



Winterton Seal Hospital

Low Farm, Winterton-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR29 4AW, England
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Newsletter – Autumn/Winter 2007/08

We would like to welcome you to our Autumn and Winter 2007/08 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.



SAVED: Rocky one of the five week old Harbour seal pups rescued and currently being cared at Winterton Seal Hospital. Picture: ROB COLMAN

Hospital hit by rising cost of cremations

HALF of the Harbour seal pups born this summer have died on the east coast's beaches – but not due to a virus.

Their deaths, say experts at Winterton Seal Hospital, are due to pollution, fishing nets, jet skis too close to the shore and dogs off the lead on beaches.

Beaches owned by councils or private land owners are required under the environmental protection act to remove dead seals from the beaches, but the seal hospital has to pay for the cremation of injured and dying seal babies it rescues.

The hospital is run by volunteers and its motto is "Rescue, Rehabilitate and Release", and it has no support from other wildlife organisations.

The hospital reports that since the loss of the Harbour seals' habitat at Scroby Sands windfarm, the colony is confined to the north of Caister.

And it is urgently asking for more support from businesses, land and off-shore marine companies, and holiday firms to which thousands of visitors and tourists enjoy views of the seals swimming and basking along the beaches.

Help is also required for daily work with seals and volunteers must be aged over 18.

Write to: Winterton Seal Hospital, Low Farm, Winterton on Sea, Great Yarmouth, NR29 4AW or call 01493 393947.

"DO NOT PUSH BACK"

Just a reminder to beach walkers and holiday makers that during the summer months of July, August and September, it is the harbour seals pupping season, if you find a beached pup, please do not push it back into the sea – call the seal hospital.

HELP THE INJURED SEALS



Life Guards and Coast Watch

A big thank you to the life guards, coast watch volunteers and beach walkers who have helped with reporting and rescuing seal pups, we now cover over 100 miles of the Norfolk coast line.

Winterton Haul Out Grey Seal Colony

Often the colony is disrupted by people walking amongst the seals. As from December to February the beaches will be patrolled daily for any casualties as in the past, some have died because the hospital was not informed. This is mainly due to the lack of experience by some wardens who do not have the knowledge or understanding of grey seals.

OUR WEBSITE

www.saveourseals.co.uk

Did you know that...

We have added a new "photo gallery" to our website

Ready for 2008

SEAL FANTASY DVD

£9.99 each

including postage.

Keep an eye on our website for details.

For Sale

20cms white fluffy baby seal toy for £5.95 including postage and packaging.



"A picture of a new born grey seal pup at the Winterton seal haul-out"

CAN YOU HELP?

We are constantly trying to upgrade our facilities and would like to make use of 1,000 sq feet of interior space to accommodate further harbour seal pups from July to October 2008; we also need to hire more staff to counteract the loss of 40% of the seal pups born on the beaches.

We do not receive any form of Government funding or help from other wildlife organisations; we are only able to carry out the work with your support. All donations go towards medication, fish and the upkeep of the pools, including motors and filtration systems.

It costs approximately £1,000 to rehabilitate a seal from rescue to release.

Refurbished Pool

Our new refurbished aqua pool has been designed to encourage seal cubs to haul in and out of the water whilst learning to swim and catch their fish in the water. This has made a big improvement to their learning environment.



Ness, Frisky and Darius in the updated aqua pool

Three harbour seal cubs heading home

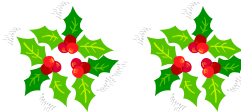
Once rehabilitated, all seals are released back into the wild, it makes a special day although we all have mixed feelings, sad to say goodbye but also really pleased and excited for the seals. On release days we know it is a job very well done.



David, Harry, Sue and Jill releasing three seal cubs back into the wild



ADOPT A SEAL PUP FOR CHRISTMAS



Cindy



My name is Cindy; I was rescued by Ray at Overstrand. I had very bad mouth ulcers but am now much better after having medication. I live in the undercover pool with my friend Joe and the hospital staff have taught me how to catch my own fish.

Rocky



My name is Rocky; I was rescued by Sue and Harry at Trimmingham big rocks, they took a long time to find me. My breathing was very shallow, I had mouth ulcers, and I was so exhausted that I slept for 24 hours after I had my medication. I live in the blue pool and can catch my own fish, but I still like to sit on my rocks in the pool.

Frisky



My name is Frisky and I was rescued when I was approximately 2 weeks old. I only weighed 29 lbs. I had mouth ulcers and very sore eyes. My medication and special eye cream have made me well again. I now live with two friends in the large pool and catch my own fish. Our friend Gerry built us an aqua slide to play on.

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

This enables many more seals to be rescued, rehabilitated and released back into the wild!

A special gift of £35 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.

Late news: Hundreds of seabirds (guillemots and razor bills) have been found dead or dying along the Norfolk coast. Inspection has shown their feathers are not waterproof and the birds are showing signs of paralysis due to toxins. These are not migrant birds but local breeds fishing for sprats.

