I’m not an RJ practitioner/facilitator
Scope: introduction to RJ
Roadmap:
- General discussion of current criminal legal system
- General discussion of current responses in animal cruelty cases
- Introduce RJ
- RJ as an intervention in cruelty cases
- RJ critiques
- Importance of RJ and potential impacts
U.S. Criminal Legal System

- We lead the world in incarceration rates
- How did we get here?
- Mass incarceration doesn’t touch communities equally
- Collateral consequences of incarceration/having a criminal record
- Some focus on back-end defense work, but not as much on front-end prevention
Current Responses in Animal Cruelty Cases

- “Successful” outcomes in animal cruelty cases
- Vocabulary
- Very few interventions currently being utilized

UPDATE: Hunters Who Tortured Deer Receive Slap on the Wrist

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Restorative Justice

- Definitions vary, especially based on the context
- Important note: RJ vocabulary
- Restorative justice is a process where offenders take responsibility for their actions, understand the harm they have caused to the victim, repair the damage caused, and—as much as possible—restore the well-being of the victim. This is all done while centering the victim’s experiences and pain.

RJ Critiques

- Lack of data
- It’s “new”
- All parties must agree
- Individualized harm
- Defendant’s rights
- Lack of knowledge/use among attorneys
- Can we apply this to animal cruelty cases?
Importance of RJ and Potential Impacts for Animal Cruelty Cases

- “Property” vs. “Victim”
- Focusing on harm, impetus of harm, and preventing future harm
- Redefining accountability
- Opportunities for collaboration
- Solving problems
Questions? Thank you!

bhill@lclark.edu