Marine mammals in Maine include seals, whales, dolphins, and porpoises.

I found a stranded marine mammal. What should I do?

- Call the Maine Marine Animal Reporting Hotline immediately at 1-800-532-9551.
- Do not approach the animal. Stay 100 yards (300 feet) away. Help keep other people and pets away.

Can I touch, feed, or move a marine mammal that I find?

- No, it is illegal to touch, feed, or move a marine mammal that you find. This includes live and dead animals.
- The Marine Mammal Protection Act, enacted October 21, 1972, prohibits feeding, attempting to feed, and harassing marine mammals in the wild.
What are the risks of handling these animals?

- Diseases can spread between stranded animals, pets, and humans.
- Stranded animals can become aggressive and bite or injure humans and pets.
- Feeding an animal can jeopardize its health and can cause them to become conditioned to receive food from humans.
- Getting too close to a stranded animal can cause the animal stress.
- Disturbing mother/pup pairs can lead to abandonment and death of the pup.

Who can I call about other questions I have?

Health of the Animal
Call Marine Mammals of Maine at 207-833-3312 or the College of the Atlantic at 207-288-5644.

Human Health
Call Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) at 1-800-821-5821.

Pet Exposure
Call the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (Maine DACF) at 207-287-3200.

Animal Disposal
Call the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP) at 207-592-0455.

For more information, visit:

- [www.mmome.org](http://www.mmome.org) (Marine Mammals of Maine)
- [www.maine.gov/idepi](http://www.maine.gov/idepi) (Maine CDC - Disease Surveillance Epidemiology Program)

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