WHAT TO DO IF YOU HOOK A TURTLE

Ontario’s turtles are in decline and need all the help they can get!

IF YOU HAVE HOOKED A TURTLE WHILE ANGLING:

1. Reel it in slowly and gently to prevent the hook from digging in deeper.

2. Never cut your line. A hook left embedded in a turtle can lead to its death.

3. Use a net or grab the back of the turtle’s shell to lift it out of the water. To prevent further injury, don’t lift the turtle by the fishing line or tail.

4. Be cautious as turtles may bite or scratch to protect themselves. Use extra caution with Snapping and Spiny Softshell Turtles as they have long necks and powerful bites.

5. If the hook is difficult to remove, caught in its mouth, or is swallowed, medical care is required.

For more information:
HelpTheTurtles.ca or CanadianHerpetology.ca

Call the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre
705.741.5000

They will provide medical care at no charge and have volunteers to assist with transportation from anywhere in Ontario.