

Honorable Michael J. Obus
New York State Supreme Court
Criminal Term, Part 51
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Honorable Michael J. Obus of New York Supreme Court and Manhattan District Attorney's Office:

I am deeply concerned about the case of Sean Lynde, a Manhattan man who methodically killed girlfriend Rachael Strate's four cats. Animal torture and murder are serious crimes that demand your utmost deliberation.

In October 2008, Lynde allegedly poisoned Cleo, whose body was found with a mouthful of detergent behind a dryer. He bludgeoned Zoe so severely, a veterinarian euthanized her. Reports indicate Strate next adopted kittens Willie and Betty. Within a month, Willie was fatally crippled and Lynde claims Betty "fell off a countertop" to her death. After Strate brought home two more kittens, one named Emo vanished and Bonafide turned up with a broken neck.

Lynde seemingly derives pleasure from prolonged suffering — as further evidenced by past charges for crippling a kitten and instigating a sixth cat's disappearance.

I urge officials to levy the maximum felony penalty of four years in prison for six counts of aggravated animal cruelty and to seek the full misdemeanor sentence for harassment and stalking charges related to ex-girlfriend Strate. Please ensure Lynde undergoes extensive psychological evaluation and is barred from possessing or living with animals.

Violence against animals is a well-documented precursor to violence against humans. Indeed, Lynde already vented rage on Strate in March when he reportedly struck her Apple Macbook so hard, the computer cost \$800 to repair.

Repeat animal attacks suggest a predatory style that is a sign of "organized and premeditated violence against others," says Dr. Randall Lockwood, an animal behaviorist with ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Initiatives who consults with cruelty investigators, law enforcers and mental health professionals.

Prolific murderers such as the Boston Strangler, Son of Sam, Jeffrey Dahmer and Ted Bundy practiced on animals before graduating to humans. Dennis Rader, notorious for the Bind-Torture-Kill murders in Wichita, Kansas, confessed to strangling cats and dogs before his sadistic spree. Men prosecuted for animal cruelty are five times as likely to be arrested for other violent crimes, claims Utah State University professor Frank Ascione.

I implore New York courts to recognize the gravity of animal cruelty crimes. Sean Lynde needs rehabilitation and incarceration. Please do not release a sociopath back into our society.

Thank you,