



Suffolk Seal Rescue Unit Report August 2025 to March 2026

Here are a few of our patient's logs:

COMMON SEAL PUPS 2025 – Famous Dogs (name theme)

05/08/25 Caister, Norfolk (F) named Laika. This 10.2kg pup came in as she was spotted with blood around her mouth and hind flippers. Once fully assessed, Laika had early stages of mouth rot to both sides of her mouth/muzzle, but the hard palate was clear. Flipper wounds were superficial, so cleaned and left. Vet checked, dead tissue removed from muzzle area and vet prescribed antibiotics & pain relief. Pup transferred to rehab 06/08/25.

31/08/25 Felixstowe, Suffolk (F) named Perdita 8.7kgs. Monitored as in and out of water, when picked up she was found to have several mouth rot lesions around and inside her mouth/muzzle, plus a nasty deep gash to her right hind flipper. Despite her injuries, she was a really bright, inquisitive pup, and after vets had prescribed antibiotics, she improved quite quickly. Her eating style made us all chuckle as she preferred to chomp messily rather than swallowing her fish, and ended up wearing more than eating I think! Definitely a memorable character! She transferred to rehab 05/09/25, renamed Sweet Pea and was successfully released back into the wild on 23/11/25 weighing 32kgs!

GREY SEAL PUPS – name theme Disney Characters.

27/11/25 Felixstowe, Suffolk (M) named Olaf 11kgs. Reported at the local Nature Reserve, with several wounds. Olaf was assessed fully at the SSRU, and found to have many puncture wounds – under the chin, on top of his head and by the left ear, as well as several superficial scratches & grazes. Wounds were bathed and fluids given before transferring to rehab the same day.

02/01/26 Caister, Norfolk (M) named Marshmallow 15kgs. Infected wound to right shoulder, pup was lifted just before tide would have taken him, he was up against sea defences. Bought in to SSRU for assessment and holding, onsite vet checked, and prescribed antibiotics plus eye drops for eye ulcer. Pup was cared for 14 days in the SSRU – which is the longest we've held onto a pup awaiting space. Transferred to rehab 16/01/26, name retained.

06/01/26 Felixstowe, Suffolk (M) named Capt Hook 17kgs. Pup had been monitored on the beach for a couple of days, and it was noted he had an injury to his left hind flipper. Although he was still quite lively, he was a fairly easy catch. Upon closer inspection the injury, which appeared to be a puncture wound, was infected and so uplift approved, and he was taken to the SSRU, vet checked and prescribed antibiotics for the infection. Within a few days, Capt Hook was eating fish for himself, and was transferred to rehab on 16/01/26, name retained.

In total this last 12 months, we have cared for 28 pups, across 94 days of care. Our longest stay pup, Marshmallow, was with us for 14 days, and I believe the larger tubs we now have in the unit, along with being able to provide space for movement, and dog beds for baths, positively contributes to the wellbeing of the pups whilst in our care.

Whilst it was never intended to house 4 pups at the same time, we did in fact have a full house at one stage, which was very hard work on our team but so rewarding, when we recently saw the three long stays at rehab on their final stage of rehab in the deeper pools. By the time you have read this report, they will most likely have been released back to the wild!

The new unit has bought so much to our work, giving us more space to move and work in, having appliances to store fish, and making the fish soup onsite rather than in my kitchen at home. It has allowed us to increase the enrichment we can offer as well as upgrading on equipment, such as heat mats, which we didn't have previously. Your grant enabled us to purchase an air-con unit so that we can maintain a steady environment, keeping the temp & humidity stable.

We have taken pups in from all three counties in our region, and we can see there is a definite benefit to having this unit in place.

We have also been able to engage more with the public and local council on our work and the work of the charity, positive public engagement has led to calls going straight to the hotline rather than Facebook local pages!

Orford Ness grey seal colony continues to grow with this season's numbers reported at 430 pups and 803 adults, which is an increase of 88% on last year.



Marshmallow on intake 02/01/26 with his wetsuit
"mama"



Marshmallow at rehab
16/03/26



Unit & first intake – Laika.



Laika & her mouth rot