

Be wildlife aware!

How to enjoy wildlife safely

- Try to avoid causing any disturbance by being quiet and keeping your distance.
- Dispose of any litter you find to avoid causing injuries to wildlife.
- If you are concerned about an animal, please report it to the number below.



Young grey seal pup

About seals

We have two species of seals in the UK:



Grey seals

(born in the winter months)



Common/Harbour seals

(born in the summer months)

Seal behaviour

Seal pups are only dependent on their mother for less than a month of their life.

They are then left to fend for themselves and this is a vulnerable time for their survival. It is important they are not disturbed.

Seals spend a lot of time on beaches and come out to rest, digest their food, to shelter and to raise their pups. They return to sea to travel and feed and do not need to be kept wet.

Photos: Lynn Howard Young. Design: Vijay Kritzingar

What to do if you find a seal pup

Keep your distance and keep dogs under control and on a lead

If a pup still has a fluffy white coat, it is still dependent on its mother. She will be close by, but will not return unless it is safe to do so.

DO NOT touch the pup

A mother may reject her pup if human or dog scents are present. Pups have very sharp teeth and can react aggressively if they feel threatened.

DO NOT approach the pup or try to put it in the sea. Never pour water over the pup

A pup will spend most of its early days out of the water conserving energy and doesn't need to be kept wet.

Have a good look from a distance

If it appears thin, alone, is coughing and has a runny nose or injuries, it may need help.

If you are concerned about a marine animal, call British Divers Marine Life Rescue

01825 765546

