

WHAT TO DO FOR A STRANDED SEAL OR SEA LION

- DO NOT attempt to remove the animal or return it to the water. Seals and Sea Lions temporarily Haul Out on land to rest or dry out. Mothers briefly leave their pups while at sea.
- Observe the animal from a distance of at least 50 feet. Note the condition of the animal. Any obvious injuries? Is it bleeding? Wet or dry? Any markings or tags? Do not attempt to feed the animal.
- Do not pour water on beached Seals or Sea Lions. They are prone to respiratory diseases and wetting them down often adds to their suffering.
- Do not touch a stranded Seal or Sea Lion! Even though they appear friendly, they can inflict severe bites. They may also carry diseases communicable to humans.
- Control your pets. Keep people away! They could injure or be injured by a Seal or Sea Lion.
- Determine the animals exact location! If we cant locate the animal, we cant help it. How far and in what direction from a town, river, jetty, seawall, mile marker or highway callbox?
- 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.**