

WATCH OUT—SEAL PUPS ABOUT!

LATE-AUTUMN AND WINTER IS GREY SEAL PUPPING SEASON.

PUPS FACE MANY NATURAL HAZARDS INCLUDING ROUGH WEATHER AND PREDATORS. SOMETIMES THEY END UP IN HARBOURS OR ON BEACHES. MOST OF THE TIME THEY WILL SIMPLY BE REGAINING THEIR STRENGTH, BUT SOMETIMES THEY NEED A HELPING HAND...



A grey seal pup—a 'white coat' © Maggie Sheddan.

Scottish
Seabird
Centre



A young grey seal - 'moulted' © David Steel

I'VE FOUND A PUP ON A PUBLIC SHORE OR IN A HARBOUR – WHAT DO I DO?

SAFETY FIRST: Please keep dogs and children away from the pup and maintain a safe distance - seals can give a very nasty bite!

1

IDENTIFY THE AGE OF THE PUP

- ⇒ Does the pup have a white coat? If so, this is a very young pup that needs attention, regardless of circumstances. Please move to step 3.
- ⇒ Does the pup have a darker coat? If so, move to step 2.

2

CHECK THE PUP'S CONDITION

- ⇒ Does the pup look thin? If fat, the likelihood is it's healthy and can be left alone—it may simply be resting. If thin, it may require help.
- ⇒ Can you see anything clearly wrong, i.e. any injuries or entanglement?
- ⇒ Is the pup in immediate danger, i.e. is it in a dangerous location such as near boats or vulnerable to dogs?

3

CALL FOR HELP –If you think something is wrong, call the

- ⇒ **Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on [03000 999 999](tel:03000999999).**

Or

- ⇒ **British Divers Marine Life Rescue on [01825 765546](tel:01825765546)**

The following information will be useful for rescue efforts:

- ⇒ Location of seal. Try to provide as much detail as you can, i.e. position in relation to landmarks or buildings? Is it accessible?
- ⇒ State of the pup. Is the pup clearly injured in any way? I.e., entangled in rubbish
- ⇒ Your phone number