

PUMPS, HEARTS, AND CATS

by
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Why are some people capable of pity and others only selectively so? Or not at all? This post has four themes.

The **first** is commitment.

The **second**, as presently understood by neuroscience, is a simplified sketch of mental health expressing itself through a striving toward altruistic goals: in this instance, the expos of declawing, its facts brought to light by compassionate people committed to high ethical standards.¹

The **third** describes a way of life that often, not always, merges with the social order. Its Ponzi schemes and subprime loans end up in the headlines. Less glaringly, its commitment to profit and an indifference to public welfare permeate the economy. Price-gouging, chemically-laced processed foods and GM produce, the tobacco and any number of pet food² industries embody this commitment.

Its advocates are self-serving people - DVMs, in this context - who gaze in Olympian silence beyond the gathering storm clouds. Beyond colleagues who break rank.³ Beyond the damning research and x-rays: potential threats that entrench their commitment to tangible gain as opposed to nebulous, do-gooder 'highs' that could compromise their profits.^{4 5 6}

The **fourth** is a brief overview of violent psychopathy, a condition frequently coexistent with sanity and functional within certain epochs in modern and ancient history.^{7 8 9}

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As portrayed in a memorable interview,¹⁰ Kirstin Doub is a blend of Quan Yin and Boadicea. Does her waywardness mean she's rubbing along on a shoestring? Not at all. Young as she is, her clinic is state-of-the-art. Plain and tranquil. *Shibui* to the nth.¹¹

When theories of human motivation are still evolving, could Dr. Doub identify the source of her courage and kindness? For she is endearingly kind.^{12 13} Even if she knew it, she'd likely refrain from ramping up present or future costs by disclosing her thoughts on these aspects of her work.^{14 15} Still - if they're real - the costs are a teaser.

Barring the loss of a clientele she wouldn't have wanted, do her renegade ways guarantee other losses? Or has she so many like-minded friends - affiliates and volunteers in the Utah branch of the organization she directs - she hasn't the time to pay heed to what the opposition might like her to consider?

So far from pondering the retributions, Dr. Doub is gumption incarnate -- a blond haba how some of her former associates couldn't be bothered with hygienic gowns. Sanitary preps. Sanitary clippers. How they treated pain with cheeseparing analgesics.¹⁶ How they earned 'astronomical' sums of money amputating toes. Given her candor, does anything lie in store for her? Anything chilling?¹⁷

Cottonwood Heights has a population of @33,000 and an animal hospital staffed by a dozen veterinarians. Are social events in a small city less frequent than they are in rural towns where the vets are golfing buddies? Whether or not, the risk of ostracism - a figment? - raises conjectures. Funny, in their way, if you have a swarthy humor.

For instance, how far apart are the clinics? Blocks apart? Closer? If only a stone's throw, what is the chance the 'chop-shops' might twitch aside their curtain and glue their agate eye to the crack, now and then, to watch her moves? Maybe count the cars in her parking lot?¹⁸

Might their and their loved ones' admiration for her meddlesome interest in x-rays fall short of unlimited? Might they bar her from their social whirl? If they trotted out this tactic, has she lived long enough to enjoy its predictability?

If they spotted her at the supermarket, would they have the restraint to muster a crisp 'Why, hello there!' as they swept past her in the produce aisle?

Or are they consummately gracious? In his Journals 1952-2000, Robert Schlesinger, Jr. describes hundreds of partying politicians, writers, historians and literary critics who, when they encounter the targets of their wrath, are so polished in deportment, their pleasantries are real.

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Know thyself.

Except for the standard 'nature-nurture' non-explanations, do Drs. Conrad, Doub and the other members of The Paw Project know why they hear a different drummer? Have they ever explored the nooks and crannies of their personhood?

Here's something they know: they couldn't crunch toe-bones. A downer, for sure, when they'd juice up their income if they'd been blessed with the positive outlook, the spunk and pizzazz to whip out the ol' Rescoe. What is the crux of their inhibition, when thousands of other veterinarians chop toes with an inner peace that heaven envies, a peace arising from their awareness - their gentle awareness - that these troublemakers are bent on distorting what the choppers reassure their clients is a problem-solving trim?

Do they deserve to be demonized by this fringe faction? Have they not a lifestyle to maintain?¹⁹ Families to support? College tuition for the youngsters? The ongoing costs of medical supplies, utilities, malpractice insurance, salaries, perks? Isn't their work stressful enough without these fanatics popping out of the woodwork and gnawing holes in their purse and their persona?

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None of which sheds a ray of light on The Paw Project people.

When legions of vets are happy campers whacking toes, what keeps these poor souls from climbing on the bandwagon? Though training in onychectomy has fallen off, has this stopped the cowboys from fanning the brow of this fine tradition? From chafing its temples with cologne?²⁰

Then what's wrong with these losers? Are they neurasthenics? What is the fatal hitch in their psyche that sickens them at the sight of a still young wreck of a cougar eyeing a ramp as he warily reaches out for a footing. . .left. . .right. . .hesitation. . .a misstep. . .his eyes on his paws as he wobbles down the ramp like an old-timey Chinese concubine? What is there in his locomotive ineptitude that torches their pity?^{21 22} Have they lost touch? Don't they know hound-dogs tree these varmints so right-thinkin' folks can blast them into Kingdom Come? Is there no cure for Dr. Conrad and her staff? Are they knocked for a loop by oxytocin 'double G' receptors? Jumpy amygdalae? Oversized neural pathways? Flash-floods of hormones that fling them - WHAP! - into a blue funk while the chopper who crippled Kona, the cougar - and God love the fun guy! - is merrily bobbing along from one cat to another and another, his bank account stuffed with do-re-mi and his conscience with sunbeams?

Is oxytocin their Waterloo? With its structure mapped out and its action dumbed down by media hype, this substance has been touted as the Path to Compassion. In fact, it can trigger ethnocentric shenanigans aimed at the out-group, and make its presence felt in several other unsettling ways. But apart from these trifles, it's thought to mingle with serotonin, dopamine and certain molecular aggregates that combine with stone-age drives, the theory being that altruism, by inviting reciprocity, improves survival.^{23 24 25 26 27 28}

Which opens a landscape in every shade of gray. Pearl, dove, steel, ash, charcoal. You name it.

If decency and its opposite are jumpstarted by forces unrelated to good and evil, do the courts face a future of spinning their wheels in the 'Twinkie Defense' swamp? Is indecency an obsolete concept when colorblind, tone deaf and psychopathic people had no hand in assembling their afflictions? Though brain scans flatten the concept of morals and slow the jurors in reaching a verdict, the 'insanity defense,' when it isn't rejected - which it usually is - is a two-edged sword: an 'aggravating' or 'mitigating' factor that substantially lengthens or negligibly shortens the sentence, while seldom ruling out capital punishment.^{29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36}

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Equally challenging, ancient Romans were addicted to their games, first recorded in 264 B.C. Gladiatorial games flourished until the early fifth century, and the slaughter of animals persisted for another hundred years.^{37 38 39 40 41 42} How can this be? Would modern-day scans have shown that the Romans scored 30 or above on a psychometric scale? Could science have established that every Roman - for every Roman likely attended the games - had oxytocin-rejecting 'double A' receptors, a mutation affecting no more than seven to fifteen percent of most populations? If a few had the oxytocin-embracing 'double G' variant, were they all women deprived of a voice in public life?^{43 44 45 46}

Another curve ball: Romans adored their furred, feathered and scaly bambinos, and had a much larger, more colorful assortment than we have today. Greek and Roman men doted on their dogs. And coddled, cuddlesome snakes and peacocks, swans, herons, quails, turtles, deer and Barbary apes were Family, sharing every room in the household - including the lady's boudoir - with their devoted parents, who wept when they died and honored their memory with elaborate funerals, tombstones and sarcophagi.⁴⁷ Poetry, too.

Mourn, O Venuses and Cupids. . .
The sparrow of my girl is dead,
The sparrow, delight of my girl
Whom she loved more than her own eyes,
For it was sweet as honey, and knew its own
Mistress as well as a girl her own mother.
Nor was it moving itself from that girl's lap
But jumping around now here, now there,
And was constantly chirping to its mistress alone.
Now it goes along the shadowy path
To that place from which no one returns.
But may it be as bad for you, evil darkness of
Orcus - you who devour all beautiful things;
You took away from her such a pretty sparrow.
O evil deed! Farewell, poor little sparrow! Now
Thanks to you, my girl's little swollen eyes are
Red with weeping.

[Catullus, 84-54 (?) B.C.E.]

Yet these were the very men and women who gloried in watching the slaughter of countless thousands of animals, domestic and imported. On one occasion, six hundred lions were killed in a morning's extravaganza to please the roaring crowd.

As to how it was then:

'Greek and Roman philosophers distrusted. . . compassion. In their view, reason alone was the proper guide to conduct. They regarded compassion as an effect, neither admirable nor contemptible.'
[Thomas Szasz]

While Romans were skilled in drawing distinctions where none belonged, some historians attribute their love for the arena to the different 'mores' of classic civilizations. A concept scorned by the historian, Lewis Mumford.⁴⁸ Laws have enforced a change since then. Is the change intrinsic? As to how it is now, the supply of rip-roaring video games and Hollywood bloodbaths can barely keep pace with the demand. Dog-, tiger-, lion- and cockfights are illegal in the United States. Bullfights are stirring up the animal rights proponents, even in Spain. And snuff films are back alley.

But then you have Freud.

The time comes when each of us has to give up as illusion the expectation which, in his youth, he pinned upon his fellow-man, when he learns how much difficulty and pain has been added to his life by their ill-will. The element of truth behind all this, which people are so ready to disavow, is that they are not gentle creatures who want to be loved, or who, at the most, can defend themselves if they are attacked. They are, on the contrary, creatures among whose instinctual endowments is to be reckoned a powerful share of aggression.

No less dispiriting, history has proven that psychologically normal people are capable of furious savagery. Many ostensible psychopaths studied in recent decades were found to be psychologically healthy.⁴⁹ Further, surveys have shown that no more than twenty-five percent of incarcerated offenders are psychopathic.⁵⁰ Nor is every psychopath a criminal. They're nothing of the sort.^{51 52 53 54 55}

There may be many, many people who also have psychopathic tendencies, and have similar brain scans, who don't do [sic] antisocial behavior, who don't rape and kill.
[Jonathan Brodie, psychiatrist, NYU Medical School]

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Generally speaking, not only are DVMs high achievers with pleasant personalities,⁵⁶ researchers maintain that even non-psychopaths exhibit traces of psychopathy.⁵⁷ Examples? 'Treating other people (animals included) as if they were objects is one of the worst things you can do to another human being, to ignore their subjectivity, their thoughts and feelings.' [Simon Baron-Cohen] 'People (animals included) will forget what you said, did and wrote. But they'll never forget how you treated them.'
[Maya Angelou]

In spite of all this, it is hard to imagine The Paw Project staff is, or would have been, capable of cruelty - no matter the culture they lived in. It is hard to know what could possibly shield them from the torments they would suffer to mutilate their patients, or any other sentient being. Perhaps they're not vegan. And knowing

their patients are carnivores, they must hope test-tube meat lands on the shelves before the demand for still more herds empties the last bucket of water and turns what is left of the rainforests into pasturage for livestock.

From veterinarians to engineers, Seattle is trying to drill a tunnel under its decades-old viaduct. But the drill is broken. Embedded in muck. Clogged with sludge.

In a similar vein, is there any known way to penetrate the density of someone who claims to 'love' a cat he loves to molest, until the cat hides itself in a cupboard in an attempt to escape the prodding ham-hand?⁵⁸ Additional proof, if any were needed, that perpetrators brim with self-esteem.

Another example, if another can be borne: do psychologists know how to reach a mind that plasters a grin of triumph across the face of a man released from jail within hours of kicking a cat ten feet into the air?⁵⁹ Or are such people Tweedledum and Tweedledee inflatable dolls that, given a tap - a judicial slap on the wrist - bounce right back? And are they to blame if critical areas of their brains are underdeveloped, or overcharged by the 3R variant that stimulates aggression?^{60 61 62 63 64 65}

Setting aside criminal psychopaths, can run-of-the-mill, uncaring people relate to Dr. Gaskin's moral outrage?

Fact is, JAVMA editors will not publish declaw research papers! JAVMA editors refuse to undo the harm their professional journal has done to cats. Jennifer Conrad's declaw repair research paper was rejected by JAVMA editors.

[Ron Gaskin. DVM]

Against this backdrop, Drs. Jennifer Conrad, Kirsten Doub and all of Paw's directors and members are rarities. Or are they? Is it too much to hope that millions of people admire this remarkable organization? Before the portcullis slammed down, the Project persuaded eight cities to ban declawing, which they could not have done if other people, equally humane, hadn't shared their vision.

To end this post as it began, what is it that makes The Paw Project staff - and hopefully a portion of the human race - capable of pity? Can a Mulligan stew of primitive instincts, neural pathways, hypothalamic neuropeptides, oxytocin and mirror neurons turn a pump into a heart?^{66 67}

The Paw Project proves such people exist. And the mystery of their being is as beautiful as they.

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1NOTES:

1 Cruelty to Animals Leads to Cruelty: Kindness to Animals Doesn't Lead to Kindness - (Invariably? No. Nor is kindness invariably species-specific.)

2 (Born Free) What's Really in Pet Food

3" The courageous Dr. Jean Hofve, for one.

4 The Molecular Biology of Compassion hPlusmagazine – ‘Altruism consists of actions performed for the benefit of others, even at a loss to oneself. . . ‘

5 Terrierman's Daily Dose: Veterinary Trades Say It's Time to Rip Off the Rubes

6" The Golden Age of Veterinary Medicine

7 Naturalizing Cruelty, G. Randolph Mayes. - ‘The suggestion that cruelty is a pedestrian human characteristic offends liberal sensibilities.’

8 A Political Refugee from the Global Village . . . ‘Psychopaths are very sane.’

9" Portrait of a Psychopath - WebMD

10" My Interview with Dr. Kirsten Doub, Director of Paws Project Utah, by Jo Singer

11" Shibui - Wikipedia

12 Veterinarians, Cottonwood Heights, UT - Yelp – (Search Reviews) ‘Dr. Doub and her staff are A++++.’ ‘I can't say enough about the care she gives our pets.’ ‘I like the fact that Dr. Doub will roll around with my dogs (they aren't that friendly with everyone). But she is also very professional. I look forward to many more years of her caring and passion.’ ‘Thanks for taking such good care of our guy!’ ‘Dr. Doub is passionate about veterinary medicine, and it is evidenced when you bring your pet into UPVH. When she is not busy caring for her new patients, she spends her time helping animals in need of a home or medical care who would be otherwise helpless.’ ‘Just one conversation with her and you will be impressed by her dedication to animal welfare. . .When I first brought my cat in for a skin condition that no previous veterinarian could manage, she quickly diagnosed and treated her and we have been happy ever since!’

13" Compassion: An Evolutionary Analysis and Empirical Review

14 ‘There is a stubbornness about me that never can bear to be frightened at the will of others. My courage always rises at every attempt to intimidate me’ [Jane Austen]

15 ‘It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare.’ [Mark Twain]

16 (Born Free) A Rational Look at Declawing – ‘It is so excruciatingly painful that it was once used as a technique of torture, and even today it is used to test the effectiveness of pain medications. . . While the veterinary profession is finally recognizing the need to control the severe post-operative pain accompanying declawing, pain medications are not always provided.’

17 ‘Does Your Veterinarian Declaw Cats as a Quick Fix for Behavioral Problems?’ by Jo Singer – 5/10/14 – ‘There is quite a lot of pressure on vets to follow the herd. It is hard for a vet to become an outsider.’ (Comment by Michael Broad)

18" Or is the eye limpid?

19 ‘Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants.’ [Epicurus]

20 New Documentary Condemns Declawing of Cats: Who is Right? - ‘A recent study showed that only fifty percent of veterinary programs have mandatory declawing instruction. . .Twenty to fifty percent of cats suffer claw regrowth. . .Carlo Siracusa believes that, eventually, America will go the way of Europe and require special permission for the procedure.’

21 The Paw Project Scratches Out Way to Educate About Declawing – deeprootsmag.org

- 22 **PRweb Paw Project – Forever Wild Exotic Animal Sanctuary (Official Site) – ‘Since April 2000, vets working with the Paw Project have performed reparative surgery on lions, tigers, cougars, leopards and jaguars that had been victims of declaw surgery.’ (Only Paw Project vets, or have others stepped up to the plate?)**
- 23 **Love Drug? Oxytocin’s Tender Effects Questioned|Valentine’s Day**
- 24” **Love Hormone Carries Unexpected Side Effects**
- 25 **Oxytocin’s Side Effects – drugs.com**
- 26 **Oxytocin’s Other Side – American Psychological Assoc.**
- 27 **Strangers Can Spot ‘Kindness’ Gene: Study**
- 28 **Gene Assignment 1 – Kindness Gene – Davidson College, highlights the contrasts between scientific and pop-science journalistic writing. Scientists use a ‘microscopic’ approach in discussing their research, journalists a ‘macroscopic;’ they also present catchy conclusions without the corroborating evidence; use deceptive simplicity of language; and commonly ignore limitations of the research.**
- 29 **Psychopaths and Sociopaths – Legal “Dictionary – ‘For criminals with antisocial personality disorders, the insanity plea simply does not apply.’**
- 30 **Psychopaths and Sociopaths, Legal Definitions of. . . Legal Dictionary – ‘However it is defined, many in the legal community doubt whether the insanity defense covers this kind of behavior at all. The ALI’s Model Penal Code test of insanity states that “the terms of mental disease or defect do not include an abnormality that is manifested only by repeated criminal or otherwise antisocial conduct.” In other words, the criteria laid down by the DSMIV for antisocial personality disorder would not allow for a claim of insanity under the Model Penal Code, the most widely used insanity test, or in other insanity tests used by the states. Thus, sociopaths and psychopaths, while perceived as insane by most people, could likely not use the insanity defense in trial.’**
- 31 **‘For this reason, most celebrated serial killers such as John Wayne Gacy and Ted Bundy, as well as persons whose mental stability seems to be of a questionable nature, such as Ted Kaczynski, have seen their insanity pleas fail or have never used the defense. In fact, in recent years, only Hinckley and Bobbitt are among celebrated cases who have used the defense successfully. . .’ – Arkadiusz and Laura-Knight Jadczyk**
- 32 **Reduced Prefrontal Connectivity in Psychopathy – RPC can have significant legal implications.**
- 33” **Would Judge Give Psychopath with Genetic Defect Lighter Sentence?**
- 34 **Kent Kiehl nih.gov/prnc/articles – ‘. . .their relatively accurate moral knowledge does not appear to be sufficient to adequately regulate (psychopathic) conduct. . . without normal emotion, psychopathic individuals have a weaker basis on which to accept moral rules. . . thus, if they do not value moral rules, their knowledge of these rules could be relatively powerless to deter them from antisocial behavior.’**
- 35 **My Brain Made Me Do It: Psychopaths and Free Will|TIME ‘If you sentence to punish, it will reduce sentencing. But if you sentence to protect society, it may increase sentencing by implying that the perpetrator is incorrigible.’**
- 36 **Inside a Psychopath’s Brain: The Sentencing Debate – NPR – ‘Neuroscience and neuroimaging is going to change the whole philosophy about how we punish and how we decide who to incapacitate and how we decide to deal with people, he says, echoing comments of a growing number of leading scholars across the country, including Princeton and Harvard. . . Just like DNA, he believes brain scans will eventually be standard fare. And that, he and others say, could upend our notions of culpability, crime and punishment.’**
- 37” **Spectacles of Death in Ancient Rome, Donald G. Kyle**
- 38” **Death in Ancient Rome, Catherine Edwards**
- 39” **The Spectacle of Bloodshed in Roman Society, Lauren Cowles**
- 40” **Murderous Games: Gladiatorial Contests in Ancient Rome**
- 41” **Gladiators, Wiedenfield and Nicolson**

42 *Cruelty's Rewards: The Gratification of Perpetrators and Spectators*, Nell, Victor, *Behavior and Brain Science*, 29, 211-224

43 *Born or Made? Theories of Psychopathy* - The Crimelibrary.com – ‘Recent estimates indicate that severe psychopathy among women is rare, about one-third of the estimated prevalence of men. Others say that for every ten male psychopaths, there is only one female.

44 ‘. . .certainly, when it comes to extremes, people who have very low empathy, we tend to see far more males than females. . .females tend to score higher on most tests of empathy.’ [Simon Baron-Cohen]

45 *Genes, Environment and Criminal Behavior* – Although women raised in a poor environment can become criminals, ‘It has been determined that men are much more physically violent than women.’

46 ‘To the Roman man, an independent wife, or worse yet, a superior wife, represented an inversion of the natural hierarchical relationship of the man and woman. And men didn’t like it, a feeling voiced most vehemently in Juvenal’s misogynistic *Sixth Satire*. Juvenal didn’t want a rich wife to lord it over him, and in fact he didn’t like superior women at all.’ *Family Values in Ancient Rome*, Richard Saller.

47” *Greek and Roman Household Pets*, Francis D. Lazenby

48” *Rome from Megapolis to Necropolis*, Lewis Mumford

49” There are any number of books on this subject. One is *Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Killings*, by James Waller

50 *Reduced Prefrontal Connectivity in Psychopathy [Ibid.]* (Kent Kiehl) - ‘. . . psychopaths have reduced connections between the ventromedial prefrontal cortex (vmPFC), the part of the brain responsible for sentiments such as empathy and guilt, and the amygdala, which mediates fear and anxiety. . . . About twenty-five percent of incarcerated offenders are psychopaths.’

51 ‘Psychopaths comprise about one percent* of the population . . .not all are criminals. . .In fact, many people with these disorders do not commit to a life of crime at all.’ *Snakes in Suits: When Psychopaths Go to Work*, Dr. Robert Hare and R. Paul Babiak. (*Other sources estimate five percent.)

52 *The Hidden Suffering of the Psychopath* – ‘Like healthy people, many psychopaths love their parents, spouse, children and pets in their own way, but have difficulty loving and trusting the rest of the world.’ ‘Trust no man.’ [Robinson Jeffers] Interestingly, Lydia Brangwen, in D. H. Lawrence’s novel *The Rainbow*, was so far beyond ‘loving and trusting the rest of the world,’ she was oblivious to the existence of anyone except her family. Erich Fromm also discusses the ‘ego deux’ in his book *The Art of Loving*.

53 *Oxford Researcher Shows Why Psychopaths Get Ahead in Business (Ibid.)* - ‘Harris, a 2nd year experimental psychologist, stressed “It is important to remember that it is a personality disorder, and people present on a spectrum.”’ – ‘In his research, Dutton distinguishes between dysfunctional psychopaths and those who can function in society. He stresses the difference between dysfunctional psychopaths, who are naturally violent, asocial or unintelligent,* and functional psychopaths, who are able to apply themselves to careers and relationships, without being a danger to themselves or others. The latter category, Dutton suggests, can succeed in some of the most high-powered, well-paid positions in society.’ (*Though not all dysfunctional psychopaths are unintelligent.)

54 *The Top 10 Jobs that Attract Psychopaths* – Forbes – (Surgery is among the top ten.)

55 *Oxford Researcher Shows Why Psychopaths Get Ahead in Business* – ‘Dutton gives an example of an interview he had with a neurosurgeon who described surgery as a “blood sport”. . .”If things go wrong in an operatory theatre, you don’t want someone to start freaking out and panicking, you want someone to absolutely focus on the job at hand and not get fazed out, and also that kind of dispassionate distance psychopath’s have, that cold [lack of] empathy they display.”’

56 *Wisdom from Psychopaths?* – Scientific American – ‘The dagger of hard-nosed self-interest may be concealed, rather deftly, under a benevolent cloak of opaque, obfuscatory charm.’

57 ‘Furthermore, the creators of the PPIR deliberately refrained from identifying cutoffs for diagnosing psychopathy; instead, they subscribe to the conception of psychopathy as a spectrum of traits that everyone possesses to varying degrees.’ [Lilienfeld & Widows 2005]

58 *Pictures of Cats.org.: My Sister’s Cat Really Doesn’t Like Me* 5/9/14

59" *Pictures of Cats.org.: Cat-Kicking Creep Arrested After Video Goes Viral*, by Elisa Black-Taylor 5/17/14

60 Advances in genetics also have other, even darker, policy implications. First, they suggest that human characteristics are, to a greater or lesser extent, fixed at birth, that people are made by nature (their biology), rather than by nurture (their environment). *Brave New Worlds – Staying Human in the Genetic Future*, Bryan A. Appleyard

61 Could a Lack of Empathy Explain Cruelty? NPR – Simon Baron-Cohen. *The Source of Evil: On Empathy and the Origin of Cruelty* – ‘Low empathy doesn’t necessarily lead to cruelty. . .I wouldn’t necessarily call these people evil. . .I see [it] as a neurological disability, no different to other kinds of disabilities. In this case, their brain is not allowing them the capacity for empathy. . .Empathy isn’t really located in one region. By my count, there are at least ten different parts of the brain that are activated when you’re trying to empathize with another person. And in people with, say, an antisocial personality disorder, who have low empathy, you see reduced activity in many parts of the empathy circuit. . .You also see that. . .the regions in the empathy circuit may not have developed to normal size.’

62 Psychopathy – Wikipedia – ‘Studies have also suggested a connection between a variant of the monoamine oxidase A (MAO-A) gene (dubbed the ‘warrior gene’) and psychopathy. In the variant, the allele associated with behavioral traits consists of 30 bases, and produces comparatively less MAO-A enzyme. Low MAO-A activity was found to result in a significantly increased risk of aggression and antisocial behavior. The 3R variant (linked to low MAO-A activity) was found to vary widely in demographic prevalence among different ethnic groups. 59% of African-American men, 56% of Maori men and 54% of Chinese men carry the MOA-A 3R genetic variant, compared to 34% of Caucasian. --- Monoamine oxidase (MAOs) are enzymes that are involved in the breakdown of neurotransmitters such as serotonin and dopamine and are, therefore, capable of influencing feelings, mood, and behavior of individuals. According to this, if there were a mutation to what is involved in the process of promoting or inhibiting MAO enzymes, it could affect a person’s personality or behavior and could therefore make them more prone to aggression. – These findings suggest that further research is needed on this topic of debate. These studies are (also) challenged on ethical grounds. (In a word, their lower MOA-A activity explains the pacifism of the Carthaginians, the Mesopotamians, Macedonians, Romans, Vandals, Vikings, Muslims, Normans, the English during their internecine wars and decades of colonial conquest, Napoleon and his armies, the Australians in their genocide of the native Tasmanians, their efforts to exterminate the Aborigines, their treatment of English deportees shipped off to Australian penal colonies, the pacifism of the Germans, Serbs and Croatsians, etc., ad infin?)

63 Genes, Environment and Criminal Behavior (*Ibid.*) – Monoamine oxidase (MAO) is related to norepinephrine, epinephrine, and dopamine, which are all related to the personality factor of psychosis. . . Obviously, from this list of neurochemicals it seems plausible that there is a genetic component to antisocial and criminal behavior.

64 What Real-Life Criminal Cases Tell Us About Genetic Evidence - Fordham University - ‘The statement. . . also implies that psychopaths and those with a genetic condition differ from other offenders in their resistance to treatment and rehabilitation, when in fact rehabilitation has generally been ineffective for all sorts of offenders . . . showing only a five to fifteen percent reduction in recidivism.’

65" My Brain Made Me Do It: Psychopaths and Free Will|TIME [*Ibid.*]

66" Scientists Say Everyone Can Read Minds

67" Study: People Literally Feel Pain of Others