

# Friendliness to Animals and Verbal Aggressiveness to People: Using Prison Inmates Education Networks as an Illustration

Nikolaos Hasanagas, Alexandra Bekiari, Periklis Vasilos

Faculty of Physical Education and Sports Science, University of Thessaly, Thessaly, Greece  
Email: sandrab@pe.uth.gr

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## Abstract

Goal of this research is to detect possible relations between animal-related attitudes and verbal aggressiveness as well as types combining such parameters. The sample collected in 2015 contains two adult education classes equivalent to secondary school level (class A = 23 inmates and B = 12 inmates, all male) at a correctional facility. Questionnaires were used. Network analysis software (Visone) and conventional statistics (SPSS) are used for calculating network variables (indegree, outdegree, katz, pageranketc) and implementing Spearman test and Principal Component Analysis. Inmates who have adopted an animal-friendly value system and are too coward to react against torture of animals, maintain a repressed emotion. If they do not intervene and provoke, then they are also not targeted by others. No reaction against torture is also connected with a deep-rooted aggressiveness. Concerning superficial aggressiveness, a profile, whose characterize is multiple verbal aggressiveness, can be attributed to repressed emotions. A type is torturing and indifferently restricts his aggressiveness, as he can satisfy his need of dominance by being aggressive towards animals. A type of inmate who loves animals and reacts against their torture, presents the most restricted and relatively smooth aggressiveness, as he discharges his repressed emotions to this reaction. Under condition of indifference, keeping pets is not evidence of loving but of a need of companionship. As for the deep-rooted aggressiveness (over-extroversion), it does not seem to be triggered by any repression.

## Keywords

Animal Friendliness And Cruelty, Verbal Aggressiveness, Inmates Classes, Social Network Analysis

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## 1. Introduction

The expected academic significance of this research lies in the innovative setting

of the network samples consisting of inmates of correction facilities (particularly in education units) and in connecting attitudes toward animals with verbal aggressiveness as a structural phenomenon. The practical significance is supposed to consist in the detection of types of behaviors and attitudes and in understanding of aggressiveness and animal friendliness or cruelty phenomenon.

Verbal aggressiveness has extensively been investigated in multifarious environments (family, business, education system etc.) [1]-[8]. Impacts of verbal aggressiveness in the education system have also been discussed regarding motivation [9]-[18], attraction [19] [20], affective learning [21] [22], discipline [23], satisfaction and learning [24] [25] [26] [27], fair play behaviours [28], Machiavellianism [29] [30], even in correctional facilities [31] [32]. However, it has not been explored in relation to animal friendliness. Is the animal abuse or hatred an extension of overflowing aggressiveness which cannot be discharged on people?

It has already been supported that there is a positive relation between animal cruelty and violence (from homicide to family violence) [33] [34] [35] [36] [37]. Dominant hypotheses on this issue are that overflowing aggressiveness or hatred against human beings is supposed to occur on animals or that the same violence which is directed against human beings of society in general, is also directed against animals. However, these studies focus only on physical aggression (violence). There is no study on the possible relation between animal cruelty and verbal aggressiveness, or inversely, between animal friendliness and non-aggressiveness.

As verbal aggressiveness is a main variable in this research, social network analysis is an appropriate method (considering inmates classes as networks) [38]-[48].

### **Aim and Innovation**

Aim of this research is to explore the relation between animal friendliness and verbal aggressiveness (or non-aggressiveness) in adult education classes (secondary school) in correctional facility.

The expected academic innovation consists in:

- An education unit within a correctional facility is expected to be an ideal setting for exploring this issue, as classes of inmates are closed societies supposed to enclose affluent verbal aggressiveness. In this way, the occurrence of verbal aggressiveness is expected to be more intensive and discernible. Thus, more clear quantitative results are supposed to be revealed and correlated with the degree of animal friendliness (or cruelty) of each inmate.

- understanding the relation between aggressiveness structures and attitudes toward animals considering the parameters as determinants and effects.

- pointing out typologies (profile settings) combining animal-related attitudes and relation with aggressiveness.

The expected practical innovation consists in enabling:

- the recognition of afore-mentioned types of behaviors and attitudes.
- the detection and exploration of behavioral phenomena.

## 2. Method

### 2.1. Sampling

Two network samples of correctional facility inmates were collected in 2015. The sample contains two adult education classes equivalent to secondary school level (class A = 23 inmates and B = 12 inmates, all male) at the correctional facility. The class A was composed of inmates 22 - 64 years old (average 36) and the class B of inmates 25 - 43 years old (average 33). In these samples of inmates a great variety of professions were to be found (*i.e.* technician, farmer, carpenter, builder, driver, electrician, blacksmith etc). In total, 13 inmates had finished the primary school, 18 the secondary school, 2 the high school and 1 inmate the higher education. The facility was not randomly selected but just because it was the only opportunity. The researchers are ethically committed to keep secret not only the names of the inmates but even the facility and the country where it was located. This commitment was a prerequisite for the participation of the inmates in the research. This non randomness and full secrecy can reasonably not supposed to weaken any reliability or cognitive substance of this research, as its goal is to produce results about correlations and not to produce generalizable descriptive statistics for any particular country or social settings.

### 2.2. Questionnaire

The network-related part of questionnaire was based on previous research [49]. Moreover, this part was completed with approaches of [50] and [31] [38] concerning the concept of social power. The questionnaires were enriched with more questions about verbal aggressiveness (threat, harming etc.). The non-network part of the questionnaire contained animal-related questions. Focusing on dimensioning the whole possible behavioral patterns and attitudes toward animals was the basic principle of the non-network part of the questionnaire. Expert interview was also conducted with correctional and education staff. This interview was important for the final formulation of the questionnaire.

### 2.3. Process

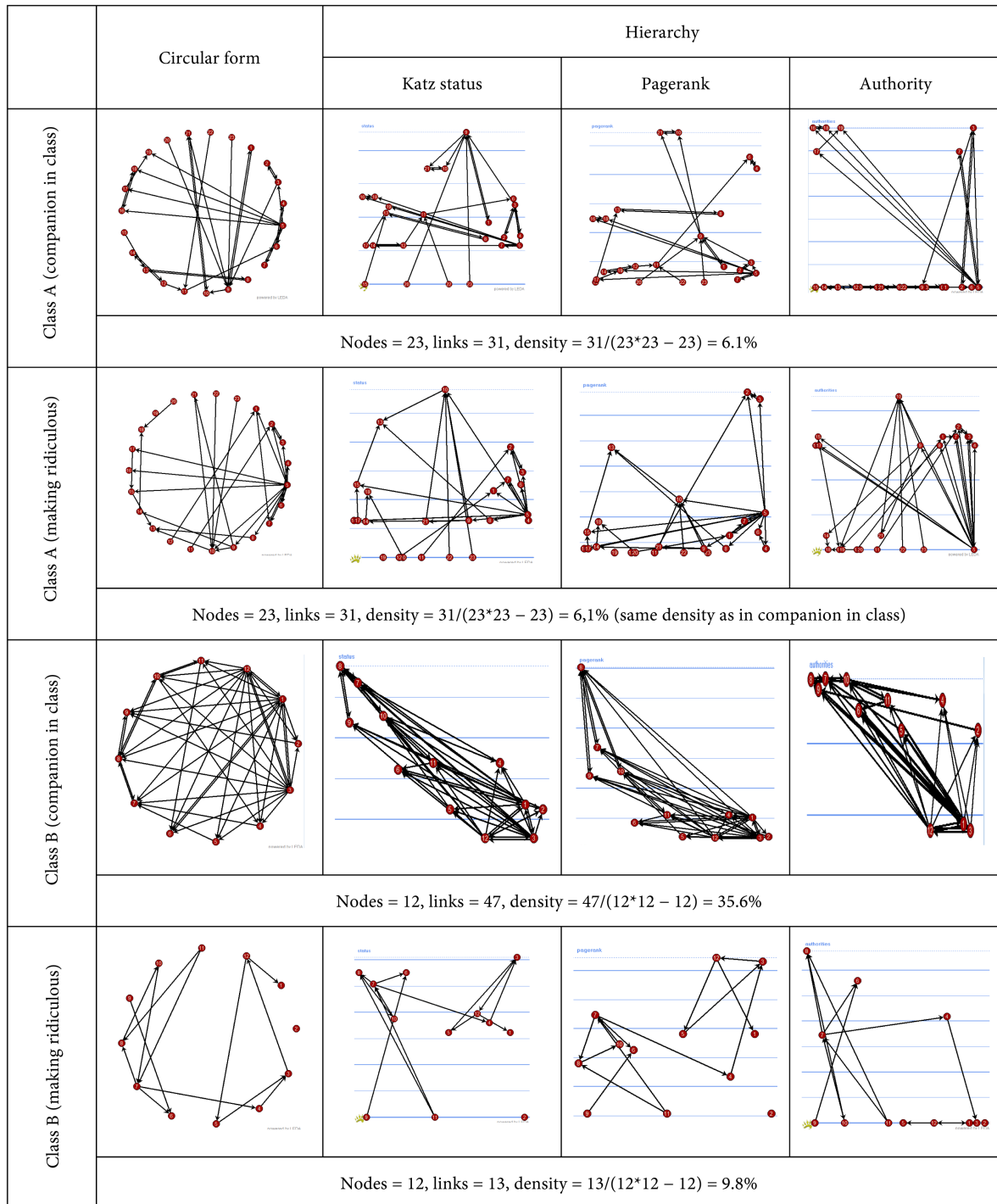
Basic network variables (indegree, outdegree, Katz status, pagerank, authority) were calculated by Visone 1.1. This software is advantageous enough, as it not only calculates, but also visualizes and layers the network analysis results. The secondary network variables, namely over-extroversion (differential and ratio), as defined in [31], were calculated with SPSS. In this study, the variable "strongly established" has been calculated as the ratio of katz to in degree. The correlation (Spearman test) was conducted between network and non-network variables in order to detect effects or determinants. Principal Component Analysis between network variables for formulating typology has also been conducted with SPSS 16.

Spearman test provides a good overview on all possible relations making the effects comparable. Therefore, it is preferred to multivariate analysis. Spearman

test and the Principal Component Analysis were implemented for similar analysis in previous research [51] [52] [53].

### 3. Results and Discussion

In **Figure 1**, selected network examples are presented. The selected relations are companion in class and making someone ridiculous. The networks of class B



**Figure 1.** Selected network examples from secondary adult education in correctional facility.

present remarkably higher density than these of class A respectively. This can be attributed both to the fact that on this occasion the nodes (inmates) in class B are fewer than in class A, but also to the fact that the inmates who are now in class B had already spent more time together in class A and thus, became familiarized.

It is also noticeable that companionship and aggressiveness are equally dense in class A (6.1%) while in class B the aggressiveness is much thinner (9.8%) than the companionship (35.6%). Thus, in the course of time, the companionship looks to dominate and the aggressiveness to decline, in the particular examples.

In the **Table 1**, being worried but no reacting against torture of animal characterizes a multi-criticizer (regarding abilities, character, milieu, appearance). Obviously, a person who has adopted an animal-friendly value system but he is too coward to react against torture of animals he maintains a repressed emotion which finds an aggressive outlet toward other inmates.

On the other hand, inmates who become targets of criticism tend to be those who keep a quite friendly attitude toward animals. This could be attributed to a

**Table 1.** Animal friendliness and criticism.

		like to keep dog	like to keep fish	loving animals	no reacting if someone tortures animal	indifferent if someone tortures animal
Verbal aggressor	out degree of criticizing abilities	0.140	-0.158	0.074	<b>0.387 (*)</b>	0.088
		0.423	0.365	0.673	<b>0.021</b>	0.617
	out degree of criticizing character	0.119	-0.010	0.036	<b>0.434 (**)</b>	-0.072
		0.495	0.954	0.836	<b>0.009</b>	0.682
	out degree of criticizing milieu	0.006	-0.123	0.180	<b>0.441 (**)</b>	-0.142
		0.972	0.480	0.301	<b>0.008</b>	0.415
Verbally aggressed	out degree of criticizing appearance	0.072	0.109	0.174	<b>0.370 (*)</b>	-0.216
		0.681	0.533	0.317	<b>0.029</b>	0.213
	page rank of criticizing abilities	<b>0.338 (*)</b>	-0.039	<b>0.392 (*)</b>	0.196	-0.182
		<b>0.047</b>	0.826	<b>0.020</b>	0.260	0.295
	page rank of criticizing character	0.329	-0.039	<b>0.466 (**)</b>	<b>0.486 (**)</b>	<b>-0.420 (*)</b>
		0.053	0.826	<b>0.005</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.012</b>
	page rank of criticizing milieu	0.026	0.253	<b>0.523 (**)</b>	0.221	-0.054
		0.883	0.143	<b>0.001</b>	0.201	0.759
	in degree of criticizing appearance	0.092	0.194	<b>0.386 (*)</b>	0.052	-0.271
		0.598	0.264	<b>0.022</b>	0.767	0.116
	authority of criticizing appearance	-0.035	<b>0.410 (*)</b>	0.206	-0.065	-0.163
		0.844	<b>0.014</b>	0.235	0.712	0.351
page rank of criticizing appearance	0.075	0.038	<b>0.403 (*)</b>	0.235	-0.213	
	0.667	0.827	<b>0.016</b>	0.175	0.218	

sentimental weakness which makes these persons emotionally vulnerable or repressed and, thereby, easily targeted by other inmates. Those who have been worried about tortured animals but they would have been too coward to react against it, are characterized by obvious fear which also constitutes them easily targeted by other inmates. The indifference to possible torture of animal apparently reveals a generalized indifference to any violent incident or unfairness. Thereby, indifference makes an inmate not provocative to others and increases his invulnerability.

Just as in **Table 1** non reaction against torture of animal leads to emotional repression, which results in multi-level criticism as outbursts, so in **Table 2**, no reaction leads similarly to curse. Simultaneously, the tendency to react against violence exerted on animals reduces the tendency to curse. In other words, curse seems to be a clear outlet for repressed emotions. Furthermore, the indifference appears once again to be a safe way of life which reduces the targeting, just as in **Table 1**.

In **Table 3**, once again verbal aggressiveness (in form of mockery) appears as an outburst of emotions repressed by a generalized attitude of non reaction. Loving animals also indicates a sentimental weakness which becomes obvious

**Table 2.** Animal friendliness and curse.

		indifferent to torture	no reacting if someone tortures animal	reacting if someone tortures animal	indifferent if someone tortures animal
Verbal aggressor	out degree of curse	-0.033	<b>0.440 (**)</b>	<b>-0.371 (*)</b>	0.095
		0.850	<b>0.008</b>	<b>0.028</b>	0.589
	in degree of curse	<b>-0.344 (*)</b>	0.103	0.141	<b>-0.344 (*)</b>
		<b>0.043</b>	0.558	0.419	<b>0.043</b>
Verbally aggressed	katz of curse	<b>-0.341 (*)</b>	0.166	0.104	<b>-0.341 (*)</b>
		<b>0.045</b>	0.341	0.554	<b>0.045</b>
	Page rank of curse	<b>-0.342 (*)</b>	<b>0.355 (*)</b>	-0.009	<b>-0.419 (*)</b>
		<b>0.045</b>	<b>0.036</b>	0.960	<b>0.012</b>

**Table 3.** Animal friendliness and mockery.

		loving animals	in different to animals	tortured animals	no reacting if someone tortures animal
Verbal aggressor	out degree of mockery	0.112	0.000	-0.108	<b>0.417 (*)</b>
		0.523	1.000	0.538	<b>0.013</b>
	authority of mockery	-0.012	<b>0.377 (*)</b>	<b>0.343 (*)</b>	-0.203
Verbally aggressed		0.944	<b>0.026</b>	<b>0.043</b>	0.241
	page rank of mockery	<b>0.522 (**)</b>	-0.111	-0.036	0.054
		<b>0.001</b>	0.524	0.838	0.760

in everyday life in prison. As a result of this, inmates who love animals tend to be targeted for mockery. However, paradoxically, the opposite case, namely the experience of having tortured animal also constitutes an inmate target of mockery. This could be attributed to the fact that inmates characterized by repressed tendencies cannot keep in their outbursts. Thus, they become an easy target of mockery by others.

Finally, it is also noticeable that the indifference to violence exerted against animals does not assure any neutrality and invulnerability like in the case of curse (Table 2) and in the case of criticism (Table 1). Specifically in the case of mockery, the indifferent inmates tend to be targeted, as they seem to abandon not only any action toward thirds but also defense for themselves.

In Table 4, inmates who would like to keep pet and consider themselves to love animals or they would react against animal torture tend to be ridiculous among the other inmates. On the other hand, no reaction and indifference to animal torture tend to characterize inmates who are not susceptible to become ridiculous. This can be attributed to the fact that inmates with such distinct feelings and awareness are negatively distinguished. However, if they do not intervene and provoke, then they also are not targeted by others. The results of Table 5 and Table 6 can be similarly interpreted.

In Table 7, the desire to keep a pet as well as reaction against torturing animal

**Table 4.** Animal friendliness and ridicule.

		like to keep dog	Loving animals	reacting if someone tortures animal	no reacting if someone tortures animal	indifferent if someone tortures animal
Verbally aggressed	in degree of rediculous	0.232	0.283	0.300	-0.094	<b>-0.394 (*)</b>
		0.181	0.099	0.080	0.592	<b>0.019</b>
	status of rediculous	0.275	0.315	0.295	-0.061	<b>-0.418 (*)</b>
		0.109	0.066	0.086	0.729	<b>0.013</b>
	authority of rediculous	0.051	0.148	<b>0.454 (**)</b>	<b>-0.377 (*)</b>	-0.251
		0.769	0.396	<b>0.006</b>	<b>0.026</b>	0.146
	page rank of rediculous	<b>0.371 (*)</b>	<b>0.381 (*)</b>	0.187	0.153	<b>-0.438 (**)</b>
		<b>0.028</b>	<b>0.024</b>	0.283	0.381	<b>0.009</b>

**Table 5.** Animal friendliness and threat.

		like to keep dog	like to keep cat	loving animals	indifferent if someone tortures animal
Verbally aggressed	authority of threat	0.037	<b>0.395 (*)</b>	0.185	-0.146
		0.831	<b>0.019</b>	0.287	0.402
	page rank of threat	<b>0.394 (*)</b>	0.294	<b>0.348 (*)</b>	<b>-0.341 (*)</b>
		<b>0.019</b>	0.086	<b>0.040</b>	<b>0.045</b>

**Table 6.** Animal friendliness and harassment.

		like to keep fish	like to keep other pet	loving animals	no reacting if someone tortures animal
Verbally aggressed	authority of harassment	<b>0.402 (*)</b>	<b>0.405 (*)</b>	-0.183	<b>-0.545 (**)</b>
		<b>0.017</b>	<b>0.016</b>	0.294	<b>0.001</b>
	page rank of harassment	0.067	0.018	<b>0.349 (*)</b>	0.217
		0.701	0.917	<b>0.040</b>	0.211

**Table 7.** Animal friendliness and deep-rooted aggressiveness.

		like to keep dog	like to keep fish	reacting if someone tortures animal	no reacting if someone tortures animal
Verbal aggressor	strong established of criticize (ratio)	0.148	-0.260	<b>-0.415 (*)</b>	0.120
		0.397	0.131	<b>0.013</b>	0.491
	overextrovert of threat (difference)	<b>-0.347 (*)</b>	-0.013	-0.047	-0.022
		<b>0.041</b>	0.941	0.789	0.901
	overextrovert of threat (ratio)	<b>-0.394 (*)</b>	0.039	0.000	-0.007
		<b>0.019</b>	0.826	1.000	0.967
	overextrovert of harassment (ratio)	0.091	<b>-0.336 (*)</b>	<b>-0.370 (*)</b>	<b>0.380 (*)</b>
		0.602	<b>0.048</b>	<b>0.029</b>	<b>0.024</b>
	overextrovert of harassment (difference)	0.165	<b>-0.399 (*)</b>	<b>-0.439 (**)</b>	<b>0.415 (*)</b>
		0.342	<b>0.017</b>	<b>0.008</b>	<b>0.013</b>

show a non aggressive personality. No reaction against torture is connected with a deep-rooted aggressiveness.

In the **Table 8**, five types of inmates are pointed out, which combine attitudes towards animals and superficial aggressive behavior in prison. The first type is the “loving but not reacting” inmate. This is an inmate who loves animals, but he would not react to any animal torture made by third persons. This profile is characterized by multiple verbal aggressiveness. This can be attributed to repressed outbursts.

The second type is the “torturing and indifferent”. This an inmate who is susceptible to torture animals or remain indifferent to this, but he is going to be aggressive in terms of verbal harassment and insulting. The restriction of his aggressiveness on these two forms of aggression can be attributed that he satisfies his need of dominance by being aggressive towards animals.

The third type, “loving and reacting”, seems to contain much less aggressiveness. An inmate who tend to both love animals and react against animal torture, presents the most restricted and relatively smooth aggressiveness (only making others ridiculous). This can be understood, as a result of discharging his repressed emotions to this reaction. Thus, he does not need to externalize outbursts to his inmates. Simultaneously, loving animals shows a smooth idiosyncrasy which tends to retain outbursts.



**Table 8.** Attitude towards animals and superficial aggressiveness.

	loving but not reacting	torturing and indifferent	loving and reacting	reacting	torturing	
Attitudes towards animals	like to keep dog	<b>0.397</b>	0.065	<b>0.633</b>	-0.396	-0.055
	like to keep cat	0.242	-0.311	0.227	<b>0.467</b>	-0.100
	like to keep no pet	-0.034	0.283	-0.545	0.107	<b>0.438</b>
	loving animals	<b>0.331</b>	-0.130	<b>0.564</b>	-0.443	-0.134
	in different to animals	-0.203	-0.083	-0.108	<b>0.378</b>	0.176
	tortured animals	0.009	<b>0.535</b>	0.130	0.298	<b>0.352</b>
	indifferent to animal torture	0.036	<b>0.763</b>	0.012	0.020	-0.107
	no reacting if someone tortures animal	<b>0.670</b>	-0.216	-0.274	-0.385	0.193
	reacting if someone tortures animal	-0.469	-0.378	<b>0.468</b>	<b>0.381</b>	0.148
	indifferent if someone tortures animal	0.143	<b>0.691</b>	-0.163	0.083	-0.365
Superficial Aggressiveness	out degree of total criticize	<b>0.662</b>	-0.351	-0.300	-0.085	-0.097
	out degree of curse	<b>0.652</b>	-0.070	-0.027	<b>0.372</b>	-0.075
	out degree of mockery	<b>0.567</b>	-0.341	-0.103	-0.156	<b>0.468</b>
	out degree of ridiculous	<b>0.459</b>	-0.171	<b>0.348</b>	0.133	<b>0.316</b>
	out degree of threat	<b>0.536</b>	-0.279	-0.235	<b>0.453</b>	-0.105
	out degree of harassment	<b>0.619</b>	<b>0.534</b>	0.259	0.162	0.184
	out degree of insult	<b>0.513</b>	<b>0.589</b>	0.254	0.169	0.000
	out degree of harm	<b>0.483</b>	-0.278	-0.285	0.257	-0.457

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis, 7 components extracted.

The “reacting” type is clearly connected with indifference to animals. However, it contains a desire to keep a pet. Under the condition of indifference, this is not so clearly an evidence of loving but rather a need of personal companion. At the same time, this type tends to be reactive against any animal torture committed by third persons. Thus, this type seems to be rather stimulated by ecumenical values of ethics and integrity like the respect to any living entity or the defense against any torturing.

The “torturing” type is an inmate who desire no pet at home and have tortured animal. Thus, it is a quite clear type. As he has already discharged outbursts on animals, he needs to be aggressive to his inmates in just a few and relatively smooth ways (mockery and making others ridiculous).

In the **Table 9**, three types of inmates are presented, which combine attitudes towards animals and deep-rooted aggressiveness. The first type is an inmate who is “indifferent and not reacting” to any torture of animals. Although this type does not seem to have any repressed emotions regarding animals, he presents a multiple aggressiveness towards other inmates. In contrast to the **Table 8**, where

**Table 9.** Attitudes towards animals and deep-rooted aggressiveness.

		indifferent and not reacting	loving	torturing and indifferent
Attitudes towards animals	like to keep dog	0.199	<b>0.571</b>	-0.483
	like to keep cat	0.019	<b>0.407</b>	-0.229
	like to keep no pet	0.124	-0.430	<b>0.365</b>
	loving animals	0.001	<b>0.535</b>	-0.417
	tortured animals	0.211	0.226	<b>0.568</b>
	indifferent to animal torture	<b>0.466</b>	0.093	<b>0.460</b>
	no reacting if someone tortures animal	<b>0.391</b>	-0.159	-0.674
	indifferent if someone tortures animal	<b>0.533</b>	-0.038	<b>0.448</b>
	overextroversion of total criticizing (differential)	<b>0.563</b>	-0.347	-0.385
	overextrovert criticize (ratio)	<b>0.559</b>	-0.368	-0.212
Deep-rooted Aggressiveness	overextrovert threat difference	<b>0.444</b>	-0.430	0.119
	overextrovert threat ratio	<b>0.444</b>	-0.497	0.177
	overextrovert verb harass ratio	<b>0.770</b>	0.157	-0.114
	overextrovert verb harass difference	<b>0.799</b>	0.274	0.036
	overextrovert insult hand difference	<b>0.562</b>	<b>0.629</b>	<b>0.366</b>
	overextrovert insult hand ratio	<b>0.470</b>	<b>0.648</b>	0.171

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis, 7 components extracted.

superficial aggressiveness seems to be related with repressed emotions, in **Table 9**, the deep-rooted aggressiveness (over-extroversion), as expected, does not seem to be triggered by any repression. Inversely, a person with deep-rooted aggressiveness discharges it at any rate to other inmates, even without having experienced any repression in his life.

The second type is “loving” animals and could also be a pet keeper. This type is connected with a restricted but rough aggressiveness (insulting with hand). This is an evidence of replacing the value and the belief in human being with the value and belief in animals. He tends to search for an emotional refuge at the animals companion while simultaneously he is hostile to other inmates.

Finally, the “torturing and indifferent” type shows a quite clear tendency to abuse animals. When someone maintains so clear intention to abuse animals, then he discharges most aggressiveness in this way, and thereby, his aggressiveness to other inmates is quite restricted on insulting with hand. Similar typologies have already been suggested [54] [55] [56] [57].

#### 4. Conclusions

Inmates, who have adopted an animal-friendly value system and are too coward to react against torture of animals, maintain a repressed emotion. Animal-re-

lated sentiments make persons easily targeted by other inmates. Those who are coward to react against animal abuse are characterized by fear which also makes them easily targeted by others. In difference, it makes a not provocative inmate and increases his invulnerability. The indifference to violence exerted against animals does not assure any neutrality and invulnerability specifically in the case of mockery. No reaction and indifference to animal torture tend to characterize inmates who are not susceptible to become ridiculous. If they do not intervene and provoke, then they are also not targeted by others. No reaction against torture is also connected with a deep-rooted aggressiveness. Several types have been suggested which connect attitudes towards animals and aggressiveness. Concerning superficial aggressiveness, a profile, whose characterize is multiple verbal aggressiveness, can be attributed to repressed emotions. A type is torturing and indifferently restricts his aggressiveness, as he can satisfy his need of dominance by being aggressive towards animals. A type of inmate who loves animals and reacts against their torture, presents the most restricted and relatively smooth aggressiveness, as he discharges his repressed emotions to this reaction. Under condition of indifference, keeping pets is not evidence of loving but of a need of companionship. Reacting against animal torture may be stimulated by ecumenical values of integrity like the respect to any living entity. There is also clear type of "torturing" type, who has already discharged outbursts on animals and he is aggressive to his inmates in just a few and smooth ways. As for the deep-rooted aggressiveness (over-extroversion), it does not seem to be triggered by any repression. A tendency of searching for an emotional refuge at the animals' companionship and hostility to other inmates has also been detected. There is such a clear tendency to abuse animals, discharging most aggressiveness in this way, and thereby, restricting aggressiveness to other inmates.

The restriction of the sampling only on one prison is a limitation of this research. A future challenge is to extend the sample to other prisons of various countries. In this way, not only a larger but also a multi-cultural inmate sample can be collected. More parameters and relations can also be examined and further in-depth interviews can be conducted in future research.

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