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Research Note 5  
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## Protecting Animals, Protecting People: The case for tougher sentencing for animal cruelty

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(Foreword by Ranil Jayawardena MP)

### Executive Summary

The 18<sup>th</sup> Century philosopher Immanuel Kant observed: “He who is cruel to animals becomes hard also in his dealings with men. We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.”

Kant lacked access to modern British crime data. But as this report shows, the data strongly support his view. Those convicted of cruelty to animals in recent years had in the vast majority of cases already been convicted of other offences. They went on to commit thousands of crimes, including robbery, theft, the rape and neglect of children, and murder.

Despite the seriousness of animal cruelty offences and the evidence of strong links to other crimes, serious penalties are vanishingly rare, with more than 92% of those found guilty avoiding prison.

Among those given a fine or a suspended sentence rather than prison were criminals who starved a dog to death, strangled a cat and threw it in the bin, filmed themselves throwing a bulldog down the stairs so many times that she had to be put down, beat a cat to death, set a puppy on fire, chained an elephant to the floor and beat her, starved a snake to death, organised caged dog fights, swallowed a live goldfish, put a cat in a tumble dryer, killed a rabbit and took the body to bed, decapitated snakes to eat their

heads, and lured a Richmond Park duck with bread and then snapped its neck in full view of horrified passers-by.

*This report reveals:*

### **Those guilty of animal cruelty go on to commit a huge number of other offences**

In the decade ending in 2015, **13,835** offences were committed by those with a previous conviction or caution for animal cruelty offences. This includes:

- **1,437** violent offences - **16** of them murders
- **202** sexual offences, including:
  - **19** rapes of a female under 16
  - **8** rapes of a child under 13; and
  - **26** cases of sexual assault on a female under 13.
- There were **97** cases of cruelty to children, or neglect, by those who had previously been cruel to animals.
- Those who had been cruel to animals also went on to commit **175** robberies and **5,557** thefts.

### **Animal cruelty is also overwhelmingly committed by people already found guilty of previous offences**

Three out of four (**73%**) criminals convicted of animal cruelty offences already had at least one previous conviction or caution. Half (**48%**) had at least 4 previous convictions or cautions. One in four (**28%**) had at least 10 previous convictions or cautions.

### **Prison is very rare - and other punishments are getting more lenient**

Since 2005, 12 in every 13 people convicted or cautioned for cruelty to animals avoided prison. Of the **13,862** criminals convicted or cautioned, only **1,063 (7.7%)** received a prison sentence. Fewer than **3%** of women convicted of animal cruelty went to prison, compared to **11%** of men.

The number of prison sentences for animal cruelty that were fully suspended – in other words, involving no time behind bars - rose **16-fold** in the same period, from **10** in 2005 to **160** in 2016. This represents an increase from **14%** of prison sentences for animal cruelty being suspended to **66%** being suspended.

A quarter of all animal cruelty cases (**24%**) are punished with just a fine. The size of these fines has also halved over the past decade. The average fine fell from **£479** in 2005 (**£577** in 2016 prices) to just **£296** by 2016. This represents a **38%** drop, or a **49%** reduction after inflation is taken into account.

## Regional variation

The proportion of animal cruelty cases resulting in a prison sentence varies greatly by criminal justice area, from **28%** in Cumbria to under **2%** in Surrey. By contrast, 47% of animal cruelty cases in Surrey resulted in a community sentence, and 26% in a fine.

This table shows the percentage of animal cruelty cases punished by prison by criminal justice area. See the Appendix for full breakdowns by area for conditional discharges, fines, community sentences, suspended sentences and prison.

Criminal justice area	Total convictions for animal cruelty (2011-2016)	Prison/Young Offender Institution	% prison/young offender institution
Surrey	70	1	1.4%
Durham	234	7	3.0%
Warwickshire	30	1	3.3%
Sussex	126	5	4.0%
Hampshire	202	9	4.5%
Cambridgeshire	65	3	4.6%
Hertfordshire	106	5	4.7%
Kent	266	13	4.9%
Northumbria	250	13	5.2%
Lincolnshire	115	6	5.2%
Lancashire	224	13	5.8%
London	477	28	5.9%
West Yorkshire	489	29	5.9%
Norfolk	136	8	5.9%
Humberside	319	19	6.0%
Bedfordshire	80	5	6.3%
North Yorkshire	179	12	6.7%
Leicestershire	73	5	6.8%
Nottinghamshire	131	9	6.9%
Thames Valley	176	13	7.4%
Essex	160	12	7.5%
South Yorkshire	207	16	7.7%
Devon and Cornwall	128	10	7.8%
Suffolk	60	5	8.3%
Cleveland	294	30	10.2%
Greater Manchester	357	38	10.6%
West Midlands	407	48	11.8%
West Mercia	82	10	12.2%
Cheshire	129	18	14.0%
Merseyside	222	32	14.4%
Staffordshire	101	17	16.8%
Derbyshire	160	30	18.8%
Northamptonshire	106	20	18.9%
Cumbria	89	25	28.1%

## Recommendations

It is clear that the sentencing of Animal Cruelty cases is long overdue an overhaul. The current maximum sentence of six months is the lowest in Europe. The link between animal cruelty cases and other violent offences indicates that stronger sentences are needed.

1. We therefore recommend, as the RSPCA has already argued, that the maximum sentence for animal cruelty in England and Wales should be brought in line with Northern Ireland, and increased from six months to five years in prison.
2. We also recommend that the Government should review the sentencing guidelines for all Animal Cruelty offences to stiffen penalties across the board. This review should consider the creation of new offences or recognise the differing degrees of severity in current offences with a sliding scale of maximum sentences.
3. We recommend that the Government considers the introduction of minimum sentences both for particularly severe crimes and the number of times an individual has committed animal cruelty offences.
4. Last year the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee called for greater involvement of the Crown Prosecution Service in Animal Cruelty prosecutions. We would endorse that recommendation and suggest it should particularly be applied in cases where the suspect has previous convictions.
5. We recommend that a Register of Animal Cruelty Offenders is created, along the lines of the current sex offenders register. This would allow the better monitoring of repeat offenders and aid the enforcement of banning orders.

To discuss the research or arrange broadcast interviews, please contact:

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## **Foreword by Ranil Jayawardena MP**

Animals—especially our pets—have a special place in British society and in the hearts of British people. Deliberately causing pain, suffering or death to pets is wholly abhorrent. Those who do so are, quite simply, bad people, with bad intentions.

We do, however, have a robust legal framework to tackle this vicious behaviour—in the form of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Such a firm response is good. It's good that the Act provides for an unlimited fine and imprisonment of six months for the offence of causing unnecessary suffering to any animal. It's good the Act also enables courts to ban those convicted of animal abuse from keeping an animal in the future. It's good that anyone who breaches a disqualification order can be prosecuted further also.

The law—and the penalties for breaking it—were reviewed by the House of Commons Committee for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2012. At that time, the Committee did not recommend increasing the maximum sentencing available to the courts. To my mind, that was wrong. I am pleased to say that, to send a stronger signal, HM Government has now abolished the previous cap on fines that can be imposed in response to animal abuse. Further, the Ministry of Justice is now looking at whether to do more to crack down on perpetrators and impose harsher penalties also.

It is only right that the courts should decide what the penalty should be for each individual case, taking into account its circumstances and the guidelines laid down by the Sentencing Council. The factors that should determine whether a more serious offence has been committed were clarified in a recent public consultation into sentencing guidelines. The problem is that bad people are still getting away with it; this is unacceptable.

There's the bigger problem also: as this new report by the Centre for Crime Prevention establishes, there is a strong link between animal abuse offences and other crimes. I am shocked at the number of animal abuse offenders who are either repeat offenders, or who have been convicted of other, often violent, offences. It is staggering. These are not only bad people, they are very dangerous. We must do more.

I hope that this report will provoke thoughtful debate about animal cruelty sentencing. I hope that HM Government will consider the reasoned and well-argued recommendations in this report very carefully. We must make sure that, in future, animal cruelty offenders receive the most appropriate punishments for their crimes.

**Ranil Jayawardena MP (Conservative, North East Hampshire)**

**Member of the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee 2015-2017**

## Punishments for animal cruelty

Animal cruelty is just one example of the underuse of prison for serious offences. But it is one of the most striking.

Every year, the vast majority of people convicted of animal cruelty – more than 90% since 2005 – have avoided prison despite inflicting death and suffering on defenceless animals and household pets. The few who went to prison went for only a matter of weeks. Recent examples include:

- A Liverpool woman who received a £300 fine and a suspended sentence - after starving one dog to death and leaving another so hungry after weeks unfed that he chewed on a spoon when rescued.<sup>1</sup>
- A Sussex man who received a suspended sentence for battering a kitten to death.<sup>2</sup>
- A Derbyshire man who received a suspended sentence for strangling a pet cat and throwing the body in the bin.<sup>3</sup>
- A Redcar pair who received suspended sentences after they headbutted, jumped on and threw their bulldog down the stairs, laughing and filming the incident. The bulldog was so badly injured she had to be put to sleep.<sup>4</sup>
- Four thugs in Kent who were banned from keeping animals five years after beating and drugging a puppy for hours, breaking its neck, setting him on fire, dumping him and leaving him for dead.<sup>5</sup>
- A Cornwall youth cautioned for swinging a cat into a wall.<sup>6</sup>
- A Devon man fined for swallowing a live goldfish at a fair, filmed by laughing friends.<sup>7</sup>
- A Cleveland man given a community sentence after killing his three pet rabbits, taking one of the bodies to bed with him.<sup>8</sup>
- A Cheshire circus owner given a conditional discharge for chaining an elephant to the floor and letting her groom beat her.<sup>9</sup>
- A Hartlepool couple who received a suspended sentence for abandoning their pet snake, which starved when they moved house, and also neglecting their dog and cat.<sup>10</sup>
- A Shropshire man given a suspended sentence for letting a dog go without adequate food for weeks until it was rescued in a skeletal condition.<sup>11</sup>
- A Lancashire man fined £270 for putting his wife's cat in a tumble dryer.<sup>12</sup>
- Three Berkshire thugs who received a Youth Injunction for terrorising their village by torturing family pets and firing catapults at cars.<sup>13</sup>
- A Yorkshire mother and son given community orders for neglecting a dog with painful skin and eye conditions.<sup>14</sup>
- A Shropshire woman given a suspended sentence for decapitating two pet snakes and trying to swallow their heads.<sup>15</sup>
- A County Durham couple given suspended sentences for neglecting a sick bulldog so long it had to be put to sleep.<sup>16</sup>
- A Richmond upon Thames man given a suspended sentence for luring a duck with food, snapping its neck and dumping its body in a bin in full view of passers by.<sup>17</sup>

- A Middlesbrough man given repeated suspended sentences for killing a deer, hunting a wild animal with dogs, neglecting two dogs and leaving a bird tethered in a garden among loose dogs.<sup>18</sup>
- A Newcastle woman given a suspended sentence after allowing her dog to die of starvation and neglect.<sup>19</sup>
- A Huddersfield man given a suspended sentence for animal cruelty, assault and criminal damage combined.<sup>20</sup>
- A Middlesbrough man fined £160 for killing a rabbit.<sup>21</sup>
- A London woman given a suspended sentence for neglecting almost fifty dogs and cats, a parrot and a tortoise – keeping them caged without food or water.<sup>22</sup>

### Animal cruelty data

The table below sets over a decade of data from Magistrates' Courts, showing the penalties convictions for animal cruelty normally receive.<sup>23</sup>

	2016	%	2005 - 2016	%
<b>Community Sentence</b>	306	35.8%	4,709	34.0%
<b>Fine</b>	197	23.1%	3,303	23.8%
<b>Conditional Discharge</b>	71	8.3%	2,365	17.1%
<b>Suspended Sentence</b>	160	21.2%	1,578	11.4%
<b>Custodial Sentence</b>	83	9.5%	1,063	7.7%
<b>Caution</b>	16	1.8%	371	2.7%
<b>Otherwise Dealt With</b>	17	2.1%	308	2.2%
<b>Compensation</b>	2	0.2%	117	0.8%
<b>Absolute Discharge</b>	2	0.3%	44	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>854</b>		<b>13,858</b>	
<b>Average Custodial Sentence length (months)</b>	3.4		3.2	
<b>Average Fine</b>	£296		£307	

A community sentence is almost four times as common as prison, accounting for over a third of all cases. A suspended sentence and a fine are each at least twice as common. In total, only 7.7% of cases led to a custodial sentence - a sentence which averaged just over three months.

The average fine in 2016 was only £296. This compares to £479 in 2005<sup>24</sup> (or £577 in 2016 prices, after inflation is taken into account).<sup>25</sup> This represents a 38% drop, or a 49% reduction after inflation is taken into account.

As with many offences,<sup>26</sup> women convicted of animal cruelty offences were even less likely than men to receive a prison sentence. Since 2005, fewer than 3% of women convicted of animal cruelty went to prison, compared to 11% of men.

Year	% of men convicted of animal cruelty who received a prison sentence <sup>27</sup>	% of women convicted of animal cruelty who received a prison sentence <sup>28</sup>
2005	10%	2%
2006	9%	2%
2007	8%	1%
2008	10%	3%
2009	12%	5%
2010	10%	2%
2011	12%	1%
2012	12%	4%
2013	12%	3%
2014	13%	4%
2015	14%	4%
2016	15%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>3%</b>

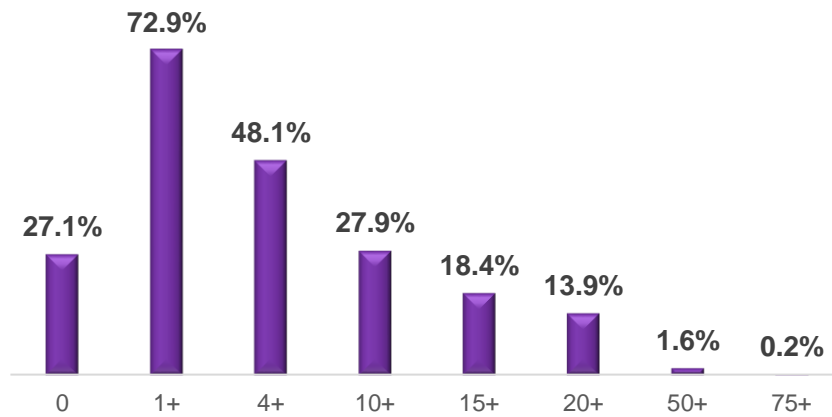
### Other offences committed by those convicted or cautioned for animal cruelty

The data also suggests that those who are cruel to animals are also cruel to people – and vice versa.

Over a three year period, the vast majority of those found guilty of animal cruelty offences had already committed other crimes. Almost three quarters had at least one previous or caution.<sup>29</sup> Around half had four or more previous convictions and more than a quarter had ten or more previous convictions.<sup>30</sup>

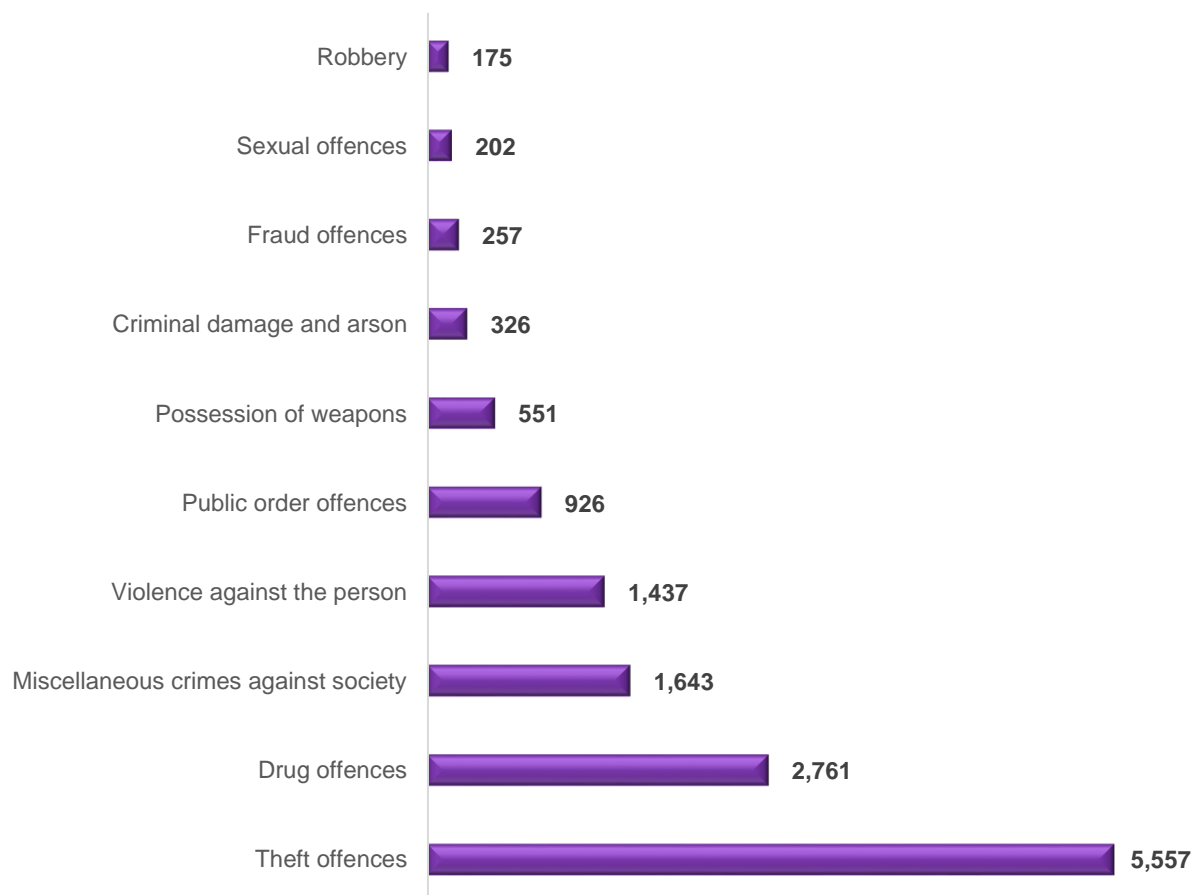


**Number of previous offences of those convicted of animal cruelty (2013 to 2015)**



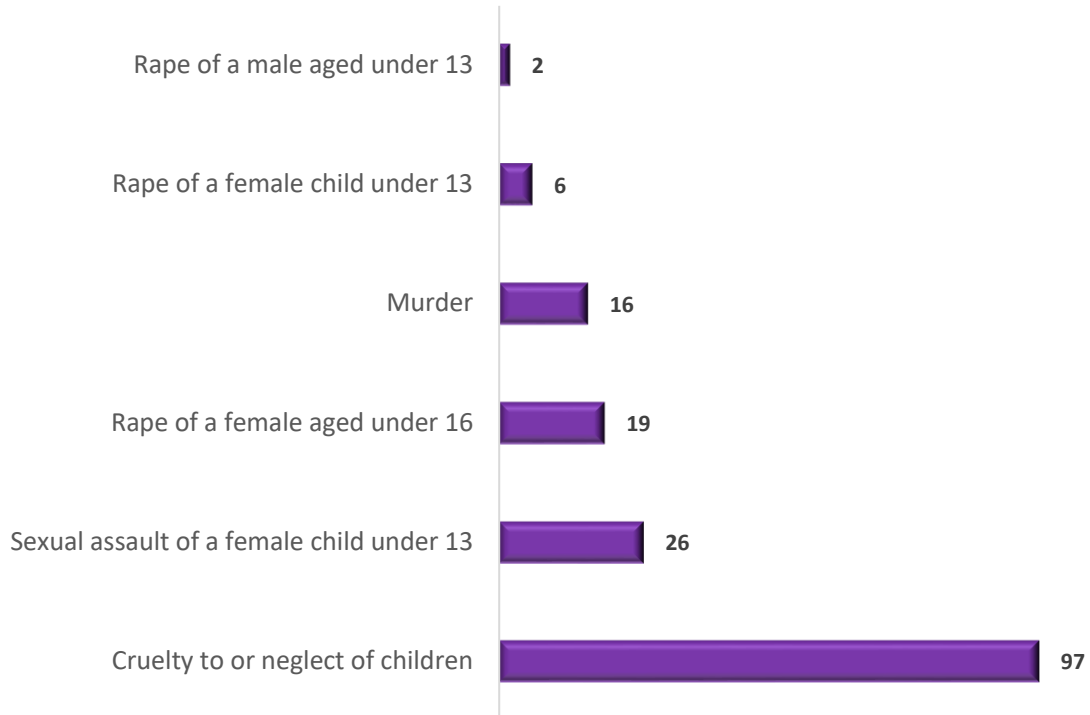
This pattern also works the other way around. Those found guilty of animal cruelty offences since 2006 have gone on to commit thousands of serious offences.<sup>31</sup>

**Number of offenders convicted of each of the following offence types with a previous conviction or caution for animal cruelty (2006 to 2015)**



Among the above offences are the most serious of all crimes.<sup>32</sup>

**Number of offenders convicted of each of the following offences with a previous conviction or caution for animal cruelty (2006 to 2015)**



## Recommendations

It is clear that the sentencing of Animal Cruelty cases is long overdue an overhaul. The current maximum sentence of six months is the lowest in Europe<sup>33</sup> and also lower than the US or Australia, a fact that belies the idea that we are a nation of animal lovers.

But in addition, the link between animal cruelty cases and other violent offences indicates that not only are stronger sentences needed, but smarter sentencing too.

We are therefore putting forward the following recommendations:

1. As the RSPCA has already argued,<sup>34</sup> the maximum sentence for animal cruelty in England and Wales should be brought in line with Northern Ireland, and increased from six months to five years in prison.
2. We also recommend that the Government should review the sentencing guidelines for all Animal Cruelty offences to stiffen penalties across the board.  
This review should consider the creation of new offences or recognise the differing degrees of severity in current offences with a sliding scale of maximum sentences to give magistrates and judges the power to give sentences that reflect the individual crime.
3. We would recommend that the Government considers the introduction of minimum sentences both for particularly severe crimes and the number of times an individual has committed animal cruelty offences.
4. Last year the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee called for greater involvement of the Crown Prosecution Service in Animal Cruelty prosecutions.  
We would endorse that recommendation and suggest it should particularly be applied in cases where the suspect has previous convictions.
5. We recommend that a Register of Animal Cruelty Offenders is created, along the lines of the current sex offenders register. This would allow the better monitoring of repeat offenders and aid the enforcement of banning orders.

**Appendix**

The areas of the country with the most fines for cruelty to animals were:

	<b>Criminal justice area</b>	<b>Fines (2011-2016)<sup>35</sup></b>
1.	Hampshire	36.1%
2.	Northumbria	34.4%
3.	Lancashire	33.5%
4.	Suffolk	33.3%
5.	Leicestershire	32.9%
6.	Thames Valley	30.1%
7.	Warwickshire	30.0%
8.	Lincolnshire	29.6%
9.	Surrey	25.7%
10.	Cambridgeshire	24.6%

The areas of the country with the most community sentences for cruelty to animals were:

	<b>Criminal justice area</b>	<b>Community orders (2011-2016)<sup>36</sup></b>
1.	South Yorkshire	49.8%
2.	West Mercia	47.6%
3.	Surrey	47.1%
4.	London	46.8%
5.	Cambridgeshire	46.2%
6.	West Midlands	42.8%
7.	Humberside	41.1%
8.	Hertfordshire	40.6%
9.	Northamptonshire	40.6%
10.	North Yorkshire	40.2%

The areas of the country with the most suspended sentences for cruelty to animals were:

	<b>Criminal justice area</b>	<b>Suspended sentences (2011-2016)<sup>37</sup></b>
1.	West Midlands	29.0%
2.	Cleveland	28.9%
3.	Essex	26.9%
4.	Humberside	26.0%
5.	Staffordshire	24.8%
6.	Leicestershire	24.7%
7.	Derbyshire	23.8%
8.	Merseyside	23.4%
9.	Warwickshire	20.0%
10.	Nottinghamshire	18.3%

This table shows, for each criminal justice area, the percentage of animal cruelty offences (2011-2016) which resulted in a conditional discharge, a fine, a community sentence, a suspended sentence or prison.

<b>Criminal justice area<sup>38</sup></b>	<b>Conditional Discharge</b>	<b>Fine</b>	<b>Community Sentence</b>	<b>Suspended Sentence</b>	<b>Prison</b>
<b>Surrey</b>	13%	26%	47%	11%	1%
<b>Durham</b>	24%	21%	33%	14%	3%
<b>Warwickshire</b>	3%	30%	40%	20%	3%
<b>Sussex</b>	25%	20%	24%	14%	4%
<b>Hampshire</b>	13%	36%	28%	11%	4%
<b>Cambridgeshire</b>	6%	25%	46%	9%	5%
<b>Hertfordshire</b>	5%	17%	41%	12%	5%
<b>Kent</b>	26%	24%	35%	7%	5%
<b>Northumbria</b>	15%	34%	30%	8%	5%
<b>Lincolnshire</b>	18%	30%	25%	14%	5%

<b>Criminal justice area<sup>38</sup></b>	<b>Conditional Discharge</b>	<b>Fine</b>	<b>Community Sentence</b>	<b>Suspended Sentence</b>	<b>Prison</b>
Lancashire	12%	33%	29%	9%	6%
London	10%	19%	47%	14%	6%
Norfolk	28%	21%	22%	15%	6%
West Yorkshire	21%	22%	39%	6%	6%
Humberside	13%	10%	41%	26%	6%
Bedfordshire	9%	20%	36%	15%	6%
North Yorkshire	13%	21%	40%	14%	7%
Leicestershire	15%	33%	16%	25%	7%
Nottinghamshire	17%	22%	29%	18%	7%
Thames Valley	16%	30%	30%	10%	7%
Essex	5%	19%	34%	27%	8%
South Yorkshire	17%	11%	50%	8%	8%
Devon and Cornwall	23%	17%	27%	15%	8%
Suffolk	13%	33%	27%	8%	8%
Cleveland	4%	12%	38%	29%	10%
Greater Manchester	15%	16%	36%	16%	11%
West Midlands	4%	12%	43%	29%	12%
West Mercia	11%	11%	48%	17%	12%
Cheshire	12%	19%	37%	16%	14%
Merseyside	8%	13%	39%	23%	14%
Staffordshire	11%	19%	28%	25%	17%
Derbyshire	10%	16%	30%	24%	19%
Northamptonshire	10%	14%	41%	11%	19%
Cumbria	1%	15%	34%	9%	28%

- <sup>1</sup> 'Starving dog left so hungry that he chewed on a SPOON when finally fed', Stuart Winter, Daily Express, 6 June 2016, at <http://www.express.co.uk/news/nature/677217/Starving-dog-left-hungry-chewed-spoon-finally-fed>
- <sup>2</sup> 'Sick cat killer batters 11-week-old kitten "Tiny Tim" to death in jealous rage over love wife showed creature', Paul Flack, Daily Mirror, 30 June 2016, at <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/sick-cat-killer-batters-11-8316142>
- <sup>3</sup> 'Mark Booth sentenced for strangling pet cat in Ripley', BBC, 4 February 2014, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-26024608>
- <sup>4</sup> 'Horrific moment laughing thug headbutted his pet bulldog, jumped on it and then threw it down the stairs leaving it so badly injured it had to be put down - but he AVOIDS jail', Mark Duell, MailOnline, 30 March 2016, at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3515263/Horrifying-moment-laughing-thug-headbutted-pet-bulldog-Baby-jumped-threw-stairs.html#ixzz4YWF4Yjpi>
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- <sup>6</sup> 'Dog's face set alight with lighter fuel as police investigate animal cruelty in Cornwall and Devon', Cornish Guardian, 20 March 2016, at <http://www.cornwalllive.com/dog-s-face-set-alight-lighter-fuel-police/story-28958031-detail/story.html>
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- <sup>9</sup> 'The elephant who will never forget your kindness: How Anne the abused circus elephant is a happy old lady at last - thanks to Mail readers' jumbo generosity', Claire Ellicott, Daily Mail, 20 February 2016, at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3455511/The-elephant-never-forget-kindness-Anne-abused-circus-elephant-happy-old-lady-thanks-Mail-readers-jumbo-generosity.html#ixzz4YWQF0aCf>
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- <sup>11</sup> 'Some of Shropshire's most shocking animal cruelty cases', Shropshire Star, 28 July 2016, at <http://www.shropshirestar.com/news/crime/2016/07/28/some-of-shropshires-most-shocking-animal-cruelty-cases/#IfKUtWFhv0QXVRJa.99>
- <sup>12</sup> 'Animal-loving' husband put his wife's cat in the tumble dryer to punish her for leaving him after 30 years of marriage', Alex Matthews, Mail Online, 20 June 2016, at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3650032/Animal-loving-husband-wife-s-cat-tumble-dryer-punish-leaving-30-years-marriage.html#ixzz4YGHN96S7>
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- <sup>15</sup> 'No jail for woman who decapitated snakes with scissors and ate heads', Adam Boulton, Daily Telegraph, 19 August 2016, at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/19/woman-who-decapitated-snakes-with-scissors-and-ate-their-heads-e/>
- <sup>16</sup> 'Is this the worst case of animal cruelty the North East has ever seen?', Gary Welford, Sunderland Echo, 2 December 2015, at <http://www.sunderlandecho.com/news/is-this-the-worst-case-of-animal-cruelty-the-north-east-has-ever-seen-1-7603330>
- <sup>17</sup> 'Richmond Riverside duck killer given suspended jail sentence', Ben Weich, This is Local London, 11 February 2017, at

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[http://www.thisislocalondon.co.uk/news/15085418.Riverside\\_duck\\_killer\\_given\\_suspended\\_jail\\_sentence/](http://www.thisislocalondon.co.uk/news/15085418.Riverside_duck_killer_given_suspended_jail_sentence/)

<sup>18</sup> 'Hemlington Cowboy' John Ginty avoids jail again - after admitting killing a deer', Mike Brown, GazetteLive, 22 January 2016, at <http://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teesside-news/hemlington-cowboy-john-ginty-avoids-10776501>

<sup>19</sup> 'Walker dog owner left her bull terrier to starve to death in an act of cruelty deemed the worst in 30 years', Hannah Flint, ChronicleLive, 24 September 2014, at <http://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/walker-dog-owner-left-bull-7822811>

<sup>20</sup> 'Court briefs: Threatening behaviour, assault and other cases from Kirklees and Calderdale Magistrates Courts', Andrew Hirst, Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 31 March 2016, at <http://www.examiner.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/court-briefs-threatening-behaviour-assault-11115671>

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<sup>22</sup> 'Pensioner who kept 50 cats, 4 dogs, parrot and tortoise in filthy Crouch Hill home spared jail', Sam Gelder, Islington Gazette, 24 October 2016, at <http://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/news/crime-court/pensioner-who-kept-50-cats-4-dogs-parrot-and-tortoise-in-filthy-crouch-hill-home-spared-jail-1-4748293>

<sup>23</sup> Magistrates' court data tool, Criminal justice system statistics quarterly: December 2015, Ministry of Justice, 19 May 2016, at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/524338/magistrates-court-data-tool.xlsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/524338/magistrates-court-data-tool.xlsx)

<sup>24</sup> Ibid

<sup>25</sup> 2015 prices calculated using GDP deflator at 'GDP deflators at market prices, and money GDP: June 2016 (Quarterly National Accounts)', HM Treasury, 1 July 2016, at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/533917/GDP\\_Deflators\\_Qtrly\\_National\\_Accounts\\_June\\_2016\\_update.csv/preview](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/533917/GDP_Deflators_Qtrly_National_Accounts_June_2016_update.csv/preview)

<sup>26</sup> 'Sentencing for prolific criminals – the underuse of prison', Peter Cuthbertson, Centre for Crime Prevention, 10 January 2014, pp.6-8, at <http://www.centreforcrimeprevention.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Sentencing-for-prolific-criminals-the-underuse-of-prison.pdf>

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<sup>28</sup> Ibid

<sup>29</sup> Freedom of Information Request #107043, Ministry of Justice, 3 February 2017

<sup>30</sup> Ibid

<sup>31</sup> Ibid

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<sup>33</sup> 'Charity campaigns for tougher sentences for animal cruelty', BMJ Journals, 24 February 2017, at <http://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/180/8/187.2>

<sup>34</sup> 'Charities: Increase animal cruelty prison sentence to five years', ITV News, 20 February 2017, at <http://www.itv.com/news/2017-02-20/charities-increase-animal-cruelty-prison-sentence-to-five-years/>

<sup>35</sup> Courts by criminal justice area (CSV), Criminal justice system statistics quarterly: December 2016, Ministry of Justice, 18 May 2017, 'courtscja.csv', at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/614434/courts-by-criminal-justice-area-2016.zip](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/614434/courts-by-criminal-justice-area-2016.zip). This data covers all of England's criminal justice areas apart from Avon & Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid

<sup>37</sup> Ibid

<sup>38</sup> Ibid