

***WHAT TO DO FOR A STRANDED  
DOLPHIN OR WHALE!!!!***

- **DO NOT attempt to return the animal to sea.** They are there for a reason usually sick or injured.
- **Keep people and dogs away from the animal.** Only 1 or 2 persons are needed until expert help arrives. Additional people will only add more stress to the dolphin or whale.
- **If the animal is in the surf support it upright** keeping water out of the blowhole at all times.
- **Keep the animal cool and wet by splashing water on the skin.** Avoid getting water into the blowhole.
- **Apply wet towels or t-shirts and provide shade** if possible using tarps or towels. Keep the blowhole free of obstructions and take care not to cover any of its fins or tail.
- **DO NOT apply suntan oil.** If available, apply zinc oxide to the fins and tail. The dolphins skin is very sensitive and will sunburn severely.
- **Be careful** around the extremely powerful tail.
- **CALL any Ventura County agency (i.e. police, fire, etc.)** to report the stranding even if the animal is dead. Valuable research about these animals and our environment can be gained. If an ORCA volunteer has not called you back within 15 min., please try another agency.

Thank you.

**MARINE MAMMALS ARE PROTECTED BY  
FEDERAL LAW. IT IS A FELONY FOR  
UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS TO HANDLE  
OR DISTURB THEM**