



CUSTOM DESIGN
CONSTRUCTION
License # 524561

RECEIVE A FREE
COPY OF OUR BOOK
BEFORE CALLING
AN ARCHITECT
CLICK HERE



NEWS VIDEO PEOPLE VOICES SPORT TECH LIFE PROPERTY ARTS + ENTS TRAVEL MONEY INDYBEST STUDENT OFFERS

UK v / World v / Business v / People / Science / Environment v / Media v / Technology / Education v / Images / Obituaries / Diary / Corrections / Newsletter / Appeals

News > Environment > Nature Frontpage >

Dolphins often seem to want to befriend us - do they know something we don't?



Why, despite our frequent cruelty to them, do dolphins seem to actively seek out encounters with humans? Are they trying to tell us something? Do they think we have something in common? In her new book, Susan Casey explains all

SUSAN CASEY | Wednesday 09 September 2015

f SHARE | t TWEET | g+ SHARE | reddit REDDIT | in SHARE | Shares: 4K

PRINT | A A A

You'll have heard of Fungie, a male bottlenose who has forsaken the open sea to live inside the harbour mouth of Dingle in Ireland, a placid, shallowish inlet bordered by low verdant hills that are speckled with sheep.

Search The Independent

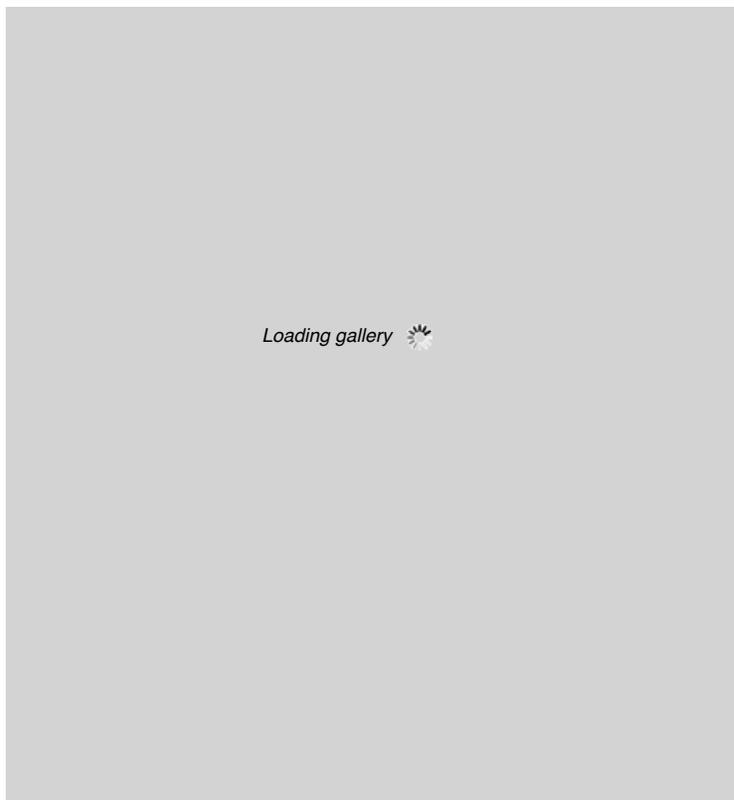
Advanced search | Article archive | Topics

i100 NOW TRENDING

- 1 People are sharing images of what Jeremy Corbyn and David Cameron were up to in the 1980s
- 2 This is the absolute worst time of day to drink coffee
- 3 There's a selfie-based horror that will make you put down Snapchat forever
- 4 Even if you don't like rugby union, here's why the World Cup is great for Britain
- 5 Quiz: Are you stupider than an average American?

According to local legend, he has been swimming around in this area, not much bigger than a few city blocks, since October 1983.

It doesn't seem like an auspicious place for a dolphin to settle. Though the bay is sheltered from snarlier North Atlantic conditions – churning seas, huffing winds – dolphins are well equipped for these things and seem to revel in the action: surfing down the faces of waves, leaping through the wakes of ships, playing in the maelstrom. By comparison, the Dingle harbour is a pond. Nor could it be mistaken for a marine sanctuary: it was known in the past for its abundant reservoirs of rubbish. So what was a full-grown bottlenose with an entire ocean at his disposal doing in this fish tank? And where was his pod? Being part of a pod means protection, hunting success, society, sex, kin – the fundamentals of dolphin existence. A solitary dolphin is like a floating oxymoron. So how did this one survive?



The tales of Fungie the loner dolphin seem improbable. But surprisingly, there are others like him. Scientists don't know why it happens, but tales of dolphins befriending humans reach far back into history. Aristotle wrote offhandedly about dolphins' "passionate attachment to boys", as if everyone just knew this as a fact. In the year AD 77, Pliny the Elder recounted the story of a dolphin named Simo who formed a bond with a boy who fed him bits of bread, giving him rides in return:

PEOPLE



Andy Murray has come up with an inspiring way to help refugees

VOICES



'Don't stand with Ahmed if you're not prepared to support all marginalised Muslim children'

TV



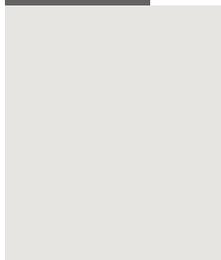
Clarkson and co's new Top Gear show might have a (very silly) title

NEWS



These are the top 10 sexist things that happen to women at work

PROMOTED



Most Viewed Most Shared

Most Commented



Gulf Stream is slowing down faster than ever, scientists say



Air pollution 'kills 3.3 million a year worldwide'



Big Six providers lose 100,000 households to ground-breaking green energy scheme



Couple escape unscathed after 40tn whale lands on their Kayak



Scientists have discovered a deadly new species of 'death adder' in Australia

Promoted stories from the web

"This happened for several years, until the boy happened to fall ill of some malady and died. The dolphin, however, still came to the spot as usual, with a sorrowful air and manifesting every sign of deep affliction, until at last, a thing of which no one felt the slightest doubt, he died purely of sorrow and regret."

When you consider how risky it is for dolphins to spend time in close proximity to people, it is all the more intriguing that so many human-dolphin stories have similar themes: dolphin seeks out man, dolphin wants to play with man, dolphin assists man, dolphin rescues man. If dolphins didn't already have such a well-established reputation for showing up like Superman in the third act, it would be impossible to put their behaviour into context. But there are centuries and even millennia of tales of their generosity towards the awkward two-legged creatures they encounter who are so out of their element.

In the book Beautiful Minds, biologist Maddalena Bearzi recalls tailing a pod of bottlenoses on one grim, foggy morning along the coast of Los Angeles, as they herded a huge school of sardines. If there's anything that commands a dolphin's attention it is a mother lode of fish, so Bearzi was surprised when one suddenly broke away from feeding and headed out to sea at top speed. The rest of the pod followed; so did Bearzi and her crew. The dolphins arrowed about three miles offshore and then they stopped, arranging themselves in a circle. In the centre, the scientists were shocked to see a girl's body floating.

Tales like this are remarkably common and surfers, in particular, seem to benefit from dolphin intervention. When Todd Endris was bitten three times by a great white shark near Monterey, California, dolphins drove off the marauder, formed a ring around Endris, and escorted him to the beach. Australian Dave Rastovich, straddling his board waiting for a wave, was astonished to watch a dolphin hurtle itself at a shark that was torpedoing towards him, sending it fleeing.

Top Foods to Avoid with High Blood Pressure

HealthCentral.com

20 Spiders That Everyone Should Be Terrified Of

RantPets

Why You Should Be Ordering Your Wine Online

The Huffington Post |

Matt Damon Sparks Controversy With Comments Over Diversity in...

Promoted Links by Taboola



OUR FREE AND IMPROVED APP: THE INDEPENDENT DIGITAL EDITION

NEWS



What is wrong with Donald Trump's face?

PEOPLE



Naomi Campbell has been censored by Instagram for posting this photo

BUSINESS



From cost cutting to horrible hygiene: Seven secrets hotel owners don't want you to know

I Tried FanDuel: Here's What Happened

FanDuel on Topdust

These 35 Photos Are The Most Heartbreaking Images

Buzzlamp

The Stunning Evolution of Millennials: They've Become the Ben Franklin Generation

The Huffington Post | Wealthfront

Mind Blown! 34 Objects We Had No Idea Existed. Whoa (Pics)

Bored Lion

Sponsored Links by Taboola

INDEPENDENT IMAGES

ICONIC STILLS RECREATED IN AFRICA



OUR FREE AND IMPROVED APP: THE INDEPENDENT DIGITAL EDITION



BEFORE YOU CALL AN ARCHITECT TRY OUR
COMPLIMENTARY IN-HOME CONSULTATION

CLICK HERE

CUSTOM DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
License # 524561

SPONSORED FEATURES



Have a historic week in London
Autumn may be on its way, but that doesn't mean the fun's over.



Leap of faith: a spinner dolphin off the Kona coast, Hawaii (Rennio Malfredi)

What to make of these stories? One point worth noting is that dolphins often behave towards us in the same ways they do towards one another. In the dolphins' nomadic undersea world, solitude equals vulnerability, so a lone human in the water must seem to them direly in need of assistance. But their consideration of us isn't limited to emergency situations: at the Tangalooma Island Resort in Australia, where wild bottlenoses are regularly fed fish by people standing in the shallows, biologists have documented – on 23 occasions – the dolphins reciprocating, swimming up to offer freshly caught tuna, eels, and octopi as gifts.

In other words, dolphins do not always differentiate between us and them. Maybe that was why Fungie had made his home among the residents of Dingle. To him, perhaps, they were just a slightly peculiar-looking pod.

I drove down to Dingle from Dublin, winding through green and peaceful country, through bustling little cities and quaint little towns, then parked my car near the town square and got out to take a look around. Behind a life-size statue of Fungie there was a stone building that looked like a harbourmaster's office; its windows were plastered with Fungie posters and advertisements and press clippings. One announced that "fun-loving Fungie the dolphin has somersaulted into the record books... as The Most Loyal Animal on the Planet!"

To win this title, I read, Fungie had outdone a Risso's dolphin named Pelorus Jack who spent 24 years, from 1888 to 1912, escorting ships through New Zealand's tricky Cook Strait. Before the dolphin stepped in, these waters had hosted a number of New Zealand's worst maritime disasters. Pelorus Jack's job, as he



TV
Hollywood has voted for its favourite TV show of all time



SPONSORED
Comfort makes a comeback in New York



TV
'I'm talking to one person and one person only': Kevin Spacey reveals who he's making his asides to in House of Cards



PEOPLE
Emily Blunt told to 'leave Hollywood' for joke about her new US citizenship



LOVE AND SEX
Women reveal what's important for good sex



Clearing 2015
Becoming a mature student to chase a career in radio is a decision Dan never regretted



How to prepare for Uni
Getting ready for becoming a student is an exciting time. Read our short guide for Freshers



Biking the Balearics
Our guide to exploring Spain's four very different islands, on two wheels



Win tickets to Rugby World Cup
And get a free official Rugby World Cup 2015 replica ball



Ben Hanlin on Carnaby Street style
The magician says it's 'the best place in the world for shopping.' Watch his mod makeover (with Specsavers)

BEFORE YOU CALL AN ARCHITECT TRY OUR
COMPLIMENTARY IN-HOME CONSULTATION
CLICK HERE

CUSTOM DESIGN
&
CONSTRUCTION
License # 524561



Recruitment Genius: Trainee Store Manager

£16000 - £20000 per annum: Recruitment Genius: This accredited Investors In Pe...

Recruitment Genius: Sales Executive - Hot Tubs and Log Cabins

Negotiable: Recruitment Genius: Weekend sales role for a company selling hot t...

Recruitment Genius: Landscape Construction Foreman

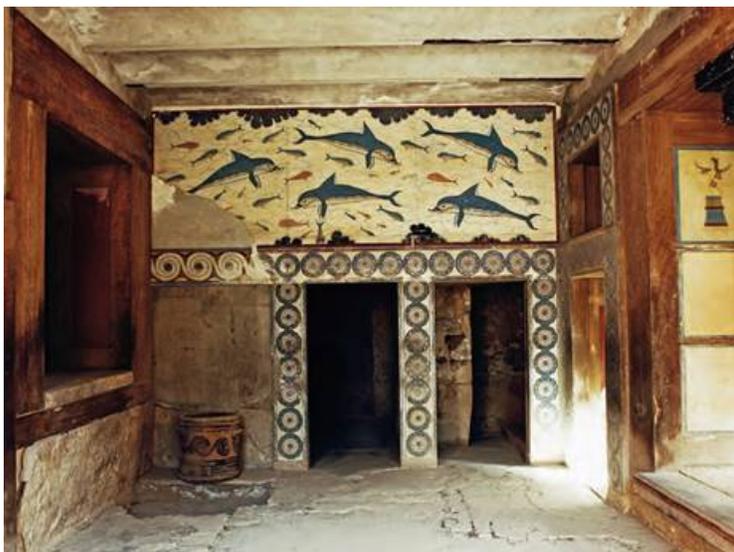
£25000 - £35000 per annum: Recruitment Genius: This Cambridge-based garden and...

Recruitment Genius: Home Carer

£15900 - £17350 per annum: Recruitment Genius: This is an opportunity to join ...

performed it, was to guide boats to a safe crossing. Usually he would just materialise at the bow; if he didn't, captains would often stall their vessels and wait.

During his tenure, Pelorus Jack's reputation spread far. Songs were written about him. Sometimes he appeared in gossip columns. Rudyard Kipling and Mark Twain both watched him in action – as I now would Fungie.



A Bronze Age-era fresco in the Palace of Knossos, Crete (Rennio Malfredi)

The next morning I bought a ticket for the Lady Avalon, a sturdy blue and white trawler, for a tour of Dingle Bay, where a dinghy, a white Zodiac, and a trio of sailboats circled.

"Anyone see him anywhere?" The captain, a man named Jimmy Flannery Sr, stuck his head out of the wheelhouse. No one had, but not for lack of looking. Then, suddenly, from our stern, a lady in a yellow slicker yelled: "There he is! Oh my god! I saw him!"

With a whooshing outbreath the dolphin had surfaced, and he was close enough that I could see his distinctive, gnarled face. Fungie looked pugilistic, and disconcertingly huge, with white markings around his chin like an old man's whiskers. He bore noticeable scars: his beak was roughed-up at the tip and his tail was missing a divot. On his throat he had the dolphin equivalent of deep wrinkles. Still, this was a big, tough bottlenose. I had read that Fungie was 12ft long and weighed 700lbs, but those numbers are low. My first thought was that the Most Loyal Animal on the Planet could knock someone's lights out if he wanted to.

Watching the dolphin, I felt a palpable glee emanating from him. No wonder the town had claimed him as their own – he was a skilled entertainer. He made perfect aerial arcs, walked on his tail and at one point swam along on his back, clapping his

STUDENT



10 university degree subjects you didn't know students could study

TRAVEL



Revealed: the most accurate Tube map possible - and why it was kept a secret

TECH



Don't want people to know your political views? Stop tweeting



START YOUR DAY WITH THE INDEPENDENT

SIGN UP FOR DAILY NEWS EMAILS

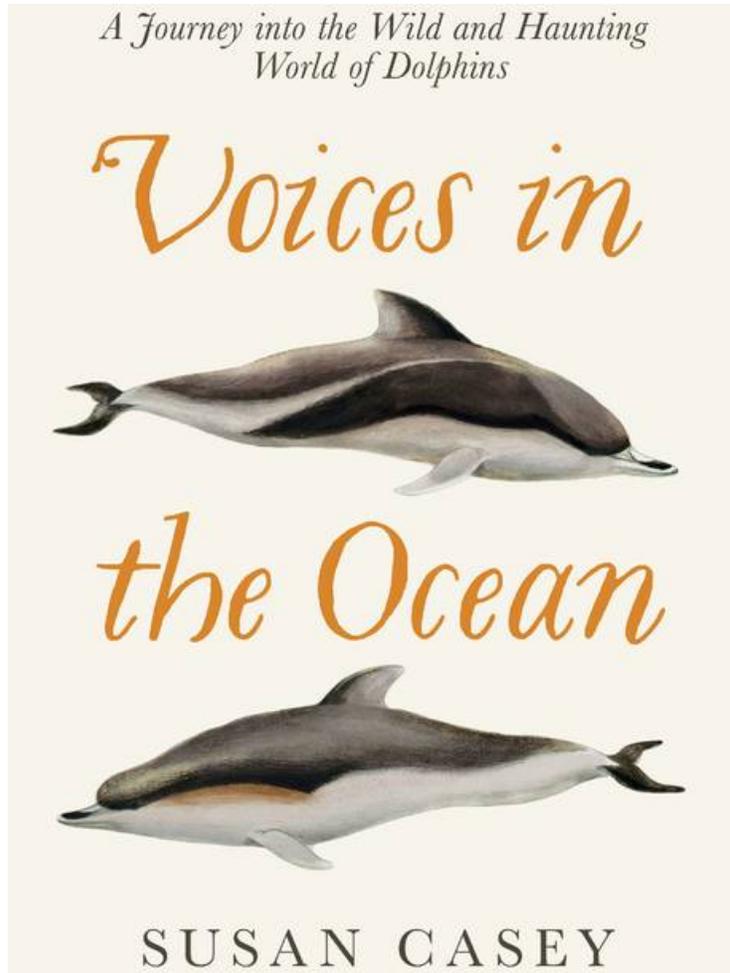
View the latest from iJobs

DAY IN A PAGE

Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat
 17 | September | 2015 | Go

pectoral fins.

Observing him, I found myself wondering if Fungie's past might have included a stint in captivity; if, back in the day, he had lived in a sea pen and somehow escaped. It had been known to happen, especially during storms. Unfortunately, they don't always know where to go or what to do with their sudden freedom, and so they seek out what they're accustomed to: people. Could Fungie be a refugee? We can only guess. But back at the docks, I decided to share my theory, with the skipper. "It seems like someone must have trained him," I said. "Do you know if they did?"



Flannery, who had been smiling pleasantly enough before I said this, turned and stared at me hard. A shadow passed fast over his face, darkening it like a thundercloud.

"Not at all," he said curtly, turning away dismissively. "He is a totally wild animal."

Wild? Dolly in France and Paquito in the Basque country; Egypt's Olin, who befriended a tribe of Bedouins in the Gulf of Aqaba; Charlie-Bubbles from Newfoundland; Springer from Seattle and Scar from New Zealand; Chas, who loved a particular

buoy in the Thames – these and so many other solitary dolphins have made themselves known to us. And that is usually where the problems begin. The inevitable unruly relationship between a solitary dolphin and the people who want to see him vexes biologists, who fear – correctly – that these encounters will end badly for the dolphin.

Their biggest threat, by far, is propellers, which seem as alluring as they are deadly: scientists have heard dolphins playfully mimicking the sounds of motorboat engines underwater, the way children do with their favourite toy trucks. Wilma and Echo, orphan belugas from Nova Scotia, both died from propeller strikes, but not before charming thousands of people, gliding up to sightseeing boats to let passengers stroke their skin.

Jet, a bottlenose from the Isle of Wight, had his tail lopped off by a propeller and bled to death. Freddie, a bottlenose from Northumberland, whose companion had swallowed a plastic bag and washed up dead on the beach, liked to swim upside down beneath motorised dinghies; once again, it was a propeller that got him.

READ MORE: • WE'RE DRAWN TO CREATURES THAT EXUDE CHARISMA
• ONE DIRECTION'S HARRY STYLES BEGS FANS TO BOYCOTT SEAWORLD
• CONTROVERSIAL TAIJI DOLPHIN HUNT BEGINS IN JAPAN
• WOMAN WANTS TO GIVE BIRTH UNDERWATER, SURROUNDED BY DOLPHINS
• HAMAS' NAVY SAYS IT HAS CAPTURED ISRAELI DOLPHIN SPY

But propellers are only one hazard among many. To read through a list of friendly wild dolphins who have met violent and untimely ends is to read a list of appalling human behaviour. Over in Israel, Dobbie, a bottlenose who liked to play with the air bubbles from scuba divers, washed up full of bullet holes.

Another, called "The Costa Rican", fell in love with a local dog which he would meet every day, pushed children around in a canoe, and let people ride on his back. When he became entangled in a fisherman's net, he waited calmly for help to arrive. Instead, the fisherman gaffed him and dragged his body on to the beach.

However, surrounded by people who want to swim with them, touch them and grab their fins, dolphins can become aggressive themselves. Lone dolphins, removed from everything familiar and confused by their new acquaintances, have been known to pin snorkellers to the seafloor, break arms, ribs and noses with their beaks, make amorous advances and club swimmers with their tails. Far from rescuing people, if a dolphin is sufficiently riled-up, he might prevent them from exiting the water, or push them farther out to sea.

Take the case of Lakeshore Estates, a gated waterfront

community in Slidell, Louisiana, which became host to a hostile resident bottlenose, known impersonally as "The Dolphin".

During Hurricane Katrina the young male had become separated from his pod, and ended up alone in a brackish canal in the middle of the suburb. In the seven years since his arrival, The Dolphin had done quite a bit of damage, and his behaviour was becoming increasingly ornery. In a flurry of activity he'd bitten several people – including one girl he'd attempted to drag away from shore by the ankle – chased swimmers out of the water, snapped his jaws at kayakers and body-slammed dinghies.



Protection: A pod of dolphins in Hawaii (Rennio Malfredi)

Concerned about his surliness, residents held a community meeting with government biologists and officials, 60 Slidell locals attending, along with a pair of sheriffs.

"Why can't we remove it?" complained a thin man with a bushy white moustache. "You know, if you put it in an aquarium, the problem is solved."

"Or maybe they should find him a girlfriend," suggested a woman in a white trouser suit and red lipstick. (It was true that The Dolphin often swam around with an erection, which he rubbed against boats.)

"The problem is the people," a burly Cajun wearing a Coast Guard baseball cap shot back. The biologists agreed: the best thing the community could do for The Dolphin was to steer clear of him. No more racing him on Jet Skis. No more following him around to take smartphone videos of his penis. The less human interaction he had, the more likely his bad behaviour would stop.

"You know, he's just like us," said another man, whose home and business had been dashed by the hurricane.

"He lost everything, but he's put it behind him and is fine. He's a survivor. People just have to leave him alone now."

The one thing we know for sure about lone friendly dolphins is that we are likely to meet more of them. Across the world, their society and ours are inevitably colliding. Even if dolphins manage to evade our web of fishing nets and longlines, they still contend with relentless pollution, oil spills, habitat destruction, food depletion, a barrage of brain-jangling noise – the list goes on. Of course we'll find them among us: they have nowhere else to go.

In so many ways, I came to realise, Dingle is a best-case scenario for a podless dolphin. There is no way to watch Fungie and doubt that he is having fun. He hunts for his own food. He is savvy enough to avoid propellers and dodge assholes. He has bonded with people but he's not completely isolated from his own species. (Lately, he has been seen gallivanting with two females.) In all situations the town protects his interests. And if The Most Loyal Animal on the Planet ever decides that he has been loyal to Dingle for long enough, he is free to leave as he pleases.

Obviously, the town is praying that never happens. What's good for Fungie is good for them. But as I drove away from Dingle, the bay shining behind me, I gave my own silent thanks to the people who had cared enough to protect a lone dolphin, the town with a Fungie-shaped space in its heart.

This is an edited extract from 'Voices in the Ocean' by Susan Casey (£16.99, Oneworld)



Promoted stories from the web

Sponsored Links by Taboola

[Watch] Scott Angelo on The Growing Cyber Threat

Enterprise CIO Forum for HP

These 35 Photos Are The Most Heartbreaking Images

Buzzlamp

The Stunning Evolution of Millennials: They've Become the Ben Franklin Generation

The Huffington Post | Wealthfront

Mind Blown! 34 Objects We Had No Idea Existed. Whoa (Pics)

Bored Lion

Worst Exercise For Middle Age -- Ages You Faster

MAX Workouts Fitness Guide

I Tried FanDuel: Here's How it Went

FantasySP | FanDuel

More from The Independent

by Taboola

Serena Williams had a truly wonderful response when a journalist asked why she wasn't smiling

Mourinho storms out of pre-match interview after Stones question

What colour do you see here? The answer says a lot more than you think

Ads by Google

1 Rule of a flat stomach:

Cut down a bit of stomach fat every day by using this 1 weird old tip.

redirectyourcarbs.com

Potty Train Dog in 6 Days

This 4 Minute Exercise Teaches Your Dog To Potty Outside Every Time!

www.thedogtrainingsecret.com

Jewelry Chains

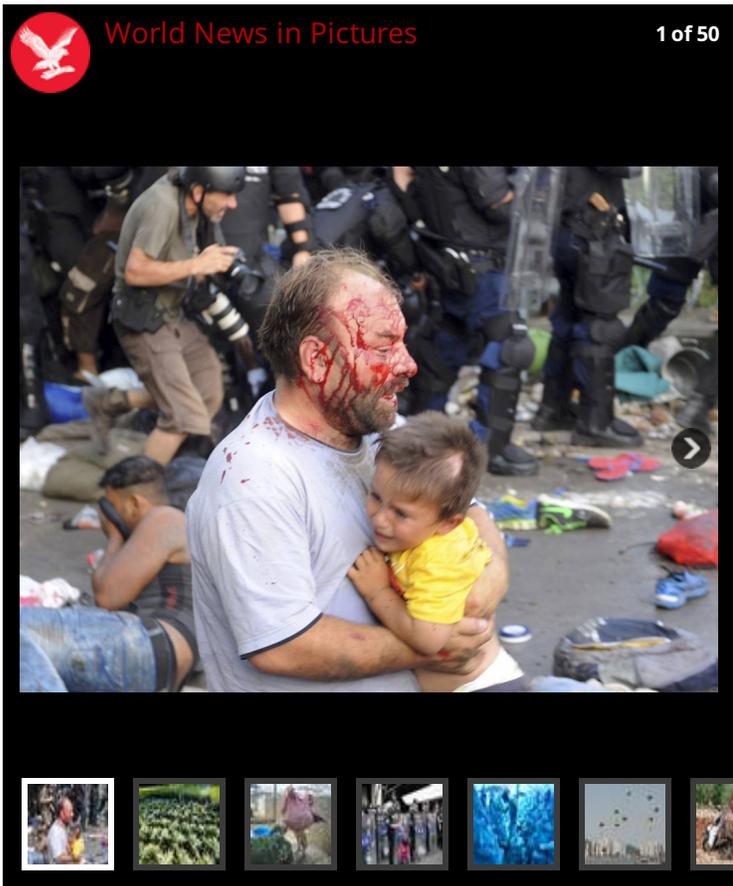
120,000+ Beads & Jewelry Supplies. Wholesale Prices; Since 1973

firemountaingems.com/Chains

Africa Safari

The Best Value in Africa Safaris. Book Now 17 Days just \$264 per day

vantagetravel.com/AfricaSafari



48 COMMENTS

Post a Comment

Login

B I

Empty text input box for commenting.

Post

TOP NEW OLD

INDOMITABLE / 5 days ago



While it is important that attention is drawn to this threat to dolphins, the Independent and much of the media is reluctant even to mention the appalling atrocities committed by the Japanese against these creatures in Taiji. A thousand people gathered recently outside the Japanese Embassy to express their disgust, and similar demonstrations took place in other countries. Demonstrations have also taken place outside the Danish Embassy to protest against the massacre of whales in the Faroes and the arrest of Sea Shepherd

crew members by the Danish navy. However because the media are tightly controlled by our corrupt political establishment, such news is censored. It is virtually taboo to condemn other countries for their crimes against wildlife. The left wing media are eager to pander to other cultures, while the right wing are keen to promote global capitalism. The plight of dolphins, whales and animals in general has therefore been sacrificed.

REPLY

+ 1 -

**JOHN DAVID** / 6 days ago

Yes. really friendly. And this is not an isolated case.

<http://www.irishcentral.com/news/Angry-Irish-dolphin-.html>

I've had an interesting marine mammals in particular dolphins over many decades and one would have hoped we put to bed these myths about them being highly intelligent and friendly to humans. After all, these were the erroneous personal theories of the controversial research by the neurologist Dr John Lilly in the 1960s who put forward the hypothesis that dolphins were "super intelligent" and that we could learn their "language". He was even funded by NASA for a period of time. However, when his research failed to support his hypothesis funding disappeared. His scientific integrity wasn't helped either by the fact that he actually injected some of his research animals with LSD – a drug that he also used. After his dolphin research he began to experiment in metaphysics which involved the development of flotation chambers and the use of drugs to enhance the experience; for a period time he was banned from the United States due to his drug use.

This new book seems to be a regurgitation of some these musings that come from New-Age thinking of the 1960s as it relates to dolphins.

REPLY

+ 1 -

**JOHN DAVID** / 6 days ago

One has to question just how much research this author actually undertook into dolphins.

Primarily the information she relates about Freddie the dolphin that frequented the coastal resort of Amble in Northumberland for a number of years. During this time the animal was consistently studied and the results were published in the peer review journal Aquatic Mammals. At no time was there any suggestion that Freddie had a

companion nor that this companion died due to the ingestion of a plastic bag.

Moreover, his propeller injury accidentally occurred as a result of a strike by a police launch. Fortunately despite these injuries being quite extensive the animal made a full recovery.

http://www.aquaticmammalsjournal.org/share/AquaticMammalsIssueArchives/1995/AquaticMammals_21-01/21-01_Bloom.pdf

http://www.aquaticmammalsjournal.org/share/AquaticMammalsIssueArchives/1991/Aquatic_Mammals_17_3/Bloom.pdf

In his 2012 book "Are Dolphins Really Smart?" The Mammal Behind the Myth" Dr Justin Gregg addresses the disparity given to dolphins compared to other species. He challenges the common dogma that dolphins should be given some form of special treatment due to their mythical 'intelligence' - the killer whale is the largest member of the dolphin family.

Such observations are, of course, not new and as far back as 1992, the cetacean biologist Dr Margaret Klinowska made a similar published observation.

"There is another less anthropomorphic or "speciesist" way of looking at the question of general "intelligence". All living species must be highly "intelligent" in a broad sense in order to survive. From this point of view, humans are no more and no less than one of the species living on this planet with particular adaptations (specialised "intelligence") for their own way of life. This perspective allows us to view the superb professionalism of all species with equal respect, and not in some artificial ranking order of higher or lower "intelligence" (with the hidden assumption that they are more or less worthy of conservation and consideration, and that as humans are, of course, in the first rank, their wishes have priority)"

REPLY

+ 0 -



TOMHOWARD / 7 days ago



"What to make of these stories?..." They are all told by human beings.

REPLY

+ 1 -



ROBERTMUNN / 7 days ago



One day while sitting in the lineup with a small group of

other surfers at Blacks Beach in San Diego, CA, I saw a young whale come right up to our group, stop within a few feet and wave a fin at us. It seemed lost. Within a couple of minutes, three dolphins came up to us, swam around the whale to get its attention, then guided the whale back out to the open ocean.

Never underestimate the intelligence and compassion of these beautiful creatures.

REPLY**+ 2 -****MARK_2674** / 7 days ago

Other animals learn to avoid us so they won't be killed. Dolphins just keep showing up though, swimming into our boat propellers, etc. Maybe they're just not very bright.

REPLY**+ 1 -****ADC** / 7 days ago

ummmm...maybe they like free food?

REPLY**+ 1 -****MARK_2674** / 7 days ago

Overall, this article was a waste of time. Is the author a biologist, or an eccentric dolphin fanatic. I had assumed the former, but no evidence of that in the article. The intro implied she would *explain* dolphin behavior. She didn't explain anything really. It was basically just an enumeration of colorful anecdotes about dolphins, which even before reading the article I could have surmised to have happened. Did it explain why dolphins seek out humans? No. There was just seemingly idle conjecture with no followup, e.g. maybe they view us as just other dolphins. But that question could be answered by determining if they interact with other species as well. She conjectures at one point that maybe the dolphin in Dingle bay was previously a captured animal who was taught tricks. The harbor master disagrees vehemently, and then she just drops the topic altogether. Why even bring it up if its not generally true of other sociable dolphins. Just a speculative extraneous, pointless diversion. She points out that dolphins can be mean to humans too. OK, that's interesting. It would be more interesting if there was a definitive explanation for it. Instead we get more idle, spur of the moment conjecture by her. I as well could scour the internet for dolphin stories, compile them into a book, and then speculate idly about why they do the things they do.

REPLY

+ 0 -

**HOPEFUL** / 7 days ago

That's a bit rude, I actually really enjoyed it, speculation included :)

REPLY

+ 0 -

**HETZ** / 7 days ago

"She didn't explain anything really."

Women can't explain anything.

REPLY

+ 1 -

**ZOMBIETIMESHARE** / 7 days ago

From the dolphin point of view. Keep your friends close and your dinner closer.

REPLY

+ 0 -

**FMMAJ9** / 7 days ago

It's called food. Like all animals, they're just looking for an easy meal.

REPLY

+ 1 -

**FRGOUGH** / 7 days ago

"it was known in the past for its abundant reservoirs of rubbish"

And that is your answer, right there. Easy eating. Odds are pretty good the rest of the cases also involve handing out food.

REPLY

+ 1 -

**ICEBEAR** / 7 days ago

Humans and dolphins had a common origin as aquatic mammals.

www.cosmosincollision.com

On Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/514483018695199/>

REPLY

+ -3 -

**GERENG** / 7 days ago

In the early 1970s I spent 3 summers in Belize where spear fishing was a major activity for about a dozen Brits and Americans working there. One afternoon coming back from the reefs we passed a large pod of dolphins seemingly just swimming aimlessly around. We passed them, dropped anchor and three of us got back in the water with masks and fins to swim back and see what the dolphins were up to. When we were perhaps 150 feet from the pod, a group of males (by their size and behavior, we guessed their gender) broke away from the pod and spread out facing us and swam toward us. About 50 feet away they started swimming, like sentries, back and forth in front of us, clearly giving notice not to come closer to the females and youngsters in the center of the group. We didn't. We all knew they could hit sharks in the gills hard enough to kill them.

REPLY

+ 1 -

**JUDESTER** / 7 days ago

Forgot to say "human female".

REPLY

+ 0 -

**JUDESTER** / 7 days ago

It has been said that dolphins can detect when a female is pregnant.

REPLY

+ 0 -

**RCO213** / 7 days ago

How do you know they seek out humans? Maybe dolphins, by nature, are just curious of everything they encounter.

REPLY

+ 1 -

**DOZER JOHNSON** / 7 days ago

God uses animals in mysterious ways. God used a donkey to talk to Balaam once. Numbers 22:1-35 and a whale to swallow Jonah when Jonah disobeyed Him.

REPLY

+ 0 -

 **DIOGENES** / 7 days ago 🔍 🐦 f

Hahahahahahahahaha!

REPLY + -2 -

 **TOY** / 5 days ago 🔍 🐦 f

"Inherit the Wind". (Spencer Tracy.)
"A great fish"!

REPLY + 0 -

 **FOAD** / 7 days ago 🔍 🐦 f

If dolphins are seeking out humans, they must not be as smart as we thought.

REPLY + 3 -

 **RALPHW** / 7 days ago 🔍 🐦 f

It's because we have money and they don't.

REPLY + 0 -

 **GERENG** / 7 days ago 🔍 🐦 f

They need pockets. I see a new cause!

REPLY + 0 -

 **SADIE333** / 7 days ago 🔍 🐦 f

Dolphins and Orcas are Good.....Sharks are Bad!!!!

REPLY + 0 -

 **MAKHNOVTCHINA** / 7 days ago 🔍 🐦 f

As in most encounters with wild animals, if you first let them initiate the type of interaction and show them respect and honour, then you will get the same back (or even more in the case of dolphins).

Unfortunately most human beings tend to project their romanticised human perception of dolphins or anthropomorphise onto them, assuming that they will always be friendly and wanting to be petted like domesticated dogs.

This is not necessarily the case, so if you didn't bother to respect them as equals or to read their behaviour signals

before approaching them, and you get butted, dragged underwater or sexually assaulted, don't be shocked.

REPLY

+ 0 -



JACK.DAVIS1968 / 7 days ago



So long, and thanks for all the fish.

REPLY

+ 4 -



JEFFREY GEE / 7 days ago



Nice... "Hitchhiker's Guide to The Galaxy"!

REPLY

+ 1 -



HEYRICKSANDER / 7 days ago



What's this "our cruelty" stuff. You can say "human's", but I never hurt a dolphin so it's not "we" or "our". That is unless you believe in communal punishment like the nazis.

REPLY

+ 2 -



CRYPTO7 / 7 days ago



Dolphins seek out humans for the same reason humans seek out dogs. We're idiots in comparison.

REPLY

+ 3 -



SUSAN ANTONY / 7 days ago



What about Flipper?

Anyway, about 20 years ago I was in Mexico, on the Pacific side.

I was on a platform about 100 yards off shore which was used as a place to take off from for water skiing. There were round red floating balls attached to a net.

Some Porpoises came near by and one of them started pushing a ball with his nose.

I think they just like to play.

REPLY

+ 0 -



MDVLT80 / 7 days ago



Free stuff.

REPLY

+ 1 -

**CKINTX** / 7 days ago

I recall a story about a dolphin at Sea World.

The dolphin was rewarded for retrieving bits of trash from its pool. But, then it started to present trash from a clean pool, still getting its fish reward.

Handlers found that it had cleaned the pool, storing the collected trash. When it wanted a treat, it would grab a bit of the hoarded trash, give it to the handler and get its reward.

Who trained whom?

REPLY

+ 3 -

**PETER MAC** / 7 days ago

Why . . . do dolphins seem to actively seek out encounters with humans?" Perhaps for the same reason that humans actively seek out encounters with white mice ? To study them.

REPLY

+ 2 -

**NBI** / 7 days ago

Very awesome animals, unbelievable that anyone can even think of killing them.

REPLY

+ 1 -

**DNMURPHY** / 7 days ago

Sadly hundreds of thousands at least are killed each year.

REPLY

+ 0 -

**IAMBPCENTAMASTR** / 7 days ago

It's unbelievable that someone would eat them alive.

Killing them first is the right way to do it, don't you think?

REPLY

+ 0 -



PAUL / 7 days ago



"In her new book, Susan Casey explains all"

Let's hope so - because she doesn't bother explaining much here.

REPLY

+ 0 -



CHRISBYROMAN / 7 days ago



It's so sad that some people want to kill them and other marine mammals. What goes on in the Faroes, Norway, Japan et al is barbaric and needs to stop. And don't say it is tradition, tradition is an excuse for so many things the human race should have stopped when we entered the modern age. We used to be a whaling nation in the UK.

REPLY

+ 4 -



CKINTX / 7 days ago



If there was a large enough market for whale oil, you would be again.

REPLY

+ -2 -



LIONSINGH / 7 days ago



Glad they are on our side v Sharks
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ok097oxyXU>

REPLY

+ 1 -



OLDWEASE / 7 days ago



I suspect they make the mistake of assuming that we're almost as intelligent as they are.

REPLY

+ 11 -



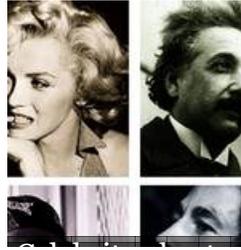
JEFF BLACK / 7 days ago



Yes, they're trying to tell us that the earth is about to be demolished to make way for an intergalactic bypass.

REPLY

+ 4 -



Search The Independent 

- Advanced search
- Article archive
- Topics

- Terms & Policies
- Privacy Policy
- Cookie policy
- Code of Conduct
- Complaint form
- Email newsletters
- RSS
- Live Blogs
- About i100

- Contact Us
- Subscriptions
- Apps
- Work for us
- Evening Standard
- Homes & Property
- iJobs
- News video
- Sport video

- Advertising Guide
- Syndication
- Novaya Gazeta (English)
- ES Business Connections
- ES Rentals
- London Live

© independent.co.uk

