



Baby seal rescued from beach on Mayne Island



The rescue mission was ON!

We gathered a plastic tub and a towel and our gear for the boat ride. Everyone stayed back while Dr Brad Gilbert plucked the little guy out of a crevasse on the rocks. Once in the tub it was a car ride to the speed boat, where we loaded everyone in and took



off for Ganges. We travelled at top speed, arriving at the crowded Ganges harbour only 30 minutes later. During the ride the baby slept and tried suckling from the side of the plastic bin. So sad!

Where's Mom?

On an early morning walk we heard some strange vocal sounds - a moaning bark is the best description. The baby seal, seen in the photo on the left, was found in a crevasse, calling at 6 am for mom - but mom was nowhere to be found. We stayed far away and figured that mom had "gone fishin" and would be back. Although mobile he was definitely unhappy.

Did Mom come back?

At 10 am curiosity dragged us back to the beach to see if Mom had returned - she hadn't. Baby was still wiggling about on the rocks, but was crying much less now and not moving very much.

To Rescue or Not?

A call to the seal rescue hotline and a chat with the veterinarian from the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre convinced us that this little guy needed help. He had way too many folds in his fur and we could see his neck muscles - a clear indication of dehydration. Although it is commonly thought that moms leave their babes on the beach to fish, they leave them in groups, not as singles. We volunteered to rescue him and transport to Ganges Harbour by speed boat to the care centre.



Dr Marielle Bonnet met us at the dock.

She assessed our baby seal and suggested he was likely less than two days old as his umbilicus stub was very fresh. She also pointed out that he was dehydrated as you could see his fur lying in folds around his body. As well, he had no teeth. He definitely would not have survived if left on his own.

Consider supporting Seal Rescue!

This is just one of over 300 baby seals rescued and brought to the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre during the summer!

CARE Pet Wellness is matching donations for the month of July

See reception for details

For more information about Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre, visit their website at www.sealrescue.org

To view the more baby seal rescue pictures, visit our website at www.carepetwellness.com