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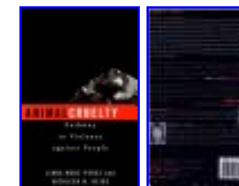
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## THREE THEORIES OF OFFENDERS

the study by MacDonald (1963) that addressed the relationship between the triad and the threat to kill. MacDonald reported that psychotic patients often experienced delusions of great anger that were never carried out. Dahmer's outward behavior was not delusional and was neither wild nor bizarre. In his dealings with others, Dahmer appeared to be cool and articulate to the point that he was able to convince three police officers that one of his victims, who had momentarily escaped, should be "returned to his care" (Baumann, 1991, p. 234).

Dr. **Ashok Bedi**, who had studied Dahmer's case file, concluded that the recurring theme in Dahmer's life was abandonment and that Dahmer's family had failed to provide him "with an infrastructure that would support him" (Dvorchak & Holewa, 1991, p. 142). The circumstances surrounding Dahmer's murder of Jeremiah Weinberger appear to support Bedi's assessment. Dahmer reported that after meeting Weinberger at a gay bar, the two returned to Dahmer's apartment, where they had sex. The next day, Weinberger expressed a desire to leave. Dahmer reported that he offered Weinberger a drink with a sleeping potion in it because he did not want to be alone. Dahmer said that he then strangled and dismembered Weinberger.

In conclusion, on the basis of the Displaced Aggression Theory, Dahmer is described as an individual who harbored a great deal of anger about his unhappy childhood and the parental rejection he experienced. Considering the loneliness that Dahmer's homosexuality engendered in him, some of this anger may have been self-directed. According to psychiatrist Dr. Gerson Kaplan, "the gruesome butchering of his homosexual partners



Practitioners in the animal welfare field, law enforcement circles, and social services arena have often maintained that childhood cruelty to animals is a forerunner to violence against people. Does this behavior serve...

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have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on

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can be understood as his way of trying to punish and deny that part of himself that he hated" (Baumann, 1991, p. 232). Some of the mutilations that he later performed on his human victims may have evolved directly from his fascination with death that originated in childhood. In this view, Dahmer's roadkill collections and animal dissections were the beginning of a continuum. Ultimately, Dahmer's unreconciled anger toward his parents, compounded by his need to control, compelled his escalating violence that began with animals and culminated in serial murder.

### Sadistic Theory

The Sadistic Theory posits that individuals hurt animals and people because they find these activities pleasurable in themselves and/or they enjoy

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A person who unnecessarily overloads, overdrives, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance or shelter, or unnecessarily or cruelly beats, mutilates,...

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The question is not Can they reason, nor Can they talk, but, Can they suffer?

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