



TribeofCats 1 hour ago

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I'm a farmer and although ridiculously "over-educated" (doctoral degree), I often forget this, as does someone else very close to me who repeatedly laments, "HOW can they be that stupid?"

Well ... I need to keep reminding myself of a personal anecdote from my own life.

My senior year of grad school, right before starting clinical rotation, I was at the gigantic f***-off party that we had at the end of the year, which took up an entire hotel, pretty much. I was sitting on a bed sharing a beverage with one of my classmates, someone who I'd gotten along with, but was never close to, when she asked me a question that jarred me.

I keep pet snakes as a hobby -- always have -- and everybody knew this. This young woman, who had just been through three grueling years of the most advanced biomedical training available (following, of course, her previous 3-4 years of undergraduate studies in a presumably similar field), said, in all seriousness, that she had heard that a snake kept in a small tank will only grow to the size of its enclosure, and she was wondering if that was true.

I was stunned.

This is, of course, *not* true, in any way shape or form. It is a **lie**, flat-out and boldfaced, that was invented and perpetuated by extremely dishonest and unethical pet store owners to sell large constrictor snakes to neophytes, because the larger species used to be cheaper and more readily available than smaller species (this is no longer true *AT ALL*, by the way, despite what the MSM fear mill might suggest -- that, too, is all a part of the 'Borg Lie Control mechanism, but that's another story). The lie is vaguely based on the fact that *goldfish* can sometimes "grow only to the size of their enclosure" -- which is actually a form of animal abuse, because what's really happening is that they produce so much ammonia that, if kept in a small tank with a small-tank filter, the ammonia will eventually build up and stunt their growth. There is NO natural mechanism by which this occurs.

So here's this person who has just spent probably seven years of her life learning the actual molecular biological mechanisms behind how bodies work, who nevertheless believed a lie perpetuated by shysters that has *zero* basis in biological fact.

That, friends, is how we got where we are today. Education without critical thinking skills, on a level that is so egregious that I cannot even begin to come up with an analogy.