



No Emotional-Distress Claim for Seeing Pet Killed

By Michael Booth - New Jersey Law Journal

July 31, 2012. New Jersey's highest court has refused to recognize an emotional-distress cause of action for witnessing the grisly death of a pet, no matter how dear to the owner.

"Although we recognize that many people form close bonds with their pets, we conclude that those bonds do not rise to the level of close familial relationship or intimate, marital-type bond," the Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday in *McDougall v. Lamm*, A-99-10.

The unanimous court refused to expand to pets the doctrine of *Portee v. Jaffee*, 84 N.J. 88 (1980), which allows a suit for emotional distress by one who witnesses the death of a family member.

Though the doctrine has been broadened to include intimate acquaintances, such as cohabiting friends, the court on Tuesday drew the line at interspecies relationships, lest there be created an "ill-defined and amorphous cause of action that would elevate the loss of pets to a status that exceeds the loss of all but a few human beings."

Justice Helen Hoens observed that "not even all humans are engaged in a relationship that is sufficiently close to support such an award."

Source: New Jersey Law Journal <http://www.law.com/jsp/nj/PubArticleNJ.jsp?id=1202565559130> (free subscription required)

Cats and canine parvovirus

[Clegg SR, Coyne KP, Dawson S, et al. Canine parvovirus in asymptomatic feline carriers. Vet Microbiol 2012;157:78-85.](#)

Parvoviruses are important pathogens of dogs and cats, and have a high mutation rate. The canine strains that have emerged in recent years have the ability to infect and cause disease in cats as well as dogs. These investigators looked at the numbers of healthy cats in rescue shelters that harbor canine parvovirus in their feces. In fact, CPV was found in one-third of cats in a cat-only rescue shelter and a mixed rescue shelter. Interestingly, no feline parvovirus was found in these cats. Also interesting was the fact that none of the cats were clinically ill. This indicates that normal cats could potentially be shedding canine parvovirus and may be a potential source for dogs in the same environment. [MK]

See also: Battilani M, Balboni A, Ustulin M, et al. Genetic complexity and multiple infections with more Parvovirus species in naturally infected cats. *Vet Res* 2011;42:43. [[free, full text article](#)]

Source: Winn Feline Foundation

Revealing More About FIP

Posted: 09 Jul 2012 03:00 AM PDT

[Pedersen NC, Liu H, Scarlett J, et al. Feline infectious peritonitis: Role of the feline coronavirus 3c gene in intestinal tropism and pathogenicity based upon isolates from resident and adopted shelter cats. *Virus Research* 2012;165:17-28.](#)

Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is a complex disease involving a mutant coronavirus. The specific mutation that occurs allowing this normally innocuous virus to cause a fatal disease remains unclear. A particular virus protein, the 3c protein, has been investigated as a possible viral mutational site contributing to disease development. These investigators found that this protein appears to be involved with the ability of the virus to replicate in the intestines. Mutations in the gene for this protein lead to the virus being unable to replicate in the intestinal tract and thus unable to be shed in feces. More than half of the FIP viruses they analyzed had a mutation in the 3c gene. This may explain why FIP outbreaks with cat-to-cat transmission of the mutant virus rarely occurs – it is simply no longer shed in feces once this mutation occurs. While we still don't know what makes the FIP virus so nasty, we have gained a better understanding of its strange epidemiology. [MK]

See also: [Brown MA. Genetic determinants of pathogenesis by feline infectious peritonitis virus. *Vet Immunol Immunopathol* 2011;143:265-268.](#)

Source: Winn Feline Foundation

How Canines Detect Low Blood Sugar

Eli Lilly searching for canine clues to sniffing out diabetic attacks

What does a dog's nose know about low blood-sugar attacks in humans?

Eli Lilly and Co. has launched a study to try to find out.

The Indianapolis drug maker is working with the Indiana Canine Assistant Network to understand how hypoglycemia-alert dogs sense severe low-blood-sugar swings in diabetics.

Although dogs have been used for years to warn diabetics of low-blood-sugar attacks, it's unknown how the dogs do it, other than using their ultra-acute noses. Their noses are up to 1,000 times more sensitive than a human's.

Lilly, a leading producer of insulin and other diabetes treatments, says its scientists will investigate whether dogs might be detecting subtle changes in body chemistry that are linked to a drop in blood sugar.

“Clearly there's a need to ‘scientize’ this whole thing,” said Dr. Dana Hardin, a medical director and pediatric endocrinologist at Lilly who is heading the study.

“We know it's the sense of smell, but what on earth is it? We are determined to find the ‘what.’”

Lilly is using a group of newly trained dogs to test how reliably they can sense hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar, in multiple samples in a laboratory setting. Later research will look at what the dogs sense in the samples and how diabetic patients' lives are affected by having an alert dog.

By this time next year, Hardin said, the study might be divulging clues to allow Lilly to identify the organic compound that is twitching the noses of diabetes-alert dogs. *Source: Indy Star*

Economy is Hard on Horses Too

In New Mexico and elsewhere, officials report more neglect, abuse and abandonment as feed costs rise and owners struggle to make ends meet.

By Michael Haederle / Los Angeles Times

July 17, 2012 5:00 a.m. ALBUQUERQUE — The Walkin' N Circles Ranch, an Edgewood, N.M., equine rescue sanctuary, was staging an "adopt-a-thon" on a recent Saturday when the event was interrupted by the arrival of state livestock inspectors bringing in three malnourished horses.

"The horses had been dumped out on the highway," recalled Charles Graham, the sanctuary's executive director, adding that it wasn't an isolated incident. Starved, abused and abandoned horses have shown up in increasing numbers at the ranch, currently home to more than 90 animals, 50% more than its usual population.

Across New Mexico, officials say, hungry horses are being turned loose on public and tribal land or left by the side of the road. Others languish out of sight in backyard stalls, like the six emaciated horses Albuquerque police discovered in June when they answered an unrelated call at an auto salvage business.

Lingering drought has sharply boosted hay prices in an already weak economy, driving an uptick in neglect and abuse cases being investigated by the New Mexico Livestock Board, said Myles Culbertson, the agency's executive director. Inspectors handled about 140 investigations in the just-ended fiscal year, compared with 90 the previous year, he said. "We've seen a gradual increase for quite a while," Culbertson said. "Each year we have more animal cruelty investigations."

People too often buy horses without appreciating the needs of a large creature that can live for 30 years or more, Culbertson said. Feed, grooming and veterinary care for a horse ranges from \$2,300 to \$3,000 a year. In many households, he said, if someone loses a job or sees a wage reduction, something has to give — and the horse often winds up on the losing end. *Read more: LA Times <http://tinyurl.com/9ea6jf8>*

Mercy For Animals Targets Wal-Mart

July 18, 2012. KATV.com. The animal rights organization Mercy for Animals (MFA) released disturbing undercover footage of pigs raised at a Christiansen Farms in Minnesota as part of a campaign to stop suppliers from buying pork or pork products that have come from pig farms that use gestation crates. The campaign underscores the power activists have to pressure companies to stop using what MFA believes are inhumane suppliers. The video was used to get Wal-Mart Stores Inc. (WMT) to cut ties with Christiansen Farms.

A Walmart spokesperson says they are looking into the issue but that right now they prefer to give their customers the option of whether or not to buy gestation crate pork. In a written statement, she said:

"We will not tolerate animal mistreatment by our suppliers. As soon as we were made aware of the video, we immediately reached out to our suppliers who source from this farm. If we determine that there was mistreatment, we will take action.

"We currently offer gestation crate-free pork products in a number of stores across the U.S.

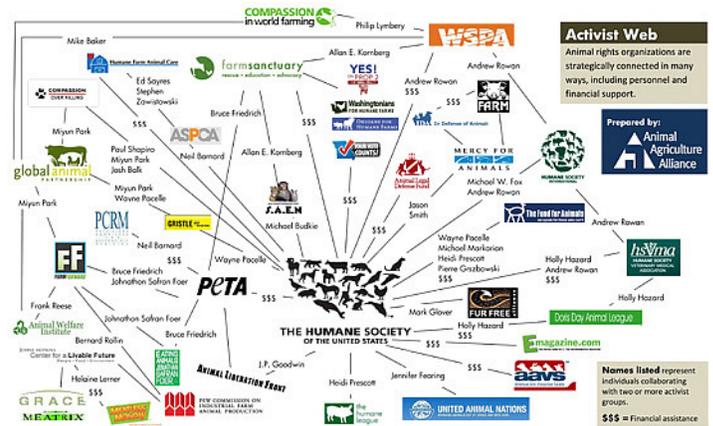
"We have been having and will continue on-going discussions with our suppliers, NGOs and food safety experts to find ways to increase that number.

"We believe in offering our customers a choice."

Activist Map from Animal Agriculture Alliance

Radical activist organizations are leading the fight to grant animals the same legal rights as humans. The ideology of the animal rights movement- that animals are not ours to own, enjoy, or use in any way- is a direct assault on farmers and pet owners. Activists often hide their true agenda in order to gain the support of unknowing pet lovers.

Animal rights organizations are strategically connected in many ways, including personnel and financial support. Animal Ag Alliance has developed an map of the activist and group connections. To access a printable version (11 X 14) of the above map: <http://tinyurl.com/9apxu34>



Pig Model May Be Useful for Human Cancer Studies

A naturally occurring line of immunodeficient pigs can support the growth of human tumors injected under their skin, offering a promising new large animal model for studying human cancers and testing new drugs and treatment strategies.

The ability of human melanoma cells and pancreatic carcinoma cells to grow in these pig models is described in an article in *BioResearch Open Access*, a new bimonthly peer-reviewed open access journal from Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. The article is available free online at the [BioResearch Open Access](http://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/000000) website.

Mathew Basel and colleagues, Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS) and Iowa State University (Ames), highlight the advantages that pig disease models offer, as they are anatomically and physiologically more closely related to humans than traditional rodent animal models. As a result, findings from studies in large animal models such as pigs are more likely to translate into similar outcomes in humans. The authors present their findings in the article "[Human Xenografts Are Not Rejected in a Naturally Occurring Immunodeficient Porcine Line: A Human Tumor Model in Pigs.](#)"

"This novel animal model has the potential to become a highly useful model in cancer research studies, in addition to providing significant opportunities for drug discovery and other translational applications," says Editor-in-Chief Jane Taylor, PhD, MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, University of Edinburgh, Scotland. *Source: Health News*

North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (NCRAOA) is a statewide organization of animal owners and professionals dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of responsible citizens to breed and own animals. NCRAOA, a 501(c)3 organization, provides education and information to the public and supports reasonable and humane animal welfare laws. Permission granted to copy and distribute NCRAOA News and Views in its entirety as is.

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