



Rescue & Research

A close-up photograph of a seal pup resting on a light-colored, textured rock. The seal has dark brown, almost black, fur on its back and head, with a lighter, tan-colored patch around its eye and on its neck. It is looking directly at the camera with large, dark eyes. The background is blurred, showing more of the rocky environment.

Seals Factsheet

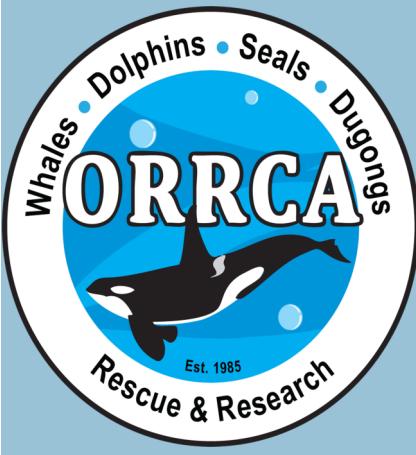
Organisation for the Rescue & Research of
Cetaceans in Australia

Just Resting.....

Seals are wild animals, and unpredictable, so give them plenty of space

- Stay back at least 40 meters
- Never get between a seal and the water
- Keep Children and pets well back
- Don't try to touch or feed a seal

If you see a seal,
Report it to
the
ORRCA
Seal Hotline on
02 9415 3333



Seals often haulout to rest and recuperate on land. This is quite normal, and doesn't mean that they are in danger of dying.

All seals are just as at home on the land as they are in the water.

They are clever hunters and are quite able to feed themselves, and do not need help from people to do this. These amazing creatures are also able to adjust their own body temperature, so they do not get too hot or cold. So, there is no need to cover them or pour water on them.

Although they may look sleepy or lethargic, they are able to quickly lunge or move unexpectedly. So stay back at least 40 meters, and never get between a seal and the water. If you see a seal yawn, it is actually baring its teeth, and is a warning that it may bite.

Seals may also get aggressive, so keep pets and children well clear.

Enjoy these special visitors, but do it safely and responsibly, and give them plenty of space.



Seals that commonly visit the East Coast of Australia



Australian Fur Seal

Preferring to haulout on rocks, these fur seals are often confused with sea lions. Once plentiful, their numbers have been dramatically depleted since European settlement of the East Coast of Australia.



New Zealand Fur Seal

These seals are the most common fur seal, and will readily visit populated harbours and waterways. They mainly haulout on rocks, and are very quick to respond to perceived threats.



Sub-Antarctic Fur Seal

These are small fur seals and juveniles are often mistaken as pups. They are very timid, and will often crawl into bushes. They will also lay motionless at times. Despite their small size they will still deliver a nasty bite.



Leopard Seal

Each year a handful of these large seals visit the East Coast each year. They are identified by their reptilian like features, spotted markings, and like to haulout on sand. They can be very aggressive, and contact should be avoided.

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