

Stranded animals

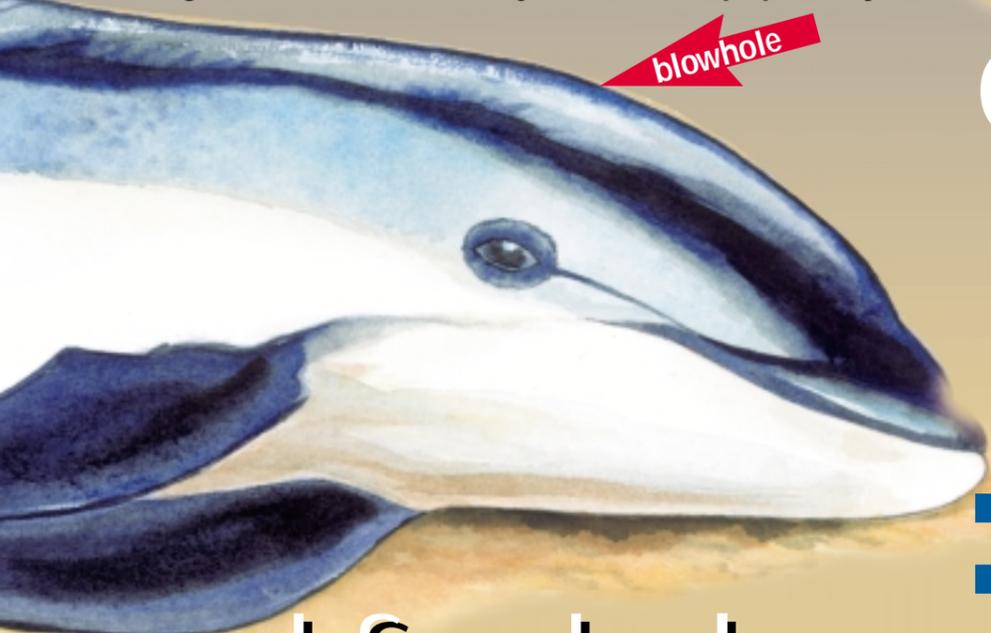
along our coasts . . .

if you come across a stranded seal or dolphin, you can get help by knowing WHAT to do and WHO to call . . .

seals Seals regularly come out of the sea to rest. Pups are often left alone on the shore by their mothers who may be offshore, where they can be surprisingly hard to see. Adults and pups can be safely watched from a distance, but don't approach too close as the parents will be scared off and may abandon the pups.

If you think a seal is sick, injured or really abandoned . . .

- Telephone for help
- Keep people and their dogs away until help arrives
- Don't get too close to the injured seal or pup - they can bite



send for help

DO NOT PUT YOURSELF AT RISK

Send for help as soon as possible, making sure that the caller can give an accurate location and description of the animal.

Rescue for live stranded seals and dolphins can be called 24 hours a day on the following national emergency numbers:

01825 765546

BRITISH DIVERS MARINE LIFE RESCUE

0870 5555999

RSPCA NATIONAL HOTLINE

LOCAL CONTACT NUMBER:

PLEASE NOTE: Dead animals should be reported to the National Standings Co-ordinator at the Natural History Museum on

0207 942 5155



dolphins and porpoises

Whales, dolphins and porpoises breathe air and when stranded on the shore need to be kept cool with water. If you find a live stranded whale or dolphin . . .

- Telephone for help immediately. While help is on the way:
- Calmly approach the animal, but be careful, these animals can make sudden movements and . . .
- If you can find adequate assistance, gently roll the animal over onto its front and keep its skin wet by dousing with seawater. Do not pull on its fins or tail and be very careful not to get water down the blowhole.
- Keep dogs and crowds away and reduce noise or sudden movement to a minimum to avoid further stress to the animal.
- Do not attempt to drag the animal.
- Be very careful of the teeth and tail - these are large, powerful animals.

WARNING

Marine animals are wild animals. They can carry diseases which are transferable to humans, and they can cause injury by thrashing their tails or otherwise. DO NOT put yourself at risk of injury:

1. Approach animals with care and if in doubt wait for help
2. Do not attempt to move heavy animals without adequate assistance
3. Always wash your hands thoroughly after contact
4. Children are particularly at risk from marine mammals and should stay well clear of them



This poster was written and conceptualised by the Marine Animal Rescue Coalition (MARC) and produced by the CRRU in collaboration with BDMLR and WDCS.

Designed by John Tasker Design, Drybridge, Buckie. Tel: 01542 832282.

