



Winterton Seal Hospital

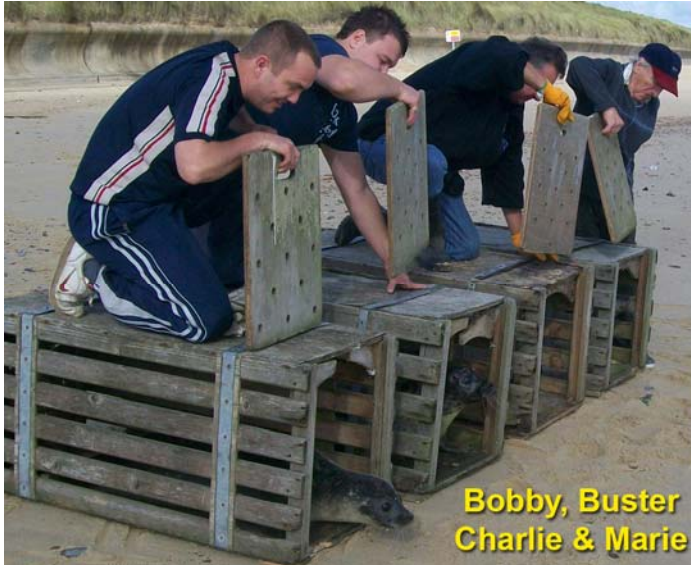


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Newsletter for 2009

Release of harbour seals back to the wild with the help of our volunteers



**Bobby, Buster
Charlie & Marie**



**Other
Seal Pups
returned
naming but
a few**

**Skip
Dougie
Luck'ee
Danny
Claud
N/Claws
Nickie
Storm**

ARABIAN HORSE GROUP

Friends of the seals did their annual visit to the centre on the 19th September 2009. The horses and riders enjoyed a canter along the beach and in the sea.



Save Our Seals - write to your MP now!

The UK Marine Laws must be updated to save Winterton Ness and Waxham's harbour (common) and grey seal colonies. The seal colonies on our local beaches contain the largest population of harbour seals on this part of the North Sea, however, over 30% of the harbour seal babies have died this summer. Many seal mothers were frightened away by jet skis and dogs allowed to run off their lead on the beach, and babies have been found with dog bites and jet ski injuries. We have also seen the smallest babies (harbour seals) ever found, weighing only 10lbs to 14lbs with some too small to survive.

**Please
Keep
Your
Dog
on a
Lead**



Jason was rescued on 19th July 2009
Born - 14lbs
Now weighs 33lbs



Rio was rescued on 23rd July 2009
Born - 13lbs
Now weighs 40lbs



Wenz'di was rescued on 29th July 2009
Born - 16lbs
Now weighs 42lbs

All just born - only a few hours old!

Is this to be the last of our local colonies?

The Waxham colony of harbour (common) seals has now built up to over 160 breeding seals from 70 in 1986 (last count), and is now one of the largest colonies along this Eastern Coast of Norfolk. Young seals released after rehabilitation from Winterton Seal Hospital in the previous years have been vaccinated against the phocine distemper virus as this could come back to our colonies again. Signs of pollution still persist in the area. Tests in the Scroby Sands area; EEC 2009, show pollution most likely to be PCBs & DPT from manmade wastes.



Disturbance has also been affecting the seals and contributed to the 30% death rate among pups this Summer with noise, jet skis, dogs off their leads, quad bikes and low flying jets all having an impact.

Many babies aborted; some weighing only 10lbs from frightened mothers unable to help in strong tides and noise on beaches. The UK marine law must be updated to EEC conditions for protection of seals & marine wildlife.

In May 2009 – near Scroby Sands – Many carcasses of premature born harbour (common) seals were found at high water.

Part of a report from Pieterburen in Netherlands mentions that they have found an impaired immunity in seals exposed to bioaccumulated environmental contaminants; this includes PCBs which have been found in the fish that the seals eat.

For July 2010 – urgently required for 2–3 weeks 10 care helpers for babies

Sponsor a Seal Pup

A Christmas present, give the gift of life, sponsor one of the patients in our care, every £ helps hospital purchase fish, medicine. Just £35, a great alternative gift, also for birthdays, weddings, etc. please look on our website, or email for more details. **Website: www.saveourseals.co.uk**

Wanda, the elusive harbour (common) seal, rescued after lots of calls about her, was found to be so tame that we cannot release her back into the wild. Wanda is approximately 4 years old and may have been someone's pet. She would come to people from over 100 yards away, so we had to rescue her before she became a beach casualty from man and dogs.



Jason, a harbour/common seal pup, was only 24 hours old and weighed 14lbs, when he was rescued from the beach at Somerton Holmes in Winterton-on-Sea on 19th July 2009 by some of our volunteer hospital staff. He was found to be very cold so as soon as



he arrived at the hospital, Jason was put under a heat lamp and tube fed a warm multi-milk mixture specifically made up for such a young pup. The special milk formula provides young pups with most of the nutrients they would normally get from their mother's milk.

Wenz'di, was found by a lady on 29th July 2009 on the beach 200 metres south of Britannia Pier in Great Yarmouth. The pup had already been attacked by dogs and pushed into the sea several times before Kevin, one of our seal rescue volunteers, had arrived. Upon arrival at the seal hospital, Wenz'di was assessed, temperature 39.2° and had a severely ulcerated left jaw.



Hal-Yahd, a harbour/common seal pup, was only one week old when this new baby was rescued on 30th July 2009 weighing 19lbs.



Rescuers save the wanderer

By **LIZ COATES**
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WANDA the wandering seal is being cared for at Winterton Seal Hospital after eluding rescuers for two months.

The three-to-five year old was finally picked up at Scratby where she was found to have suffered a few dog bites, but was generally in good health.

Barry Williams, chief picture editor with BBC News who photographed the seal soon after she was

rescued, said the animal was first spotted close to Great Yarmouth Pleasure Beach, appearing later at Mundesley, Waxham and Lowestoft – her nomadic nature earning her the name Wanda.

Mr Williams, who runs websites for seal sanctuaries, including the one at Winterton, said the seal's orange tag indicated she had been at a rescue centre at some point in her life. Being so friendly meant she was a danger to herself and possibly a young child if it tried to hug her.

Mr Williams said it was possible she had outgrown her home and been abandoned by her owners when she got too big. Releasing her back onto Norfolk's sandy beaches where she would again come into contact with humans could prove counterproductive he said, the best release spot probably being offshore.

But unless she learns to be more guarded the rest of her days could be spent in a large sanctuary.



RESCUED: Wanda is now being cared for at Winterton Seal Hospital. Picture: BARRY WILLIAMS

Our Motto is to Rescue, Rehabilitate and Release