

# Rescues

## Rescue Call Procedure:

1. Take callers **name and number**
2. **Exact location** of seal including any landmarks; ask for **correct spelling** of location, and county.
3. Ask what are the **tidal Conditions**
4. Ask for **description of seal** (Helpful to use **dog breed size** as comparison). ie Cocker Spaniel v Labrador.  
\*Cocker spaniel not good, too small for Seal pup to be.
5. Ask are there are **any evident injuries** or **any discharges from nose or eyes**.
6. **Advise caller not to put back in the water.**
7. Advise caller to **observe from a distance**.
8. Ask caller **if they can send a photo of seal** for visual assessment at ISS
9. Forward call to Animal Manager/handler.
10. **Refer to Emergency Contact List** to Co-ordinate Rescue

## Co-ordinating Rescue:

1. Assess whether seal needs to be **rescued or kept under observation**.

### ***Keep under observation:***

- older common seal larger than cocker spaniel size with no apparent wounds. Ask caller to check again the next day and call again if it is still there

- grey seal in good condition with white coat and no apparent wounds, on an isolated non-public beach, where tide will not wash it away. Ask caller to re-check on seal the next day, observe for a mother. If seal is still there and no mother is attending to it, it will need to be rescued.

- grey seal of Labrador size and above, barrel-shaped with no apparent wounds. Most likely just resting. Ask caller to check again the next day and call again if it is still there.

### ***Rescue:***

- all young and small common seal babies without mother

- all wounded seals without mother

- all emaciated seals without mother, for grey seals this usually means pups smaller than Labrador, Common seals can be slightly smaller than this.

- white coat grey seal pups on busy public beaches, at risk of dog attacks and where mother is unlikely to have left it
  - seals that have been under observation for a few days and have not moved
  - seals that have wandered far away from the sea onto public areas
2. **If a seal needs to be rescued**, ask rescue caller if they can **stay with seal until a local co-ordinator can get there**. If not ask them if they can get somebody who can. You don't want to send out a co-ordinator if it is possible that the seal will go back into the water
  3. **Refer to the Rescue list** (see below). Try **county co-ordinators first** (ones underlined and in bold) and then keep trying until you can find somebody to help.
  4. **Give local contact the number of the person/people on beach with seal** and ask them to call the seal sanctuary when the seal is captured and ready for transport.

If you were not able to find somebody to help, call the person with the seal on the beach and ask them if they can capture seal. Recommend they get friends or other locals to help them. Make them aware of how to handle the seal without getting bit. Ask them to find a box (fish boxes are useful) to put seal into, and have them call you back when seal is secure and ready for transport.

5. **Co-ordinate pick-up with whoever captures seal**, ask if they can drive part way. If it is late or if the drive is too long to carry out that day, try to get seal to **spend night at local vets**. Consult rescue list to see if there are any in the area that have helped the seal sanctuary in the past.
6. Once rescue has been co-ordinated, consult below 'carrying out rescues' for what to do next.

### Carrying out Rescues:

- Make sure you have **contact details of the person who reported or is with the seal**
- **Arrive well prepared with many towels, rescue kit and carrying box**
- **Do not take risks** by searching for animals in dangerous places or at night. Remember a wave can wash you off the shore so be vigilant.
- **Rehydrate** the animal before the journey, especially if you have a long journey or the animal is in bad shape

- If interested **encourage the person who reported the seal to keep in touch** and help arrange the release if the rehabilitation of the seal is successful.
- Keep the car cool with **windows open** and **check on the animal regularly**
- Rehydrate mid-journey if needs be

#### Rescue kit:

- Tube & funnel
- 500mL Lactate
- finger guard
- 2L water
- Large towels (min 4)
- gloves

#### Protocol for volunteers remaining at the sanctuary:

- Clean and **prepare a kennel** (put dry/clean towels on platform)
- **Keep rescue driver updated** on any changes
- Get **examination sheet, soap sheet and feeding chart** ready to be filled out when seal arrives

#### Emergency first response protocol when animal arrives at ISS:

- Add animal to **master log sheet**
- **Weigh** animal
- COMPLETELY fill out **examination sheet**, checking for wounds, abscesses etc.
- **Tube-feed** 200mL lactate
- Fill out condition, location, date and reason seal found on **soap sheet**
- **Put animal in kennel** with heat lamp if necessary