical needs of animals in their charge has severe and often fatal consequences for the victims. A 1999 study conducted by Dr. Gary Patronek of Tufts University and published in *Public Health Reports* found that animals were found dead or suffering from "obvious disease or injury" in 80 percent of hoarding cases reviewed. Among the more prevalent findings were the following:

- Food and water are inadequate or altogether absent. Animals are left to suffer from malnourishment and dehydration. Many die as a result. In some cases, survivors take to cannibalizing the remains of the deceased animals.
- Animals are kept in overcrowded conditions. The most common examples include multiple dogs confined to small kennels or pens and cats kept in carriers or cages stacked on top of one another. The animals' forced proximity to one another facilitates the quick and widespread transmission of internal and external parasites, such as worms, fleas, and mites.
- Animals are deprived of veterinary care. Injuries—including broken limbs and wounds suffered in fights with other animals—go untreated and lead to infections. Highly contagious conditions such as upper respiratory infections, anemia, mange, and parvo become rampant.
- The animals' accumulated waste and filthy conditions of confinement give rise to feces-matted coats and urine burns on their undersides.

"Almost every conceivable type of animal can be a victim of hoarding."

—The Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium

Animal Species Involved in Hoarding Cases

Cats	81.7%
Dogs	54.9%
Birds	16.9%
Small mammals	11.3%
Cattle, sheep, or goats	5.6%
Horses	5.6%
Reptiles	5.6%

Source: "Health Implications of Animal Hoarding," Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium (HARC), *Health & Social Work*, Vol. 27, No. 2, May 2002, pp. 126-7.

"They claim to have a special connection with animals, yet they are totally indifferent to their suffering."

—Dr. Gary Patronek, Tufts University

'Farmed' and Exotic Animals Are Hoarded

The remains of nearly 100 cows, horses, goats, and pigs were reportedly found on the California ranch of Paul Keller in 2004.

Authorities allegedly found 32 exotic animals of at least 11 species languishing in Angela Ancampora's West Virginia mobile home.

After pleading guilty to cruelty charges stemming from his alleged neglect of goats in Vermont, Christopher Weathersbee was accused of taking the same animals to Kentucky and then to Ohio, where authorities reportedly found more than 200 parasite-ridden, ill, and malnourished goats—along with the remains of 80 others—on his property. Presented with a warrant ordering the survivors' rescue, Weathersbee evidently fled with 15 of them to a Jackson County, W.Va., property, from which the goats were said to have been seized by agents and determined to be in urgent need of veterinary care.

Dead and Obviously Sick or Injured Animals

A 1999 study conducted by Dr. Gary Patronek of Tufts University and published in *Public Health Reports* found that animals were found dead or suffering from "obvious disease or injury" in 80 percent of hoarding cases reviewed.

Animals' social needs are equally ignored. Dogs, who are pack animals, are often kept chained or in pens for years, developing antisocial behaviors and often becoming aggressive as a result. Felines deprived of contact with humans can become fearful and skittish, and when allowed to reproduce, their kittens are often feral.

The severity of the physical and emotional neglect that hoarders' animal victims endure is such that, even if they survive and are rescued, their chances of being rehabilitated and adopted are slim to none. For many, euthanasia is the most humane choice.

Hoarders in So-Called 'Rescues' and 'Shelters': Causing, Not Preventing, Misery

HARC reports that "one of the most disturbing trends in animal hoarding cases is that of a person hoarding under the guise of being a legitimate animal shelter, sanctuary, adoption agency, or rescue group." A number of suspected hoarders operating large facilities, even some supported by caring but misinformed members of the public, have been convicted of cruelty to animals. In such settings, as Ronald Ulfohn, D.V.M., states, the purported "savior … becomes the oppressor."

Bona fide animal protection agencies and efforts meet the needs of the animals first and foremost. Hoarding is "not about the animals at all, it's about fulfilling a human need," states Patronek.

Officials should suspect that hoarding behaviors are at play in facilities if any of the following occurs:

- Operators refuse to allow visitors to tour the grounds of their operations.
- Operators refuse to disclose the number of animals in their custody.
- Operators are actively soliciting animals and not merely accepting found or surrendered animals.
- Operators do not refuse to accept any animals, regardless of the population at their facilities.
- A facility's rate of acquiring animals exceeds the rate of placing or euthanizing animals.

Helping or Hurting Animals?

- Missouri's Gloria Sutter pleaded guilty to eight counts of cruelty to animals after investigators reportedly found 198 ill cats and dogs at her Vanovia Animal Sanctuary in 2004. Sutter's reported history of amassing large numbers of animals evidently included the 1984 and 1986 discoveries, respectively, of 524 and 770 animals in poor health at the filthy facility.
- North Carolina officials reported finding hundreds of dogs and cats deprived of proper food, water, shelter, and veterinary treatments at All Creatures Great and Small, a turn-away facility, in 2004. Animals were found tethered outside without shelter or shade, and dogs were kept in airline crates so small that they could not stand up, with no access to food or water.
- Wild animals reportedly died in extremely crowded enclosures after being deprived of veterinary care in California's Stanislaus Wildlife Care Center. Birds were said to have died of starvation and dehydration, and coyote pups suffering from parvo and mange were apparently deprived of food and water for days and kept inside waste-strewn pet carriers. Barn owls, rats, and raptors were allegedly housed in filthy enclosures amid the remains of their cagemates.

Hoarding Cases: Human and Animal Lives in Jeopardy

The Implications of Hoarding for the Defendant, Family, and Community

Though the jeopardy that hoarders place animal lives in is clear, the dangers for the hoarder and other humans involved are also urgent. Every official intervention in these cases must consider, as HARC does, that "animal hoarding has serious consequences for the physical and mental health of hoarders and their families" as well as their neighbors. The same organization concluded in a 2002 paper that "in the majority, if not all, of the cases [examined], there was compelling evidence of self-neglect by the animal hoarder, and when dependent family members were present, neglect of them as well."

Though animal hoarding has yet to be definitively linked to a specific mental

"It's very common that people who [hoard] animals have mental health issues very similar to what a substance abuse addict would undergo."

—Mary Stanton, Misdemeanor Division chief, Lake County (Ill.) State Attorney's Office

Veterinarian Karen Kemper found 10 behavioral parallels between animal hoarders and substance abusers; the following are among them:

- Repetition or cycling of the addictive behavior
- Neglect of personal, physical, and environmental conditions
- Claims of persecution
- Denial that the addiction exists
- Isolation from society, except those who enable the addiction

illness, the hoarding of inanimate objects has long been recognized as symptomatic of psychological disorders. The mental state of hoarders is the root cause of behaviors that compromise their own physical well-being and those of the others involved in hoarding cases. Animal hoarding cases are no exception to that fact.

As mental health experts have learned more about the hoarding of animals, they have proposed models to explain this behavior.

- **Hoarders as "animal addicts":** According to *California Lawyer*'s feature on the prosecution of animal hoarders, "Some psychologists believe that hoarders are actually addicted to their animals, just as substance abusers are addicted to drugs or alcohol" Houston veterinarian Dr. Karen Kemper told the *Houston Chronicle* that hoarders are "like alcoholics" and pointed to 10 behavioral traits that animal hoarders share with substance abusers.
- **Hoarders as suffering from obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) or obsessive-compulsive personality disorder (OCPD):** The fourth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* characterizes the hoarding of inanimate objects as symptomatic of both OCD and OCPD. A 2002 study published in *Health & Social Work* found that "objects, in addition to animals, were hoarded" in all 71 cases examined. Another survey of animal hoarding found that 77.6 percent of inspected premises were described as "heavily cluttered."
- **Hoarders as suffering from dementia:** A 2004 Knight Ridder wire story on animal hoarders reported that HARC believes that dementia is among "a spectrum of psychological disorders" that hoarders may be afflicted with.
- **Hoarders as suffering from focal delusional disorder:** One expert has suggested that animal hoarders' incapability to acknowledge their animals' poor living and physical conditions may stem from this condition.
- **Hoarders as suffering from other disorders, including schizophrenia and Tourette's syndrome:** A University of Iowa neurologist suggested that pathological collecting behavior can be symptomatic of these disorders.

Of course, more than one of the above models—and the illnesses they are tied to—may be at play in any animal hoarding case. Dr. Randall Lockwood states, "These models are not mutually exclusive; several may apply to a single individual."

Regardless of the type of animals or objects that they hoard, all hoarders' behavior compromises the cleanliness of their residence and their physical health. "But the stakes are even higher when animals are involved because of the vastly greater potential for grossly unsanitary conditions to develop," states HARC.

Typically present in concentrated levels in animal hoarders' homes, ammonia—from animals' accumulated urine—is identified as a "high health hazard" by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, "because it is corrosive to the skin, eyes, and lungs." Some experts worry that longtime animal hoarders' acclimatization to ammonia could jeopardize their capacity to smell other dangerous household gases, such as heating or cooking fuels.

The close quarters that hoarders share with many sick animals may facilitate the transmission of disease between the animals and the hoarder. These illnesses—known as zoonotic diseases—include toxoplasmosis and psittacosis, originating in cats and birds, respectively, and sarcoptic mange, which affects many species. Additionally, birds, reptiles, and "farmed" animals may be carriers of salmonellosis. The risk of zoonotic disease sharply spikes when exotic animals are involved.

The danger presented by zoonotic diseases is heightened for those with underdeveloped or compromised immune systems, such as children and dependent adults, especially the elderly. Experts have found that these individuals share residences with animal hoarders in as many as 53 percent of hoarding cases. They also face the health risks associated with high levels of ammonia in a hoarder's household.

Because, as the Fairfax County, Va., Department of Public Works and Environmental Services states, "Animal hoarding poses a serious health hazard to a home's occupants," a number of communities have created interagency task forces to ensure the welfare of all parties involved in hoarding situations. Such forces allow adult and child protective services, animal control authorities, and health departments to work cooperatively and exist in Fairfax County, Va.; New York City; Seattle; and Dane County, Wis.

The fact that a majority of animal hoarding cases—at least 57 percent, according to one study—are brought to authorities' attention by neighbors makes clear that hoarding is a community issue. Neighbors' complaints often cite the unsanitary conditions, odors, noise (e.g., barking), and rodent and insect populations associated with animal hoarding. Hoarders' tendencies to live in filth and violate health codes frequently result in the condemning of their properties as unfit for habitation. Community members whose physical well-being and patience have been taxed by a hoarder's behavior for years may be left living next to an uninhabited structure and an accumulation of junk.

Hoarding Affects Humans in the Home

Six children were removed from a filthy Virginia home that they were sharing with their parents and at least 16 cats and dogs in 2004, according to news sources.

A Fate Worse Than Death

An animal hoarder's behavior translates into filthy, cramped, extremely crowded conditions for many animals, who are deprived—for years, in many cases—of basic needs such as sustenance, shelter, socialization, and veterinary care for their illnesses and injuries. These crimes are almost always fatal for the animals. If they do not die at the scene, most are made so ill or "unadoptable"—having gone mad from confinement and deprivation of minimum care—that the most humane option for them is euthanasia. Many animals who go undiscovered by authorities languish for months, even years, on hoarders' properties, dying slow and agonizing deaths—a far worse fate than euthanasia administered by caring shelter workers.

Recidivism Among Animal Hoarders

According to Dr. Gail Steketee of Boston University's School of Social Work, the relapse rate for animal hoarders is near 100 percent. This fact exacerbates all that is at stake in hoarding cases—for the hoarders' physical and mental welfare, that of their dependents, the animals, and the community—and must dictate the form and promptness of every official response to such cases, especially the sentencing of hoarders convicted of cruelty to animals.

An inadequate sentence for convicted animal hoarders—or one that is not enforced via regular official visits to ensure compliance—virtually guarantees a hoarder's return to his or her ways, along with the disastrous consequences for humans and animals. "The old adage," says Patronek, is that hoarders "have another cat by the time they're home from the courthouse" after being sentenced. In 1999, Patronek found that nearly 60 percent of a sampling of animal hoarding cases that he reviewed involved recidivism.

Inhumane Deaths

Edward Mattison of Cochecton, N.Y., was charged after authorities allegedly found 47 dogs at his unlicensed "shelter." Sources indicated that the animals—11 of whom had to be euthanized because of their dire condition—included emaciated and sore-covered dogs who, deprived of food, had taken to eating the frozen remains of 10 dogs found wrapped in plastic bags.

St. Croix Falls, Wis., residents Dorothy Weinhardt and Jean and Wayne Bloomquist were charged after authorities reported the discovery of 397 cats—some dead, others missing eyes and covered in open sores—inside their shared, feces-strewn residence in November 2004. All the surviving animals were reportedly euthanized.

Marlene Kess, of East Orange, N.J., was charged after authorities reported finding 38 sick cats languishing inside her home and the maggot-covered remains of some 210 additional cats behind her home.

Hoarders Typically Have a History of Such Behavior

As many as 100 emaciated animals were found on Juliana Bennett-Blue's New York farm in 2004. Her reported criminal history included several convictions on cruelty charges and a 1994 arrest following the reported seizure of 148 animals from the same property.

Dr. Janis Walder's feces-ridden Louisiana property reportedly housed 170 animals of three different species in 2004. Six years earlier, officials allegedly removed 121 neglected animals from the same property.

"It is far better and less costly to make early interventions that get [hoarders] the help they need than to let the problem grow and grow for years."

—The Honorable Karen Olson, district attorney, Polk County, Wis.

Your Response: Ensuring the Lasting Welfare of All Involved

As already outlined, animal hoarders' proclivity for engaging in such behavior again and again makes an appropriate response from the judicial system vital. Hoarders who have been cited or charged and brought before the court may have lengthy histories of ignoring attempts at education and intervention, if not prior convictions. Regardless, a prosecutor and judge's shared duty—to the hoarder, his or her dependents, the community, and the animals—is to secure a solution in the best interests of those parties. The proper adjudication of animal hoarders is an investment in those parties, and anything less virtually guarantees more illness, complaints, suffering, and death.

Animal hoarding cases are complex matters that cannot be solved with slaps on the wrist. "Take a [hoarder's] animals away without any other interventions," wrote Geoffrey Handy in *Shelter Sense*, published by The Humane Society of the United States for animal care and control officers, "and he or she will likely accumulate the same number of animals within a short period of time. … A one-time rescue or a prosecution and a fine are rarely, if ever, permanent solutions."

Implementing and Enforcing a Ban on the Hoarder's Contact With Animals

The likelihood of repeat offenses among all cruelty offenders—animal abusers, neglectors, and fighters included—demands that they be barred from contact with animals for at least as long as the law specifically allows. Given the close to 100 percent relapse rate of hoarders, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges must ensure that a lengthy ban is ordered for such individuals and that compliance is monitored.

A prohibition on all contact with animals includes the following:

- Animals whose conditions were the basis of official intervention. They must not be returned to the hoarder's custody.
- All animals who remain in a hoarder's charge following an agreement with authorities or a plea or conviction. They must be seized.
- Hoarders cannot be allowed to own or harbor in any fashion any animals for a period of time. A lifetime ban on ownership is explicitly allowed by statutes in some states.

When adjudicating an animal-hoarding case, the most helpful behavioral model of

"These people are animal addicts."

—Karen Kemper, D.V.M.

"Once their animals are taken away, many animal hoarders simply start replacing them until they again come to the attention of the legal system."

—*The Washington Post*, Dec. 12, 2000

hoarding to consider may be that of such individuals as "animal addicts." Barring an animal hoarder from owning animals may be as central to such cases as provisions for sobriety and treatment in those of drug and alcohol abusers.

Drawing on Kemper's model, allowing an animal hoarder to own or harbor even a single animal is akin to providing a drink to an alcoholic and warning him or her not to consume a second. Should a hoarder be allowed to own animals, those animals must be spayed or neutered. Samantha Mullen, formerly of the New York State Humane Association, states that giving unaltered animals back to hoarders is "like giving [them] their seed crop." Indeed, one analysis of hoarding cases found that "accidental breeding" was the most common manner by which hoarders accumulated animals.

Barring animal hoarders from contact with animals must also preclude them from performing community service around animals, especially in an animal shelter. A facility likely at capacity with homeless animals facing euthanasia presents a multitude of temptations for an animal hoarder. "Requiring a [hoarder] to work in a shelter for community service," says Susan McDonough, a New York State Police investigator, "is akin to requiring an alcoholic to work as a bartender."

A court-ordered limit or prohibition on owning animals must be enforced with regular, unannounced visits from law enforcement or humane agents. The Humane Society of the United States argues that effective court orders authorize officials to "monitor the [hoarder] indefinitely …, including specific provisions for home inspections … to prevent the [hoarder] from starting the collection anew. … Failure to follow up on a court order can have disastrous consequences."

In the face of a limit or ban on their owning animals, some hoarders may move rather than stop hoarding. Efforts must thus be made to stay informed of a hoarder's whereabouts and notify the appropriate law enforcement and humane agencies should a hoarder move to another jurisdiction.

In 2001, Illinois became the first state to specifically address animal hoarding in its statutes. The law defines hoarding as a crime and makes a psychological or psychiatric evaluation and appropriate treatment mandatory for animal hoarders.

Finding and Treating the Root of the Hoarder's Behavior: Psychiatric Intervention

According to the New York State Humane Association, "Unless expert psychiatric help is obtained, hoarders almost invariably return" to their behavior. The proper response to animal hoarders includes ordering that they undergo a psychiatric or psychological evaluation and any subsequent treatment deemed necessary by the examining professional or court. An intervention lacking a mental health component fails to identify or address what causes hoarding and opens the door for relapses.

"We … agree that strict probation conditions, including psychological counseling, are needed to prevent the typical animal hoarder from repeating the offense."

—Terry Spitz, chief assistant district attorney, Monterey County, Calif.

Incarceration for Hoarders: Insufficient on Its Own, Sometimes Necessary

Although incarcerating an animal hoarder without providing for his or her mental health will fail to address the root cause of the problem, imprisonment may be a useful facet of sentences for some hoarders. Holding hoarders in custody may facilitate their access to mental health professionals and thus improve their well-being. Further, jail time may be the only means by which hoarders with a history of violating orders against owning animals or whose compliance with new orders is unlikely can be kept away from their victims. And in some cases, the magnitude and severity of the suffering is such that imprisonment is a vital part of a just punishment.

Jailing Animal Hoarders

Pennsylvania's Debbie Jarvis was sentenced to more than three years in jail after authorities found dozens of dead dogs and 20 surviving ones in her feces-strewn home. Jarvis had apparently posed as an animal rescuer.

Karen McCann, of Indiana, was sent to prison for nearly three years after repeatedly owning animals in violation of her probation. Her three grandchildren and 27 cats had been found in her urine-soaked home.

Merry Bane, of Arizona, was sentenced to six months in jail after she pleaded guilty to charges stemming from authorities' reported discovery of 121 diseased and malnourished cats, dogs, and birds caged inside mobile homes on her property.

New Jersey's Kelly Long was sentenced to five months in jail after repeatedly owning animals in violation of two court orders not to have contact with them. After being granted early release, Long was again found with animals in violation of her probation and was jailed for more than three additional months.

Model Sentences for Hoarders

A lifelong ban on contact with animals enforced by property inspections:
New Jersey's John Mariner left nearly 50 malnourished and parasite-ridden dogs to languish inside his house and a feces-filled pen.

A lifelong ban on owning animals:
Barry Kennedy of Maine was found with 24 dead animals and more than 200 survivors of at least 11 different species languishing in conditions a judge called "atrocious."

A lifelong ban on owning animals:
William Walsh pleaded guilty to cruelty to animals after authorities found 65 sick and dehydrated animals in his filthy Illinois home.

A lifelong ban on owning animals:
Utah's Sydney McDonald had 59 sick cats in her trailer. Most of the animals were euthanized.

A four-year ban on contact with animals and 90 days in jail:
Nearly 100 cats and the rotting remains of others were found in Larry Schaff's filthy Georgia mobile home.

A two-year ban on owning animals:
At least 67 cats and dogs were removed from Victoria Lovvorn's Oregon home after six months of officials' failed attempts to resolve complaints of odor, noise, and disease-ridden conditions.