



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](http://www.marinemammalcenter.org).