

Child sex abuse trial: Accused "poisoned victim's pet cats"

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ALLEGED multiple sex offender cruelly poisoned a victim's pet cats, a court heard.

The woman says Basharat Hussain (38), who is accused of 15 child sex abuse offences, did not tell her why he had poisoned the animals.

"I just found them in the garden think it was when I was about 18," she recalled in a police interview shown to Sheffield Crown Court. "I loved them two cats they were brother and sister I found them in the garden curled up dead and he laughed. He said: 'I've poisoned them'..."

On one occasion, Girl E said Basharat held a gun to her head when she refused to obey his orders. Speaking about Basharat and his brother Arshid, who is also on trial, she said: "I knew what they were capable of and what they might do if I didn't do what they said. I knew what would happen. I knew if they wanted something they could get it. People bowed down to them."

The woman said on one occasion, Basharat handed her a gun and told her to 'keep it safe.'

She said: "He handed me this gun from the glove box and said 'keep this safe.' I knew it wasn't a question. I said I didn't want to but he got aggressive and said, 'What have I told you about saying no to me?'"

The court heard how the next day, Basharat allegedly arranged for a derelict house to be burnt down across the road from her

parents' house. The woman said it was to show her 'she couldn't say no to him.'

Gillian Batts, representing Basharat, said during cross-examination that Girl E, who cannot be named, was lying.