



Marine Strandings Network

Seal Evidence Evaluation Protocol (SEEP)

This guide illustrates the photos MSN Callout Volunteers should take when attending a dead seal stranding. Please take photos listed with a **digital camera**, set to the **highest image quality** and ensure high quality images are submitted. Ensure to **rinse the carcass** free from sand and debris before taking the photos. As well as usual protocol, please follow the **measure** the size of any marks, cuts, abrasions and wounds. If you attend a fresh seal carcass please **notify the Hotline Coordinator** immediately to start arrangements for PM retrieval.

Make sure to check in with the Strandings Hotline (0345 2012626) when you're off the beach. of



View of the animal at site

Show the **animal on location**, including beach type with surrounding rocks which may cause damage.



All sides of the animal

Show **all sides** (left, right above and below) of the entire animal, to help with photo ID and general overview of the condition.



Head and shoulders

Show **all sides** (left, right above and below) to help with photo ID and give an overview of marks and wounds.



Overview of body

Show **all sides** (left, right above and below) to help with photo ID and give an overview of marks and wounds.



Close up of eyes

Show **both** eyes or sockets, including eyebrows, with close up of any associated bulging eyes, wounds or abrasions.



Close up of teeth and mouth

Show **all sides** of the mouth area, including teeth, gums, into the mouth, surrounding muzzle and whisker follicles.



Fore flippers

Show **all sides** (leading, trailing above and below) of each fore flipper, including any wounds, cuts or abrasions.



Rear flippers

Show **all sides** (leading, trailing above and below) of each rear flipper, including any wounds, cuts or abrasions.



Flipper webbing

Show **all sides** (leading, trailing above and below) of webbing for all flippers, including any wounds, cuts or abrasions.



Edges of flipper webbing

Show **close up** of the edges of the webbing for each fore and rear flipper, including any wounds, cuts or abrasions



Genital area

Show **close up** of genital area to confirm gender (example of a male).



Close up of nose and nostrils

Show **close up** of nose, including abrasions, cuts, evidence of froth or parasites.



Close up of skin wounds

Show **close up** of fresh, healing and healed wounds and cuts on the animal.



Cuts and abrasions

Show **overview and close up** of any cuts and abrasion on the head, body or appendages noting their location.



Deep cuts or puncture wounds

Show **close up** of any deep holes or puncture wounds. You can test the depth with a stick and feel for crushed bones. *



Pox marks or lesions

Show **overview and close up** of any pox marks which could indicate disease.



Entangling material

Show **overview and close up** of any entangled or embedded material in the animal.



Encircling marks

Show **overview and close up** of any encircling marks around the head, neck, body or appendages.



Broken bones *

Show **overview and close up** of any broken bones, including head and appendages.



De-sleeved skull

Show **overview and close up** of exposed skull, including close up of the wound edges.



Missing head or appendages

Show **overview and close up** of any missing appendages or head, highlighting a clean, ragged or indented edges.



Wound edges

Show **close up** of any missing appendages or head, highlighting a clean, ragged or indented edges.



Damaged or missing flesh

Show **overview and close up** of any missing areas of skin or blubber, including the wound edge and underlying blubber.



Swelling / changes in body shape

Show **overview and close up** of any swelling or changes in the body outline.

* Please take extra care when handling strandings with broken bones as sharp edges could cause you injury

Thank you for your help with this important research

We will be using the information and photographs you collect to further develop our understanding and analysis of marks and injuries observed on dead stranded seals and their possible causes.

Thanks for our partners Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust, Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme and consultant veterinary pathologist James Barnett for their guidance and support

Please submit your photos at full resolution via

- any online file share service (such as Dropbox, Google Drive, OneDrive or WeTransfer)
- email to Strandings@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
- post to **Marine Strandings Network, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Five Acres, Allet, Truro TR4 9DJ**

Contact the Marine Strandings Network team

www.CWTStrandings.org

/ 0345 201 2626

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Strandings@CornwallWildlifeTrust.org.uk