



PRESS RELEASE- for immediate release

Pre-Pup Season Warning: Cornish Seal Sanctuary Urges Public to Help Protect Vulnerable Seal Pups

With the change in seasons and stormy weather approaching, the Cornish Seal Sanctuary is urging the public to be extra vigilant as grey seal pup season begins along the Cornish coast.

Every year, vulnerable seal pups are born on the beaches around Cornwall. While many will thrive under the care of their mothers, human disturbance poses one of the greatest threats to their survival.

“Seal pups may look abandoned, but in most cases, their mother is nearby in the water, returning regularly to feed them,” said **Grace Jones, Conservation Coordinator** at the Cornish Seal Sanctuary, *“The best chance of survival for any pup is to remain with its mum – and that can only happen if people keep their distance.”*

Give Seals Space this Pup Season

The Sanctuary is asking beachgoers, walkers, and dog owners to follow simple but vital guidelines:

- Even the friendliest dog can pose a threat to seals or disturb their rest. **Keep your dog on a lead** and well away from any seal sightings. Not only does this protect wildlife, but it also

keeps your pet safe from potential bites or infections.

- **If you spot a seal pup**, admire from afar. Seal pups need rest, and human presence (even at a distance) can cause stress or interrupt important behaviours like feeding and bonding with their mothers. Staying at least 100 metres away helps keep them safe.
- **Call for help** – if you're concerned about a pup's welfare, contact the Cornish Seal Sanctuary or British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) for advice before taking any action. Please do not approach or try to move the pup yourself. Our trained teams will assess the situation and respond appropriately.

Stormy weather

Stormier conditions around the UK can also wash pups onto beaches, increasing the likelihood of encounters with the public. In many cases, these pups are simply resting and do not require intervention unless they are injured or malnourished.

The Cornish Seal Sanctuary's Animal Care team stands ready to respond when seal pups genuinely need care, but preventing disturbance in the first place remains the most effective way to safeguard these young animals.

"Everyone can play a part in protecting Cornwall's seal pups this season," added Grace, "By keeping a respectful distance and keeping dogs under control, we can give pups the best possible chance of survival."

For more information or to report a pup in distress, please contact:

Cornish Seal Sanctuary – **01326 221361**

British Divers Marine Life Rescue hotline – **01825 765546**

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NOTES TO EDITORS

For interviews, images and more information, please contact Jasmine Chater (Marketing coordinator) on jasmine.chater@seallifetrust.com or call 01326 221361/07885651522

[Images here](#)

About the Cornish Seal Sanctuary

The SEA LIFE TRUST Cornish Seal Sanctuary is a charity that rescues and rehabilitates grey seal pups from around the Cornish coastline. Each season (September - March), the Sanctuary rehabilitates more 70 seal pups that have been rescued for various reasons, from malnourishment to being separated from their mum.

You can find out more about our mission and vital conservation work, [right here](#).