



The Marine
Mammal Center™

News Release

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SAVE OUR SEALS – SAVE OURSELVES

The Marine Mammal Center to celebrate an extraordinary year of new beginnings and rescues during its 13th Annual Gala

(SAUSALITO, Calif. – October 13, 2009) – The Marine Mammal Center will host its 13th Annual Gala celebration on Thursday, October 15, at the Ritz Carlton hotel in San Francisco. This year’s theme, *Save Our Seals - Save Ourselves*, is the Center’s newest campaign designed to inspire the public to think about their connections to marine mammals and to the ocean and about their daily actions to help conserve the ocean environment. The Gala event starts at 6 P.M. and will include a cocktail reception, elegant buffet dinner, live music, and an auction for exclusive experiences from The Marine Mammal Center. Proceeds from the event benefit the Center’s continuing work in rescuing and treating ill and injured seals and sea lions, and the study of marine mammal health.

“We hope our gala and the new *Save Our Seals – Save Ourselves* campaign will inspire people to care and to act, not just for marine mammals, but for the oceans that they, and we, rely on,” said The Marine Mammal Center’s executive director, Jeff Boehm. “During the gala, we’ll highlight the extraordinary year we’ve had so far in welcoming over 35,000 visitors to our newly rebuilt and reopened veterinary hospital and educational research center in the Marin Headlands, and we think guests will be intrigued as they hear about the extremely busy year of rescues we’ve had, and about the medical discoveries that continue to paint a bigger picture about the health of the oceans.”

It’s been a year like non-other in the Center’s 34 year history. So far this year, volunteers and staff have rescued and treated over 1,500 patients (mostly California sea lions), far surpassing its usual yearly tally of about 600. Many patients died at the Center after having succumbed to extreme malnourishment in the wild as a result of changing environmental conditions along the California coast.

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Details: The Marine Mammal Center 13th Annual Gala

- **Thursday, October 15, 2009, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM**
- **The Ritz Carlton Hotel San Francisco, CA**
- **Fund-a-need (specifically helps the Center purchase a new rescue vehicle)**
- **Live auction for unique prizes such as a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Midway Island to help the Center count and flipper tag Hawaiian monk seals – the most endangered pinniped in U.S. waters**
- **Fun and festive attire encouraged!**

For more information about the 13th Annual Gala, contact (415) 289-7335.

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 15,000 marine mammals. The Center's newly rebuilt headquarters in Sausalito gives visitors the unique opportunity to learn about marine mammals through animal rehabilitation, meal preparation, and post mortem viewing platforms, as well as educational exhibits. The Marine Mammal Center is open to the public every day 10 A.M.-5 P.M. except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information, visit www.MarineMammalCenter.org.

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