



Winterton Seal Hospital

Low Farm, Winterton-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR29 4AW, England
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Newsletter– Autumn/Winter 2006/07

We would like to welcome you to our Autumn and Winter 2006/07 newsletter, as usual, we have had a busy season, but have continued to improve our facilities with your help here at the Winterton Hospital, so now we can do even more for our local seals. We still need money and volunteers to provide a permanent rescue centre with modern treatment facilities to care for the increasing number of injured and sick seals that are appearing on our shores.

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To our public we ask you for contributions to help the young and baby harbour/grey seals to survive mans pollution of the sea in this area. Already over 50% of harbour seals on the Norfolk and Suffolk beaches have died since being born in the summer of 2006. Government, environmental health and local councils have an uncaring attitude towards the removal of dead seals from local holiday beaches, which can become a health hazard within a few hours. The seals should not just be thrown on refuse dumps but buried or cremated, at the moment it is the seal hospital which has to pay for this. **WHY?** Recently a baby harbour seal left dead on a local beach was still not picked up after five days by the authorities, so it had to be removed by the seal hospital team and cremated at our own expense.

Join us and become a valuable member of our team, we need people to help with rescued seals, rescue teams, education and events, maintenance at the hospital and as a beach watcher to monitor and report all live and dead seals etc, remember these grey/harbour seals are protected by law.

PLEASE DO NOT LET THEM DIE ON THE BEACH.

SCROBY SANDS 2006

Over 50% of harbour seals born from the Scroby colony have been found dead or dying on beaches north of Great Yarmouth. Born into deep sea, unable to cope (away from their 100 year old habitat on the Scroby Sands near Great Yarmouth where there are now 38 wind turbines); the mothers are unable to nurse their young.

OUR NEW OUTSIDE POOL FOR THE SEAL PUPS

On 1st of September 2006, a new addition at our hospital, not a seal but a new pool was opened. Built in a week by offshore workers, the new pool is ideal for teaching baby seals to catch fish, some learn within an hour. Esma, our wetsuit diver, is seen in the photo, teaching young seal pups by swimming with them to catch herring.



**WE SHALL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON THE 1ST AND 2ND OF JANUARY 2007
FROM 10AM TO 3PM FOR OUR NEW YEAR'S DAY GALA. THIS IS OUR BIGGEST EVENT OF
THE YEAR WITH THE ARRIVAL OF NEW BABY SEALS.**

HELP – SAVE OUR SEALS

Volunteers are always required at Winterton Seal Hospital even if you can only spare 2 hours a week. If you are over 18 years of age, from any walk of life, there is a job for you, we don't just need people to care for our seals, there is a huge list of DIY projects waiting to be completed, but be warned, it may change your lifestyle. For further details, please ring us at 01493 393947.



A SELECTION OF PHOTOS TAKEN AT OUR LOCAL HAULOUT IN DECEMBER 2005



For the security of our colony, we need observers to patrol and check on the seals between December 2006 and February 2007

SOME OF OUR RESCUED SEALS

Lord Jim - A call from the Caister Lifeboat team led us to a rescue with over 200 visitors watching as Lord Jim was picked up by Zuzanna near waters' edge. Lord Jim, a harbour/common seal pup, is our star of the local "Mercury" newspaper. He was found during Caister's Lifeboat Open Day and quickly became the main attraction of the event. He weighs 24lbs at the moment, rather healthy and happy but hungry all the time. He is sharing a nice pool with Ness which sometimes causes problems because they seem to not really like each other.



Luna - David brought Luna, a harbour/common seal pup, to the hospital from Caister beach at night on 7th of August 2006. It was beautiful full moon that night and that's how she got her name. When she was rescued she was three weeks old and weighed 25lbs. She is fine at the moment, lively, curious and interested in fish. She is probably the most dominant seal in the blue pool. She loves stealing fish from her other "pool" mates.

Josephine a harbour seal pup was rescued on 6th of August 2006, she arrived in style in the front seat of a sports car, weighing only 28lb. She now weighs 48lbs and she is a very bossy lady calling for fish and attention all day, she prefers to be fed by hand as she is just too fat and lazy to dive and catch her own.



Derrick a grey seal pup (the only talking seal of 2006). Known to hold conversations with one local man for 15 minutes, as a baby he would only feed if someone had their arm around him. He was rescued on the 12th of December 2005 from Bacton, near the Bacton Ship pub, lying against the sea wall; he was about 3 weeks old and weighed 38lbs. Derrick had been on the beach for some time with no sign of his mother and had been battered against the sea wall by storms.

Urgently required dedicated marine students on vacation or pass-year, 6 months live in accommodation/ food free, from October 2006 to September 2007. Experience would be useful but training available. Please contact us now at the address on the bottom of the newsletter or phone on 01493 393947.

Adoption - give a special gift!

Help us to help them - Adopt a seal as a gift or for yourself!

The money raised by supporters and visitors adopting rescued pups enables more seals to be rescued, rehabilitated, and released back into the wild! A special gift of £30 will bring you a photograph in a folder of your adopted seal, a personalised certificate of adoption, an up to date biography and the latest newsletter. You can choose one of our pups from our homepage www.saveourseals.co.uk, or come for a visit and meet them for yourself! If you would like to adopt one of our pups, please write to us, with your name and address, and the name of the pup you would like to adopt. All cheques/postal orders should be made payable to "Winterton Seal Hospital".

Our Postal Address is: Winterton Seal Hospital, Low Farm, Winterton-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 4AW, England.



Our Motto: Rescue – Rehabilitation – Release