

Reporting incidents

ADELAIDE DOLPHIN SANCTUARY



When to report a marine mammal sighting

Occasionally marine mammals are found injured or suffering illness leading to poor condition; often requiring veterinary assistance to survive.

On occasions the behaviour of a marine mammal can be misinterpreted, leading to a mistaken belief that the animal is in need of help even though it is exhibiting normal healthy behaviour. For example seals resting on a beach after a week out at sea foraging, fin surfing or displaying a raised flipper when thermoregulating is normal behaviour and does not necessarily indicate illness. It is therefore important to identify when a marine mammal may require assistance.

The following is a list of when a marine mammal should be reported to DEWNR for assistance:

- stranded cetaceans
- entangled animals
- animals exhibiting poor body condition and severe injuries i.e ribs or hip bones showing, significant wounds to limbs where bones are exposed.
- found in a dangerous location i.e in a location where the animal may be at risk of injury or the animal may injure people.

How do I report a sick or injured marine mammal?

Before reporting a marine mammal in need of assistance, please note the following information:

- type of marine mammal. (whale, dolphin, seal)
- species if known
- location of animal
- size
- age of animal (pup, calf, juvenile, adult)
- body condition
- extent of injuries (location on body, etc.)
- if there is any entanglement and its exact nature (location on the body and type of entanglement material)
- animal's behaviour (is it moving and what other behaviour is it exhibiting?)
- take a photo when possible.

If you are convinced a marine mammal is in need of assistance, report the matter to DEWNR on the following contact number: 0427 556 676