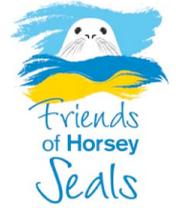


## Friends of Horsey Seals

### Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Who is in charge of the car park and sets the car park charge?
- A. **East Anglia Parking Services (EAPS) are in charge of the car park at Horsey and set parking charges. EAPS also manage the overflow car park and controls traffic flow during the pupping season. Friends of Horsey Seals (FoHS) does not receive funding from this.**
- Q. Who is in charge of services on the horsey site during pupping season?
- A. **EAPS are responsible for all services on the site, including the toilets. FoHS have no role in the provision of these services.**
- Q. When is the pupping season?
- A. **The season is from the beginning of November until the end of January every year.**
- Q. Why can't we go on the beach during pupping season?
- A. **There is a voluntary beach closure between November and January to help stop disturbance to the seals and injury to pups. Seal wardens ask visitors to stay off the beach and use the marked viewing areas. Females with pups are territorial. A pup straying into the territory of another seal can be injured when ejected by the occupant. Females separated from their pup through disturbance will sometimes lose sight of it and abandon the pup. (If you stay off the beach you are setting a good example to other visitors).**
- Q. Why are areas of the dunes roped off?
- A. **We rope off areas of the dunes on the advice of Natural England and the Environment Agency to protect the dunes from excessive erosion and allow natural recovery. Walkers can be a cause of erosion.**
- Q. What happens to sick, injured or abandoned seals?
- A. **We keep an eye on them and, if necessary, contact the RSPCA who decide whether they need treatment or are better left undisturbed.**  
**At all times of year we receive reports of adult seals with netting/rope around their necks. Sightings are reported to RSPCA for monitoring. We refer to them as necklaced seals. Catching them to remove the 'necklace' is a problem because of their size, and because they naturally make a dash for the sea when approached. FoHS wardens would not attempt to approach a necklaced seal in the seal rookery during the breeding season, as, besides being dangerous, this would disturb other seals and pups.**  
**Many necklaced seals live like this for long periods with no apparent affect on their health, and you sometimes see a necklaced mother rearing a pup. If the rope, or netting, cuts deeply into the skin the wound can become infected and the seal can eventually die. If caught and taken into care, RSPCA vets can treat the infection with antibiotics and remove the rope or netting.**
- Q. What do I do if I see a sick seal?
- If you spot a sick seal during pupping season at Horsey, please inform the warden/s on site. At other times, please contact the RSPCA.**



Q. What do I do if I see a dead seal?

A. **Nothing! It's sad to see a dead animal but it's part of a natural process. Dead pups are not removed from the beach. They quickly disappear by tidal action or become food for birds and other animals.**

Q. What is a safe distance to view the seals?

A. **Please ensure you keep at least 15 metres clear of all seals. You should never get between a seal and the sea.**

Q. Can we see seals at Horsey outside of the pupping season?

A. **Seals are wild animals so it's not possible to give a definite answer, but seals are frequently seen offshore all through the year. About two months after breeding adult seals go through an annual moult, losing their old fur and growing a coat of new fur, which will keep them warm and protected for another year. At Horsey the moult starts in February and continues for about 6-8 weeks. During that time blood-flow to the skin is increased and the seals become more sensitive to the cold temperature of the sea. To conserve heat they haul out and spend long periods on the beach. This saves energy and allows them to wriggle and scratch as new fur grows. During this period it is not uncommon to see a thousand or more seals hauled out along the tide line.**

Q. When is the best time to visit in the pupping season?

A. **The greatest number of births occurs between late November and mid-December. The majority of visitors come to Horsey during the two weeks of Christmas and New Year when there is plenty to see, but on-site parking is exceptionally busy. You might find it more comfortable to avoid this period.**