

How To Help A Stranded Marine Mammal

If you encounter a marine mammal that is sick, injured, malnourished, entangled, deceased or oiled, please follow these steps:

1. DO NOT TOUCH!

Do not touch, feed, harass, cover, pour water on, coax/drag/push into the water or out of the surf zone, allow dogs near or take selfies with the animal. These are wild animals and they may bite!

2. OBSERVE ANIMAL

Observe the animal from a minimum of 50 feet (the length of a school bus). Keep people and pets away from the stranded animal. Note the animal's physical characteristics and condition.

3. DETERMINE LOCATION

Determine the exact location of the animal. Be as accurate as possible and note any landmarks so CIMWI's rescue team can easily find the animal.

4. CALL HOTLINE: (805) 567-1505

Call the CIMWI Rescue Hotline at (805) 567-1505. Provide your name, phone number, specific information about the animal and its location.

Marine mammals are federally protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Violations can result in a civil penalty up to \$11,000 as well as criminal penalties up to \$100,000 and imprisonment of up to a year or both.

It is important to keep both people and pets away from the stranded animal. If pets are around the area, make sure they are on a leash. These animals are easily stressed by humans and pets. Crowding may cause them to act aggressively or for an animal that needs help to become threatened and return to the ocean. A pet could also bite the stranded animal causing injury and it is possible that a pet or person could be bitten if the wild animal becomes defensive. Zoonotic diseases can be transmitted between stranded animals and pets as well as humans.

Not all animals on the beach need human intervention. It is normal for seals and sea lions to come out of the water ("haul out") to rest, digest and sun themselves and mothers often leave their pups onshore while they are foraging at sea. It is in the best interest of these wild animals to have the least amount of human interaction as possible.



PO Box 4250, Santa Barbara, CA 93140 | (805) 567-1506 | www.CIMWI.org

Rescue Hotline (805) 567-1505

Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute (CIMWI), is dedicated to positively impacting conservation through marine mammal rescue, rehabilitation, research and education to promote ocean and human health. CIMWI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.