

The Alaska SeaLife Center is dedicated to understanding and maintaining the integrity of the marine ecosystem of Alaska through research, rehabilitation and public education. Rescued and rehabilitated animals provide insight to the biology and ecology of their species. Through educational programs, we increase public knowledge of the marine environment and public awareness of its importance to our ecosystem. **The primary objective of the Rehabilitation Program is to return all rehabilitated animals back to their natural habitat as healthy animals.**

ASLC REHAB ANIMALS

Harbor Seal: "Dolly" was found severely dehydrated and emaciated on St George Island in the Pribilofs. Local residents and biologists assisted with her rescue and transportation. Dolly was admitted to the ASLC Rehabilitation Program and treated for an eye infection and pneumonia.

After a three month stay at the Center, Dolly was transported to St. George and released back into the wild. A satellite telemetry tag was attached to Dolly, which allows staff to receive location and dive data for up to 1 year.



Steller Sea Lion: "Faith" was found debilitated on Lowrie Island in southeast Alaska. She is the first known Steller sea lion to be rehabilitated and released back into the wild in Alaska. Sea lion pups depend on their mothers for up to three years and may require a longer rehabilitation time than seals.



Dolly and Faith are examples of animals successfully rehabilitated and released by ASLC staff. To be considered for release back into the wild, animals must meet pre-determined weight requirements, refine foraging and socialization skills and pass a rigorous health examination.

24-hour Stranded Animal Hotline
1-888-774 SEAL
or 1-800-224-6300 ext 6342
www.alaskasealife.org



Alaska SeaLife Center
windows to the sea

P.O. Box 1329, Seward, AK 99664-1329

If you would like to make a donation to the Alaska SeaLife Center Rescue and Rehabilitation Program, send funds to:
Alaska SeaLife Center Rehabilitation Program
PO Box 1329, 301 Railway Ave, Seward, Alaska, 99664
or call **1-888-774-SEAL**

Concerned about an injured or stranded marine animal?

Call First!

1-888-774-SEAL

(1-888-774-7325)
Alaska SeaLife Center
Toll-free 24-hour Stranded Hotline



ALASKA SEALIFE CENTER RESCUE & REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Facts...

Disturbance of a marine mammal is prohibited by the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Remain at least 100 yards away from any marine mammal. Feeding marine mammals is also considered a disturbance and can adversely affect their ability to survive in their natural habitat.

▶ Seals leave their young for periods of time while they forage. If an animal is alone, it does NOT mean it is abandoned. Once a pup is moved, there is little chance its mother can find it again.

▶ Sea lion pups are usually born on off-shore rookeries. Mothers will leave pups alone for several days while foraging.

▶ Sea otters are very dependent on their mothers for survival. Mothers leave pups for brief periods to dive and forage. Once removed from the wild or the care of the mother, sea otter pups usually can not be released back to the wild.

In addition to caring for injured and abandoned marine mammals, The ASLC Rescue and Rehabilitation Program responds to over 100 birds each year due to injury, abandonment or entanglement.

The Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC) Rescue and Rehabilitation Program includes a veterinary staff, interns and volunteers trained to respond and care for marine mammals and birds.



What can you do?

If you see a marine mammal that you are concerned about, **DO NOT approach, touch or feed the animal!** These are wild animals and can be very dangerous even when injured. Help to keep all people and domestic animals away. Viewing must not disturb the animal or change its behavior.

Try to gather the following information and call the ASLC Rescue and Rehabilitation Stranded Hotline as soon as possible.

- ▶ Note physical characteristics.
- ▶ Does the animal appear extremely skinny or weak?
- ▶ Are there any obvious signs of injury?
- ▶ Is the animal alone or are there other wild animals, people or pets in the area?
- ▶ How long have you observed this animal?
- ▶ If possible, take digital photos of the animal and the area.

Gather as much information as possible before you call. Have someone continue to observe the animal and keep others away. ASLC Rescue and Rehabilitation Staff will guide you as to what to do next.



"Dolly", a young harbor seal was found severely dehydrated and emaciated on St. George Island in the Pribilofs.



"Faith", a young Steller sea lion, was found after a storm in southeast Alaska.