



The Marine
Mammal Center

What YOU can do for a Stranded Marine Mammal



California Sea Lion



Northern Elephant Seal



Pacific Harbor Seal

1. Don't touch!

Do not touch, pick up, or feed the animal. They are wild animals, and can bite. They also are easily stressed by humans. Do not return the animal to the water. Seals and sea lions temporarily “haul out” on land to rest. Harbor seal mothers often leave their pups ashore while they're feeding at sea. A beached whale, dolphin, or porpoise should be reported immediately.

2. Observe

Observe the animal from a distance of at least 50 feet. Keep people and dogs away.

3. Describe

Note physical characteristics such as size, presence of external earflaps, and fur color. This helps us determine the species and what rescue equipment and volunteers are needed.

4. Condition

Note the animal's condition. Is it weak and underweight? Are there any open wounds?

5. Identification

Does the animal have any obvious identification tags or markings?

6. Location

Determine the exact location of the animal, in order to provide accurate directions. We cannot rescue an animal if we cannot find it!

7. Call

Call The Marine Mammal Center at **415.289.SEAL** (.7325) with as much information as you have. In Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, call **831.633.6298**. In San Luis Obispo County, call **805.771.8300**. Our Rescue Hotlines operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. www.marinemammalcenter.org.