

The Honorable Judge John Doe
Address
City, State, Zip

Date

Dear Judge John Doe:

RE: Winnebago County Case Number 2011CF000272, State of Wisconsin vs. Bryan I. Hutcherson

RE: Winnebago County case Number 2011CF000308, State of Wisconsin vs. Samantha Braatz

I am writing this letter because I am disgusted by the treatment these individuals gave to two dogs - Snoop and Diamond. It is a disgrace that anyone could treat a creature in this manner. These people purchased these dogs. They made a conscious effort to take on the responsibility of being a caring owner. Then neglected to feed these poor creatures to a point where one starved to death and the other was seriously emaciated.

I am respectfully asking you to consider all the factors in this case. Please set a precedent for the future in animal cruelty cases. This is an opportunity for you to make a pivotal decision that could change history. Send the message that this type of behavior will not be tolerated. This was not accidental. It was an intentional act that occurred over a period of time. These people looked at their dog - Snoop in a cage every day and could see that he was slowly dying, yet did nothing. They lived, had Facebook pages, played x-box games, ate, and slept around a caged, starving and dying dog.

Every pet owner is aware that animals need water and food for survival. It takes longer than a few days for an animal to reach the point of emaciation that these dogs were found. The fact that he watched and did nothing is unforgiving. Additionally his girlfriend, Samantha Braatz, acted in the same manner. I understand that she is pregnant. What an incredibly scary thought considering how they have both shown their responsibility towards another living creature. Bryan clearly stated: "he quit feeding the dog because it was too expensive and too stressful." The responsibility of a child is even more so.

A little historical data on notorious serial killers linked to animal abuse or who have also been known to torture animals in the United States:

As a child, serial killer and rapist Ted Bundy—ultimately convicted of two killings but suspected of murdering more than 40 women—witnessed his father's violence toward animals, and he himself subsequently tortured animals.

Earl Kenneth Shriner, who raped and stabbed a 7-year-old boy, was known in his neighborhood for hanging cats and torturing dogs.

David Berkowitz (a.k.a. “Son of Sam”), who pleaded guilty to 13 murder and attempted murder charges, shot a neighbor’s Labrador retriever.

Brenda Spencer, who opened fire at a California school, killing two children and injuring nine others, had repeatedly abused cats and dogs, often setting their tails on fire.

Serial killer and cannibal Jeffrey Dahmer impaled the heads of dogs and cats on sticks.

I would like to include in this information - some statistics:

Who commits animal cruelty? The Humane Society of the United States analyzed animal cruelty cases and issued reports in 2001, 2002 and 2003, and found that:

- Males are more likely than females to subject animals to fighting contests and to commit direct, physical acts of animal cruelty;
- Females have a higher percentage of involvement than males in animal hoarding cases;
- Animal neglect cases are more evenly split among the genders, although males are still more likely to be culprits than females.

An abundance of research reveals a close link between violent behavior toward animals and violent behavior toward people.

These studies show the connections between the abuse of defenseless animals and two of our most defenseless human populations: children and the elderly.

They also show how childhood acts of animal cruelty can indicate future violent behavior.

Childhood Deviance

- Children who are cruel to animals exhibit more severe conduct disorder problems than other children.
- Childhood acts of animal abuse are one of the earliest indicators for a diagnosis of conduct disorder, often beginning as young as age six.
- Of children entering shelters for battered women, 13 percent reported that they had hurt pets, and 7.9 percent said they had hurt *or killed* animals.

Child Abuse

- Children often intervene to protect their mothers and pets from being battered, and some children can even allow themselves to be victimized to save a pet from being harmed or killed.
- A New Jersey study found that animal abuse occurred in 88 percent of homes being investigated for physical child abuse. In one-third of the families, the children had abused the animals.

Elder Abuse

- Forty-five percent of adult protective services caseworkers have encountered intentional animal abuse or neglect.
- Thirty-five percent of adult protective services caseworkers report that their clients talk about pets being threatened, injured, killed or denied care.

An abundance of research shows the close link between violent behavior toward animals and violent behavior toward people.

The studies on this page focus on the extraordinary prevalence of animal cruelty in homes afflicted by domestic violence.

They reveal the insidious and calculated motives for harming or killing another person's beloved pet, and the heartrending repercussions for the abused partners, their pets and their children.

- Up to 75 percent of domestic violence victims report that their partners threatened or killed family pets.
- In Wisconsin, 68 percent of battered women with pets reported that their animals had also been abused. Of these incidents, 75 percent occurred in the presence of children.
- Women seeking safety at domestic violence shelters are nearly 11 times more likely to report that their partner has hurt or killed pets than women who have not experienced domestic violence.
- Between 18 percent and 48 percent of battered women delay leaving abusive situations out of fear for the safety of their animals.

The world is counting on you to make an example of these people, Bryan Hutcherson and Samantha Braatz so that others will be aware of the consequences before they make a decision to treat another animal this way. Domestic animals, such as dogs and cats, are not meant to be tortured or abused. Please don't let us down.

Thank you,

[Your Signature]

[Your Name]

[Your Address][Your City, State, Zip]

[Your Telephone Number]

[Your Email Address]