

Is Fishing Fun?

It could depend upon which end of the line you're on. Imagine reaching for an apple on a tree and suddenly your hand is pierced by a sharp metal hook. The whole weight of your body pulling on that one hand, out of the air and into an atmosphere that you can't breathe.

This is what fish experience when they are hooked for "sport." Many folks also don't realize that fish have well-developed pain receptors and definitely do feel the pain of being caught.

Did You Know?

Fish are intelligent individuals who feel pain in the same way that humans, cats and dogs do. Fish learn by watching other fish, recognize each other, remember one another, and exhibit some behaviors comparable to primates' behaviors. Anglers trick fish into impaling themselves on metal hooks and then drag them out of their natural habitat. Tricking and abusing a small animal isn't "fun" or "sport", its cruelty.

"I wouldn't eat a grouper any more than I'd eat a cocker spaniel. They're so good-natured, so curious. You know, fish are sensitive, they have personalities, they hurt when they're wounded." ~ Sylvia Earle U.S. Ocean and Atmospheric Chief.

Fish Feel Pain!

Scientists unanimously agree that fish can feel pain. Neuro-biologists have long recognized that fish have well developed pain receptors and brains that cause them to feel extreme pain when their mouths are pierced by hooks. Dr. Donald Broom of Cambridge University sums up the scientific evidence, stating that "the pain system in fish

is virtually the same as in other animals and even us.” Claiming that fish do not suffer is similar to arguing that the Earth is flat.

Fish Are Smart:

Fish learn from one another and have excellent memories, and some even use tools. Dr. Culum Brown, a University of Edinburgh biologist, says, “In many areas, such as memory, their cognitive powers match or exceed those of “higher” vertebrates, including non human primates.” University research has determined that fish can complete some mental tasks that are too complex for dogs.

“Catch and Release” Kills Too:

Fish that are hooked, and then thrown back suffer internal injuries, exhaustion, and the loss of their protective coating. According to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation, almost 50% of fish die when they’re hooked, and then thrown back. Germany has banned that because its considered animal cruelty.

Fishing Hurts Other Animals Too:

Every Year, countless birds, turtles, dogs, and other animals die from injuries by abandoned fishing hooks, mono-filament line, and lead weights.

Choose Compassionate Hobbies:

You wouldn’t stab your cat or dog through the mouth, so don’t do it to other animals. Instead of fishing, try hiking, canoeing, snorkeling, or bird watching, no animals will be harmed, and you’ll get more exercise and fun.

People Who Agree With This Newsletter:

130 PETA employees agree, Dana G Allen who teaches veterinary medicine at the University of Guelph Canada, Max J Appel who

teaches veterinary medicine in New York, David A Ashford who is a director at a veterinary hospital in Brazil, Stephen C Barr who teaches veterinary medicine at Cornell University, Daniela Bedenice who is a veterinarian and teaches at the School Of Veterinary Medicine, Kyle G Braud who is a veterinary neurologist, Cheryl L Chrsiman who is a veterinary neurologist, J.P. Dubey who is a microbiologist, Robert J Mackay who is a veterinary neurologist in Florida, Karen R Munana who is an Associate Professor of veterinary neurology, William B Thomas who teaches veterinary neurology at the University of Tennessee, Susan L White who teaches veterinary nervous system at the University of Georgia, and Robert Wylie who is a veterinarian of spinal and nervous system injuries in Australia.

Thanks for reading this month's newsletter, if you have any ideas for our next newsletter please share them with us, we're always open to good ideas on how to help animals and the environment

Kind Regards, (people that made this newsletter)

Alex Zuehlke

Jordan Turner

PETA

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