

Contact with Seals : Information and Advice

(Please note, not feeding seals will significantly reduce the likelihood of seal/human contact)

General Information

- Contact with seals can result in a serious infection called 'Seal Finger'.
- Please give this information to all new staff and display a laminated copy in an obvious place.
- Please report injuries to the boat owner and/or Harbour Master, as appropriate, and make sure all injuries caused by seals are recorded in appropriate accident books.
- Failing to report or treat an injury caused by a seal may have serious long term health implications.
- Contact between Dogs and Seals should be avoided, as diseases can also be transmitted between them.

First Aid Advice

Skin contact with a seal and superficial scratches

Wash thoroughly with disinfectant and dry thoroughly.

You should be monitored for signs and symptoms for 7 to 10 days.

Go to hospital if you feel unwell at any time.

Bites that have broken the skin, even superficially

1. Wash thoroughly with disinfectant and dry thoroughly
2. Apply normal First Aid
3. Go to A&E, the Minor Injury Unit at your nearest hospital or visit your GP, taking copies of both the:-
 - Sea Life 'Seal Bites' Protocol (available from the Harbour Master)
 - British Divers Marine Life Rescue 'Seal Bites' letter, outlining the specific antibiotic treatment for seal bites (available from the Harbour Master)
4. You should be monitored for signs and symptoms for 7 to 10 days.

Symptoms to look out for with a seal related infection

- Swelling and/or stiffening
- Tenderness around the wound and/or in joints
- Wound not healing