

Caring for Kekeno

You are part of The Seal Deal - caring for kekeno, our native fur seal.

Remember that kekeno are wild animals. They carry infectious diseases. Their teeth can inflict serious injuries. And they will defend their territory aggressively.

Enjoy fur seals from a distance. Look but do not touch. Keep your food for yourself and take extra care if you have dogs with you.

Regurgitating, sneezing and coughing are common kekeno habits. Seals sometimes look as though they are crying. They drift in the waves, flap their flippers, fight and lie immobile for long periods. Pups happily spend time alone while their mothers hunt for food. These behaviours are completely normal.

If you find a seal that is severely injured, is entangled in marine debris, or being harassed by people or dogs, help is available.

Call the Department of Conservation.

DOC HOTline 0800 362 468



On the Beach

Summer. Several dominant bulls rule the fur seal rookery, defending their territories, fighting off challengers. Females deliver and suckle their pups. While the young seals play around the shoreline, their mothers mate to become pregnant with next season's pups, then disappear for days at a time in search of food.

The Seal Deal



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai