

REFERENCE E-BOOK

**Present-day English Constructions for
Speaking and Writing**

Thematic section

ANIMAL ABUSE – CONSTRUCTIONS

Compiled by Alina Koliada

Immediate constructions (in bold-type) are word combinations with the dependent units on the left and on the right.

Extended constructions (underlined in the examples) include the immediate constructions into an utterance or text.

ANIMAL ABUSE - CONSTRUCTIONS

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1. Speaking/writing about animal abuse in general

*animal abuse/cruelty – constructions

There was outrage when the abuse to which Andrew and Daniel Frankish subjected a bulldog became public knowledge.

Others held a vigil for the abused dog while a plane was flown over Middlesbrough FC's stadium during a match, calling for the brothers to be locked up.

"If we do not properly punish these people then as a society we are essentially legitimising abuse against animals".

The charity says professionals "can no longer afford to ignore the potential links between child abuse and animal cruelty.

The two forms of abuse should not be seen as mutually exclusive; it needs to be recognised that they can co-exist, or there may be associations between the two".

League Against Cruel Sports chief executive Eduardo Goncalves added: "If we don't offer a serious punishment to animal abusers then they will continue abusing animals.

Are we tough enough on animal cruelty?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-39042626>

Environment Secretary Michael Gove said it would target "those who commit the most shocking cruelty towards animals".

The plans will only apply in England, as animal cruelty powers are devolved to the nations of the UK.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41451893>

*types of animal abuse – constructions

When two brothers who filmed themselves torturing a dog were spared jail it provoked an outcry.

"Six months in prison for the gravest act of animal cruelty, such as torturing an animal to death, is a fraction of the maximum sentence for fly tipping [five years] or theft [seven years]," she said.

The brothers, from Redcar in Teesside, had repeatedly stamped on the dog and thrown it down stairs.

She reiterated her stance when another pair of her constituents admitted hammering a nail into a dog's head and burying it alive in what a court heard was "the worst case" a vet had ever seen.

In December Christopher and Adam Hoar were jailed for six weeks for kicking a hedgehog to death at Dalton Park retail centre in Murton, County Durham.

Jennifer Lampe received a four-month suspended sentence in August after she drunkenly decapitated her two snakes with scissors before swallowing their heads at her home in Market Drayton, Shropshire.

There have been five prosecutions relating to the "Neknomination" online craze in which people took part in "dares" involving swallowing live fish, frogs and even a lizard.

Kieran Milledge was jailed for 21 weeks in November after he swung his Staffordshire bull terrier, Ronnie, against a train's wall and pushed his foot in the dog's face.

John Wilcock and Bernadette Nunney were given suspended sentences and banned from keeping animals for life in November for leaving dozens of dogs in squalid conditions at a farm in Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Gary Samuel from Enfield was given a suspended 12-week prison sentence in March 2016 after police found dogs locked in cages in a filthy "pitch-black dungeon" at

Armley Vets in Leeds, West Yorkshire.

In Gloucestershire a man was jailed for 16 weeks for microwaving a rabbit to death because he "was angry".

The RSPCA has highlighted several "shocking" cases, including that of a man who stabbed his dog and then hid her behind the washing machine.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-39042626>

2. Speaking/writing about animal cruelty offenders

*abuser – constructions

There is a substantial body of evidence that animal cruelty offenders also commit other serious crimes.

A study carried out on behalf of the NSPCC found the children of pet abusers were more at risk of neglect or abuse themselves.

"If we don't offer a serious punishment to animal abusers then they will continue abusing animals.

Now an MP is hoping to make the law tougher on perpetrators.

"They often mean the perpetrators of cruel acts towards animals just receive a slap on the wrist."

I know in the back of my mind that if we catch a dog fighter, the most they will get is six months in prison – and probably much less.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-39042626>

3. Speaking/writing about reaction to animal abuse.

*public reaction – constructions

When two brothers who filmed themselves torturing a dog were spared jail it provoked an outcry.

The sentence attracted widespread criticism.

Nearly 500,000 people signed an online petition calling for a tougher penalty.

Others held a vigil for the abused dog while a plane was flown over Middlesbrough FC's stadium during a match, **calling for the brothers to be locked up.**
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-39042626>

***actions against animal cruelty – constructions**

The RSPCA said it would "deter people from abusing and neglecting animals".

The new legislation will also enable courts to **deal more effectively with ruthless gangs** involved in organised dog fights, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said.

These plans will give courts the tools they have requested **to deal with the most abhorrent acts,**" Mr Gove said.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41451893>

4. Speaking/writing about punishment for animal abuse.

***penalty/punishment – constructions**

Nearly 500,000 people signed an online petition calling for a **tougher penalty.**
"The **maximum penalty for animal cruelty offences** is under review."

"The current sentences available to courts **to punish animal abuse** are not working," she says.

"If we do not **properly punish** these people then as a society we are essentially legitimising abuse against animals".

"So let's get this into proportion and let **the punishment for abusing animals** truly fit the crime."

League Against Cruel Sports chief executive Eduardo Goncalves added: "If we don't **offer a serious punishment to animal abusers** then they will continue abusing animals.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-39042626>

Under the government's plans, courts will retain the ability **to hand out an unlimited fine** and **ban an offender from owning animals** in the future.

The Scottish government said it had recently committed to increasing the maximum penalty for the most serious **animal cruelty cases** to five years' imprisonment.

The Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (Defra) said about 1,150 people per year **are convicted for animal cruelty** – but fewer than five receive the current maximum sentence.

People in England who commit the most serious crimes of animal cruelty **could face up to five years in prison,** the government has said.

"We are a nation of animal lovers and so we must ensure that those who commit the most shocking cruelty towards animals **face suitably tough punishments.**"

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41451893>

"The current sentences available to courts **to punish animal abuse** are not working," she says.

"They often mean the perpetrators of **cruel acts towards animals** just receive a slap on the wrist.

England and Wales **have the lightest maximum sentence** in Europe for animal cruelty offences.

Between 2013 and 2015 more than 3,000 people in England and Wales were **convicted of animal cruelty** but just 7% received jail terms.

Ms Turley's **Animal Cruelty (Sentencing) Bill** – which will have its second reading on Friday – would increase the maximum to five years, matching the current situation in Northern Ireland.

Claire Horton, chief executive of Battersea Dogs' and Cats' Home, said the **sentences for animal cruelty** were too gentle.

"Six months in prison for the **gravest act of animal cruelty**, such as torturing an animal to death, is a fraction of the maximum sentence for fly tipping [five years] or theft [seven years]," she said.

www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-39042626