

IDENTIFICATION AND FACT SHEET

NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL



THE PROFILE OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL (ON THE RIGHT) SHOWS UP-TURNED NOSE AND BLACK WHISKERS. THE HARBOR SEAL (ON THE LEFT) SHOWS DOG-LIKE NOSE AND WHITE WHISKERS. ADULT HARBOR 6' MAX., JUVENILE ELEPHANT SEAL 7' OR MORE IN LENGTH.

IN EARLY TO LATE SPRING WE SEE JUVENILE ELEPHANT SEALS MOLTING ON WHIDBEY BEACHES. THEY ARE LETHARGIC AND THEIR FUR IS RAGGED AND PEELING.. ALTHOUGH THEY MAY APPEAR SICK, THEY ARE PERFECTLY HEALTHY AS MOLTING IS A NATURAL OCCURRENCE



THE SEALS COME ON SHORE TO MOLT FOR 3 REASONS:

- 1) THEY ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE COLD WHEN SHEDDING OLD FUR
- 2) THE OLD COAT MUST BE WARM AND DRY IN ORDER TO FLAKE OFF
- 3) THEY USE THE SAND AND ROCKS ON THE BEACH TO HELP RUB OFF THE OLD COAT

IF YOU SEE AN ELEPHANT SEAL- PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB IT!

CALL THE

CENTRAL PUGET SOUND MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING NETWORK

1-866-ORCANET OR 949-233-2822

TO REPORT THE SIGHTING AND LOCATION OF THE ANIMAL.