

# Seals belong on the beach.



New England Aquarium  
**Marine Animal  
Rescue Team**



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A seal napping on the beach

**Seals belong on the beach.** Unlike whales or dolphins, seals are semi-aquatic and are comfortable out of the water. Most seals come onto beaches to sleep, nurse or soak up some sun.

#### **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SPOT A SEAL ON THE BEACH?**

Seals are cute, but they are wild animals and should not be disturbed. By getting too close, you could upset the seal or possibly get bitten.

- Watch quietly from at least 150 feet away.
- Keep dogs away from the seal.
- Do not offer the seal food or water.
- Do not pour water on the seal or try to cover it with a towel or blanket.
- Do not try to make the seal move.

#### **DOES THE SEAL LOOK SICK OR INJURED?**

Most seals on the beach are perfectly healthy, but sometimes they do need human assistance. Does the seal have obvious injuries, gunky eyes, or look skinny or underweight? If so, please do not try to help the seal yourself. Instead, take notes on its location, size, coloring and behavior. Then call the **New England Aquarium's Marine Animal Hotline at 617-973-5247.**

**It is illegal to disturb seals and other marine mammals. People caught harassing or disturbing seals are subject to a large fine.**