

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

They've practised their water skills for months and now the young seals are ready to leave the rookery

Fur seals are perfectly streamlined for swimming and diving

Large round eyes help kekeno to see in the dark water

Taking the Plunge

Spring. Soon a new batch of pups will crowd the rookery rocks and hollows. Preparing for these new arrivals, female fur seals take extended foraging trips to sea. Young are weaned, having suckled for the past nine to twelve months. It is time for last year's growing kekeno to head out on their own.

The Seal Deal



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai