



Winterton Seal Hospital

Low Farm, Winterton-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR29 4AW, England

Telephone: 01493 393947

E-mail: seal.rescue@virgin.net

Newsletter Summer - Autumn 2005

To continue our work in the Seal Hospital, we must have help from both the public and business world! We are not supported by the government; the heavy costs of medicine and food have to be covered by donations alone.

At the present time we urgently need a training pool to teach the 5 – 10 days old baby seals how to swim and catch fish. This pool would also be used to educate and train both staff/volunteers and the young people coming into the centre to be with the seals. This would be an enormous big stride in educating the public into marine work.

Also urgently needed is a 4x4 “off-road” vehicle to pick up the seals, and a new filter system for all the seal pools!

We also need seal staff to take care of our rescued seals! We are searching for qualified people, who are already trained in handling seals in the initial stages of tubing and force feeding. This could be a paid position or voluntary!

We urgently need to educate the public! We welcome everybody to come and view the seals, and to visit our Information Centre. Opening times are most Sundays and certain days during the week. Also special opening days are on Boxing Day (26th December 2005) and New Year’s Day (1st January 2006).

Please ring 01493-393947 for further details.



→ Urgently needed: Seal Rescue Volunteers along the Norfolk and Suffolk coast!!



SOS! During the year, we receive many 999 calls from the coastguards regarding seals - but on this particular day, we were contacted about a bird! We got an urgent telephone call from Allan, a local Coastguard, who had just picked up an immature lesser black back sea gull in trouble. The bird’s beak and talons were hooked together by a big fishing lure. Allan managed to get the lure out of the bird and quickly brought the animal to us. After treating the wounds on its beak and claws with a special antibiotic spray, the gull was released back onto the beach.

Dawn, the first seal to come into the Seal Rescue Centre, this season, was rescued in early May 2005. She had been born about three weeks premature. Few people have ever seen a Harbour seal pup with a long grey fur coat on! Usually, this fur coat is the protection a baby seal has in its mothers’ womb. On the day the seal is born, the grey fur disappears, so it can quickly swim with its ordinary seal skin and catch fish. When Dawn was found she was close to death. Her temperature was so cold; it was one of the lowest temperatures we have ever seen in a seal. We quickly put her into an incubator and lay her under a heat lamp. Also, because Dawn was so young, she could not yet see and had no teeth. She had to be fed with fish-soup, using a tube. Today Dawn is healthy and getting fatter every day, catching big herring in a pool outside.



Cathrin, one of our Seal Rescue people for many years, went on a call to pick up a baby seal. She took a small box with her, with which she can usually pick up the baby seals by herself. But when Cathrin got to Hemsby, where the pup was reported, she found a seal over 100 lbs in weight! But Cathrin didn't turn a hair. She quickly grabbed an old fish-box and, with the help of some friendly holiday visitors, managed to shovel the three year old adult seal into it. As she was about return to the rescue centre with the seal somebody said: "Look! There is another one there!" "Oh, that is only a little one", said Cathrin, so she picked this one up as well and returned with both seals to the centre. When we examined them, we found that they were both very ill and had many problems (the big one, "Bruce" had lungworms and was covered from head to toe in parasites; the baby, "Nemo" had an ulcerated mouth), both seals after treatment have recovered very well.



This summer was very tragic for the harbour seals. We rescued over 30 pups, every single one of them suffering from severe mouth ulcers. The ulcers are caused by the industrial pollution of the seawater, which does not only affect the seals, but also humans (divers, windsurfers). When a seal has an ulcerated mouth, it can no longer swallow fish and starves. Another danger of the ulcers is that they can develop into a hole through the roof of the mouth. If the hole continues to develop in the seal to an extreme condition, then the seal can no longer swim as the water can get into its breathing system. Luckily our seals responded to treatment with a special antibiotic spray! They can now swim and eat fish and are well on their way to recovery and release back into the wild.

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 £20 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.



– NEWSFLASH – NEWSFLASH – NEWSFLASH – NEWSFLASH – NEWSFLASH –

Please avoid Frisbees in the area where there are seals! Already we have found two seals with Frisbees around their heads. Frisbees are very dangerous, because they cause the seals not to dive any more. The seals cannot catch fish, and die of starvation!

Our Motto: Rescue – Rehabilitation – Release

Please help! Don't let our seals die on the beaches!