

# Animalkind: Animals Are Awesome, and Crabs Are Clever

Presented by PETA President Ingrid Newkirk

## All About Crabs

**Instructions:** While viewing the video “Animalkind: Animals Are Awesome” (available at [TeachKind.org/CrabVideo](https://TeachKind.org/CrabVideo)), use the following guide to get a better understanding of the information presented.

- At 1:42, Ingrid says, “Ocean acidification caused by human use of fossil fuels is actually softening crabs’ shells.”

When humans burn coal or gas (also known as **fossil fuels**) to generate electricity or power cars, carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere. The oceans absorb some of this carbon dioxide, which causes the water to become more acidic (a process called **ocean acidification**). Water that’s too acidic prevents crabs and other animals like oysters and coral from being able to build strong, healthy shells that will protect them from predators.



- At 3:53, Ingrid says, “Summer is a gorgeous time to walk along the beach in Norfolk.”

PETA’s Norfolk, Virginia, headquarters, the Sam Simon Center, is near many beaches with crabs and other interesting wildlife.

- At 4:32, Ingrid says, “PETA’s Ivy Yoon’s dog Dakota actually ate a fishhook that no one had picked up.”

Ivy works at PETA. She reports that Dakota thankfully made a full recovery after the fishhook was surgically removed from his stomach, and she encourages everyone to go “trash fishing” to help prevent animals from being hurt. Learn more at [PETAKids.com/TrashFishing](https://PETAKids.com/TrashFishing).

- At 5:04, Ingrid says, “[G]host crab traps doom not only crabs but turtles, too.”

A **ghost crab trap** is a trap that has lost its float and cannot be recovered by its owner. This means that crabs, turtles, and any other animals trapped inside will die there, since they can’t escape to get food.

- At 5:47, Ingrid says, “Crabs are decapods with 10 appendages.”

**Decapods** are a group of animals that includes nearly 15,000 different species of crabs as well as shrimp, lobsters, and crayfish. **Appendages** are projecting body parts, such as arms and legs. Although *decapod* means “10-footed,” animals in this group can actually have as many as 38 appendages.

- At 7:57, Ingrid says, “I always do ask [the restaurant staff] if they serve faux crab or faux fish.”

Crabs, fish, and all other animals suffer when killed for food. But **faux crab** and **faux fish** products are made from vegan ingredients, not animals. They taste delicious and are available in many grocery stores.

- At 9:06, Ingrid says, “Horseshoe crabs are not considered true crabs by taxonomists.”

A **taxonomist** is a scientist who groups animals into categories based on their similarities. It’s important to remember that no matter what group they belong to, all animals can feel pain, so they should all be treated with respect and kindness.

- At 14:43, Ingrid says, “[A]quatic crabs ... attract each other using pheromones.”

**Pheromones** are chemicals that some animals release to communicate with others of their species. They can be used to attract a mate, lead others to food, or alert others to danger.