

# Dolphins are people too

By: April Lawyer @21aplawy

It is an uneducated notion that humans are the only ones deserving of personhood. Homosapiens are not special in their existence, and are as animal as dogs. Because of this, personhood is not solely applicable to humans, and can be given to other species. An argument against this is that the definition of a person relates back to humans, but anyone that gets caught up on this linguistic technicality should have no problem viewing the words “idiot” and “moron” as slurs equal to if not worse than the “r-word.” All three derive from classifications, legal and psychological, for the mentally undeveloped/intellectually-impaired. Language evolves, and it has evolved in a way that I believe “personhood” can be applied to non-humans.

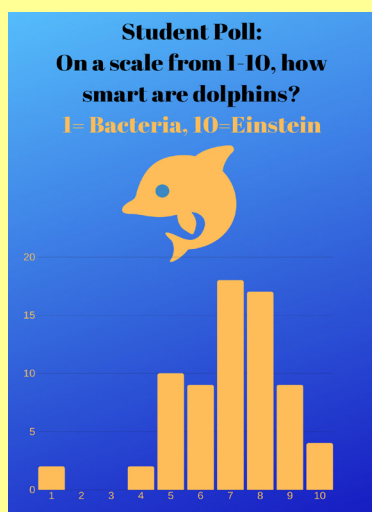
Dolphins are cetaceans. They are not taxonomically close to primates, and their brains are much different. However, this does not equal a lack in intelligence. Their brain that is equipped to life in the ocean enables them to form tight communities and understand complex messages. In a 1986 study conducted by Louis Herman, bottlenose dolphins were taught sign language and a digital language. Through these experiments, scientists found that dolphins can easily process and understand syntax. The dolphins could observe sentences in sign language, and deduce their meaning when word order changed. For instance, the dolphins were taught the meaning of “hoop”, “ball”, and “to”, then were told “ball to hoop”. They could understand the meaning of the sentence, and did as asked. Then, if the sentence

was changed to “hoop to ball,” the dolphins would move the hoop to the ball. This means that the dolphins knew that word order makes a difference in message and could understand that prepositions affect nouns. This shows advanced language comprehension.

Dolphins realize their individuality. The mirror test is often used as a determiner of intelligence among animals, and few pass it. A mirror is placed in front of an animal, and a mark daubed on its body. Most animals treat their reflection as another member of their species or ignore it. However, a select few are able to recognize the image as their own. Often they will use the mirror to look at their mark, contorting their body to do so. Sometimes, the animals will open their mouths or behave

oddly, looking themselves over. They do not show these behaviors when looking at images or footage of their own kind. Dolphins not only pass this test, but do so at an earlier age than most humans. The understanding of self is a vital part of sentience and is a pillar of personhood.

As shown, dolphins are intelligent, sentient beings. And because of this, they should be called people. I won't push for anything as radical as voting rights. I propose common sense laws. The murder and enslavement of dolphins shall be legally treated as the murder and enslavement of humans. All too often, corporations and fishing conglomerates get away with only a fine. There can be no room for bias against other species when deciding their standing in our society. Hopefully in the future, humans will be able to see past the boundary of species, and anoint the title of person not by taxonomy, but by worth.



Out of a convenience poll of 66 students, most people think dolphins are of high intelligence.

# Worth the upgrade?

By: Sydney Burlage @burlage\_sydney

Apple has released a brand new version of the iconic AirPods. The AirPods Pro comes with a hefty price tag of \$249 according to the official Apple website. The big question on everyone's mind is are they worth all that money. The answer to that question is no. No set of earbuds should cost close to \$250, much less ones whose effectiveness barely changes from the previous rounds of AirPods.

The new set of AirPods has very minimal changes from previous editions. They come with sound canceling abilities, water resistance, and customizable fit. Only three largely notable changes from before. The customizable fit refers to the ability to change the size of a squishy round end that goes in your ear, yet that is still not really custom. The tips only come in 3 sizes, and if those sizes don't work, you're out of luck. Companies are sure to come up with copycat designs to account for other sizes, but these fakes compromise the sound quality and noise cancellation features as well. Buying a pair of earbuds for \$250 that has a chance of not fitting and not having good sound is a risk that isn't worth that much money.

Airpods Pro also has a big drawback that can't be concealed by a cool name or skirting around details. The listening time per charge is decreased by half an hour. In my opinion that is the most important factor. If Apple was going to roll out a new set of



Out of a convenience poll of 50 students, the majority says no.

wireless earbuds and charge even more for them, shouldn't they have made nothing but improvements? In all of Apple's advertising they conveniently forgot to mention this important fact.

Considering the lesser listening time and the minimal “custom” options, AirPods Pro aren't worth the large pricetag for the upgrade. There are many alternatives to AirPods that have comparable listening experiences for only a fraction of the price. The biggest difference is the lack of a name brand. The big decision when trying to decide on the new AirPods Pro versus an alternative wireless earbuds is whether you care more about saving money or having the next hot Apple product. Just remember, you could be spending that \$250 on Starbucks and Chick-fil-a rather than the overpriced AirPods Pro.

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