Multiple Sources

In West Dunbartonshire, Scotland, stands a rough-hewn stone bridge that leads to the historic Overtoun house. Built in 1895, there is nothing in the bridge’s appearance that would make it seem an unusual or unique structure, yet, the well-built bridge hides a mystery. Dogs attempting to cross the bridge feel compelled to jump from it onto the jagged rocks in the Overtoun Burn below. This has earned it the title of Suicide Bridge.

History records that at least fifty dogs have been seen plunging from the span to their deaths during the past half century, although six hundred have survived their death-dives—some even returning for another attempt.

Collies, Labs, and other retrievers, seem to be the most susceptible breeds to follow the eerie lure situated between the two final parapets on the right-hand side of the bridge. Clear weather also seems to contribute to this strange event.
The mystery deepens as experts and locals disagree on what brings about this odd occurrence. Some posit that the dogs are lured by a pungent odor much like male mink urine. Yet, area farmers say that no mink have ever been spotted on or near the bridge.

There are mink in other regions of Scotland, but there have been no reports of this particular phenomenon occurring in those places. Even if the mink scent was originally what lured the dogs to their deaths, over the years it surely would have been weathered off.

Local legend abounds regarding the Suicide Bridge, and some believe it to be haunted. Recent reportage includes the story of Keven Moy, who, believing his two week old son to be the Anti-Christ, threw him from the bridge to his death in October, 1994. Moy followed his son over the span, but survived.

Signs have now been erected warning dog-walkers on or near the bridge to keep them on a leash.