

Doing Gender and the Sterilization of Companion Animals

Jeremy J. Smith
University of Tennessee

Abstract

Sterilization can control an accelerating population of unwanted cats and dogs, but many caregivers are reluctant to sterilize their companion animals. Gender is relevant in this regard: men are evidently more reluctant to sterilize – and they are especially reluctant to sterilize their male animals. The current study examines the ways in which discourses of masculinity shape constructions of companion animals and sterilization via online commentary including social media sites and the comment section of news articles. The study contributes to a cultural green criminology in demonstrating that other bodies, including nonhuman ones, are an important site for one's doing gender.