



The Marine
Mammal Center

Animal Care and Stranding (Rescue)

The Marine Mammal Center is a nonprofit veterinary research hospital and educational center with a mission to expand knowledge about marine mammals – their health and that of their ocean environment – and inspire their global conservation. The Marine Mammal Center is dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of ill and injured marine mammals – primarily elephant seals, harbor seals, and California sea lions. Since 1975, we've been headquartered in Sausalito, CA in the Marin Headlands within the Golden Gate National Parks, and have rescued and treated more than 15,000 marine mammals.

Volunteers are the backbone of what we do and make our work possible!

Animal Care:

We operate a veterinary hospital for marine mammals and volunteers are needed to join crews that commit to a **weekly schedule** to work with other volunteers as a team on **day or night shifts**. Volunteers contribute in a variety of ways and help with weighing and maintaining charts on the animals, preparing feeds and feeding the animals, and cleaning pens and pools. Volunteers have a unique opportunity to provide hands on veterinary care to the animals in our care which are primarily California sea lions, northern elephant seals and Pacific harbor seals. Volunteers also enjoy the satisfaction of contributing to the rehabilitation and then release of these species back to their ocean home.

Stranding (Rescue):

Our rescues rely heavily on volunteers whom we train to assess the situation, aid the animals (including administering emergency care) and transporting them if need be to one of our triage sites, or our main hospital in Sausalito. We're always in need of volunteers! Much rescue work requires special training, but all volunteers can participate in releases and transporting animals.

To learn more and get started, please attend one of our [Volunteer Introduction Meetings](#).

Come join us and make a difference in helping to save marine mammals!