



Central Puget Sound Marine Mammal Stranding Network

THE STORY OF ELOISE

Issue #4



Hello All: This is the fourth in a series of newsletters about our Whidbey Island born elephant seal family of four. Issue #1 was a general history of Northern Elephant Seals (NES). Issue #2—The Story of Ellison, born March 18, 2015. Issue #3—The Story of Elsie Mae—our Party Girl, born March 10, 2018.

On March 20, 2020, Jeff and Terry Wegner reported the birth of Ellie's latest pup at her favorite nursery spot on Mutiny Bay. Being a female she was given the name of Eloise.



Life is tough between keeping cool in the sun and getting enough nap time.



Mom Ellie left for sea on 4/12/20 after weaning her pup. Unfortunately during the nights of 4/21 and 4/22 Eloise was attacked by a coyote. She crawled up onto the deck belonging to Volunteer Theresa Truex, bleeding from the extensive damage to her rear flippers, making it look like a "war zone" per the neighbors.



A chain-link fence enclosure was erected at a neighbor's residence to keep her protected from further attack and to allow treatment until she was able to be relocated. This enthusiastic and compassionate support by the immediate neighbors was instrumental in her survival. Her wounds were monitored by an expert crew of veterinarians and volunteers, who treated her shredded and severed hind flippers, removing necrotic tissue and administering antibiotics. Eloise was a real "trooper" during this painful process, showing no aggression, seeming to understand she was being cared for. It was decided to relocate her to Baby Island out of harms way, where medical treatment was continued and her health monitored. Her wounds healed quickly.



Eloise seemed to enjoy her boat ride to Baby Island and adapted to her new home right away with a quick sand bath.



She has not been seen on Baby Island since June 16th.

It was decided not to tag Eloise at this time due to the trauma she has already suffered. But...

PLEASE HELP US KEEP TRACK OF ELOISE. IF YOU SEE A YOUNG ELEPHANT SEAL WITH A DEFORMED PAIR OF REAR FLIPPERS, PLEASE CALL ONE OF THE LOCAL NUMBERS BELOW WITH DATE AND LOCATION, AND SEND PICTURES IF YOU HAVE ANY.



All marine mammals are protected under the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 USC 1361-1407). Harassment of these animals in any way that disturbs their natural behavior could result in civil penalties of up to \$11,000 in fines and possibly one year in prison.

STAY 100 YARDS AWAY

We welcome your comments and questions. Please share this information.

Report any violations to one of the numbers below.

Thanks and enjoy... and please share your knowledge.

Orca Network: 1-866-ORCANET (1-866-672-2638)

NOAA Enforcement Hotline—1-800-853-1964

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