



The Marine
Mammal Center®

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The Marine Mammal Center Rescues its 10,000th Sea Lion Patient!

The public is invited to submit name suggestions for patient “x”

(SAUSALITO, Calif. – July 19, 2011) – The Marine Mammal Center recently achieved a milestone in its 36-year history by rescuing its 10,000th California sea lion and to mark the occasion, is inviting the public to help give the pinniped a name. Between now and July 24, all marine mammal lovers who participate will be able to download a FREE marine mammal ringtone. They can do so at: <http://www.marinemammalcenter.org/about-us/News-Room/Latest-News/#10000>. The name will be chosen and announced on the Center’s website during the week of August 1.

“The rescue of this sea lion, as well as all of our patients, is an amazing achievement and signifies the dedication and commitment we have to helping these animals and giving them a second chance at life;” said Jeff Boehm, executive director of The Marine Mammal Center. “But, it’s also a sobering message about the health of our oceans and the role we all can play in making their home, the worlds’ largest life source, a healthier and safer place to live.”

The juvenile, male California sea lion was rescued on a dock in Santa Cruz near the famous Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk on June 15. It is common for sea lions to “haul out” of the water and onto land or docks to rest and sun themselves. Rescuers didn’t want to disturb what might have been a natural behavior for this animal, so kept him under watch instead. Unfortunately this sea lion was indeed ill, and on day three, with people getting too close to him, it became apparent that he was not behaving like a normal wild animal. Volunteers from the Center’s Monterey Bay Operations rescued the 111 lb animal and transported him to hospital headquarters in Sausalito. Veterinarians believe he may be suffering from leptospirosis – a kidney disease that can be fatal for sea lions. They currently have him on antibiotics to clear the infection.

Volunteers and staff from The Marine Mammal Center rescue hundreds of animals each year. Since 1975, they’ve rescued over 16,500 seals, sea lions, otters and other marine mammals from 600 miles of California coastline. These animals are found suffering from many things including starvation, injuries caused by entanglements in ocean trash, gunshot wounds, and illnesses such as toxic algae poisoning and bacterial infections. So far this year, staff and volunteers at the Center have rescued nearly 250 marine mammals.

While at the Center, patients receive the medical care they need and veterinarians gain valuable information about these animals; data that teaches other researchers about marine mammal and ocean

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health, which in turn can help endangered species like the Hawaiian monk seal, another species The Marine Mammal Center works with in Hawaii.

About The Marine Mammal Center:

The Marine Mammal Center is a nonprofit veterinary hospital, research and educational center dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of ill and injured marine mammals - primarily elephant seals, harbor seals and California sea lions - and to the study of their health. Since 1975, the Center has been headquartered in the Marin Headlands, within the Golden Gate National Parks and has rescued and treated more than 16,500 marine mammals. The Center's newly rebuilt headquarters in Sausalito is open to the public daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Admission is FREE. For more information and to sign up for the Center's eNewsletter, go to: www.MarineMammalCenter.org

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