



Throwing cold water on lobster sales

Dear Editor, Lobsters have been suffering in crates on Australian docks—the unwilling victims of a trade war with China. Vested interests have presented this cruelty as an opportunity for Australians to buy lobsters cheaply, but we should really view this trade breakdown as motivation to eliminate an appallingly cruel business. Researchers tell us that lobsters are amazingly smart animals who use complicated signals to explore their surroundings and establish social relationships. They have been shown to experience stress when confined in tanks, and to suffer agony, as any animal would, when cut up or thrown alive into boiling water. Invertebrate zoologists tell us that lobsters may feel more pain than other animals, since their nervous system does not go into shock if they are harmed. When dropped into scalding water, lobsters whip their bodies wildly and scrape the sides of the pot in a desperate attempt to escape. A judge recognised lobster sentience in a ground-breaking Sydney case, in which Nicholas Seafood pleaded guilty to cruelty-to-animals charges after a video showed a staff member butchering a suffering lobster. 500 years ago, Leonardo da Vinci wrote, “How cruel for one whose natural habitat is water to be made to die in boiling water.” Ninety-nine percent of Australians agree that unnecessary cruelty is wrong, so let’s just leave the lobsters in the ocean, where they belong. Desmond Bellamy Special Projects Coordinator PETA Australia PO Box 2352 Byron Bay NSW 2481 0411 577 416 DesmondB@PETA.org.au

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