

ANIMAL BITES

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- Shortbread Recipe
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- And more

SEALS OF NEW ZEALAND

Signed, sealed
and delivered

Animal
Squad

ISSUE 14
SPRING 2018

safeanimalsquad.org.nz

ALL ABOUT SEALS

EYES

Seals' eyes are large with an almost round lens adapted for seeing under water. Seals can still see well above water but not as well as under water.

WHISKERS

Seals search for food with their whiskers, sweeping them through the water to detect fish.

SIZE

Seals in New Zealand range from the 1.5-metre fur seal to the enormous 5-metre southern elephant seal.

SEA-SLEEPING SEALS

When sleeping at sea, seals float on their side.

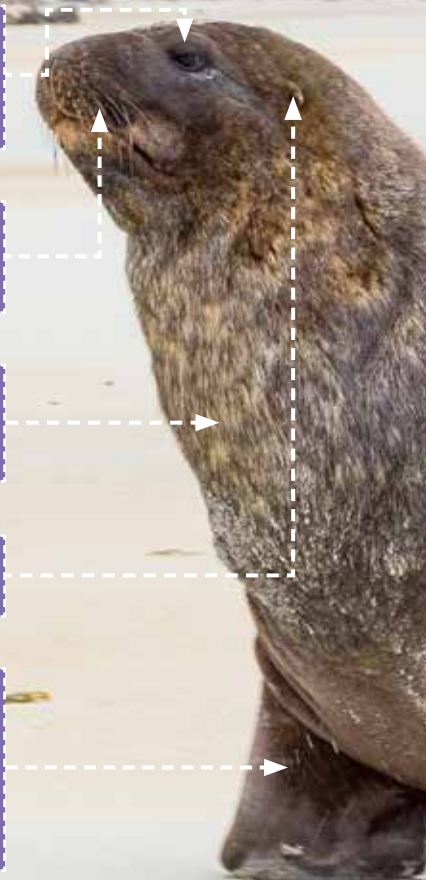
DIVING

New Zealand fur seals dive deeper and for longer than any other fur seals. They have been known to dive deeper than 238 metres and for as long as 11 minutes. Elephant seals can dive even deeper, as far as 1500 metres.

Seals are a group of animals known as pinnipeds. There are 33 known living species of pinnipeds and 50 extinct ones. Around 50 million years ago, they diverged from their closest relatives, which are bears and mustelids (raccoons, weasels, skunks and red pandas).

Seals in New Zealand

New Zealand is home to three species of seals. NZ Fur seals (kekeno), sea lions (whakahao) and southern elephant seals (ihupuku). Fur seals, sea lions and elephant seals all breed in and around the country. Another seal, leopard seals (pakaka), visits our beaches from time to time.



A HISTORY OF SEALS

Seals were hunted in New Zealand in the 1700s and 1800s for their meat, fur, and oil. They were almost hunted to extinction. Fortunately, a law passed in 1875 gave them some protection and now seal numbers are on the road to recovery.

Now, all seals, whales and dolphins in New Zealand and our waters are protected under the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978.

HELP SEALS SWIM (NOT SINK)



THREATS

Human activities cause the most danger to seals today.

Seals are caught up and can drown in commercial trawling nets.

Commercial fishing can also affect the availability of seals' food sources such as fish.

They can become entangled in marine debris.

They are endangered by oil exploration.

They can be harassed by people and dogs.

Global warming will affect the amount of sea ice and ocean currents, which is likely to affect seals' habitat and food.

Sadly, there have been some cases in New Zealand where seals have been deliberately shot or killed by humans.

HELPING SEALS

One of the best things you can do to help seals is to cut out or reduce the amount of fish you eat. Fishing can be particularly bad for seals. It not only affects them when they are caught in nets, but it also affects them by potentially reducing their available food and leaving marine debris around.

Write a letter to the government asking for more protection for seals.

Avoid plastics and always dispose of rubbish properly.

Take part in a beach clean-up.

Clearing rubbish off the shore helps stop it spreading into the oceans and affecting marine life.

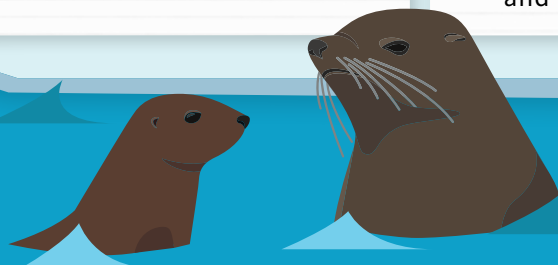


WHEN TO HELP SEALS

If a seal is in very poor condition, in immediate danger (such as from cars or dogs), tangled in debris, causing disruption, in the middle of a road, or harassed by a dog or people, they may need help.

Never handle or try to help a seal yourself as they can become aggressive when stressed.

Call DoC (0800 362 468) or Project Jonah (0800 494 253) and report the incident.



STAYING SAFE AROUND SEALS

Do not disturb seals, make loud noises or throw things near them

Keep dogs and small children well away from seals

Keep a safe distance at all times; stay at least 20 metres away

Leave an escape route between a seal and the sea

Look but don't touch. Seals carry infectious diseases and their teeth can inflict serious injuries

Do not feed seals

WHAT'S NORMAL FOR SEALS

Seals can often look distressed and scrawny. They might be sneezing, immobile, fighting or coughing or have weepy eyes. They will drift in the waves, flapping their flippers as if stranded. Seal pups spending time away from their mothers or alone is normal. Seals may even appear as far as 15km inland in unusual places such as roadsides. This is normal and happens when seals explore.



KIND FOOD SHORTBREAD

Ingredients

250g vegan margarine spread

1 cup icing sugar

1 cup cornflour

2 cups flour



PREP TIME
15 minutes

COOK TIME
10 minutes



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees
2. Cream vegan spread and icing sugar until light and fluffy
3. Sift cornflour and flour into the sugar and margarine and mix until just combined
4. Roll out half the mixture at a time on a floured board until just under 1cm thick
5. Cut shapes and put onto an oven tray
6. Re-roll left overs until you have used all the dough
7. Do the same with the other half
8. Bake for around 10 minutes – careful not to burn the edges
9. Cool on oven tray then transfer onto a wire rack



PUZZLE PAGE

X S N O I L O Q P S J B V
M A R I N E P V R J A Q M
X W U E N E S E A L L E A
X S J R U F K P A E K Z M
U L L O O S U D O P L M M
E A T Q I I Z P Y U N J A
L K W H A K A H A O T Y L
E A W R V R P P M Y K S G
P K G F D U S P E C I E S
H A G W D I V I N G I U T
A P C U A K E K E N O J A
N N S D E P I N N I P G H
T T Z N S B D W K J Y P K

Please help me figure out this word search

Seal
Kekeno
Pakaka
Whakahao
Pinnipeds

Species
Marine
Mammal
Whiskers
Diving

Elephant
Leopard
Fur
Sea
Lion



ANIMAL SQUAD PROFILE

Favourite animal:

Goats/platypus/chickens/canines in general (I can't decide which one)

What got you interested in wanting to help animals?

I have loved animals since I can remember, and I have always wanted to help them if they were hurt or in trouble. As soon as I saw what people all over the world were doing to these innocent creatures, I wanted to do something about it.

What is your favourite veg food?

Vegan ginger crunch

Anything you want to share about animals?

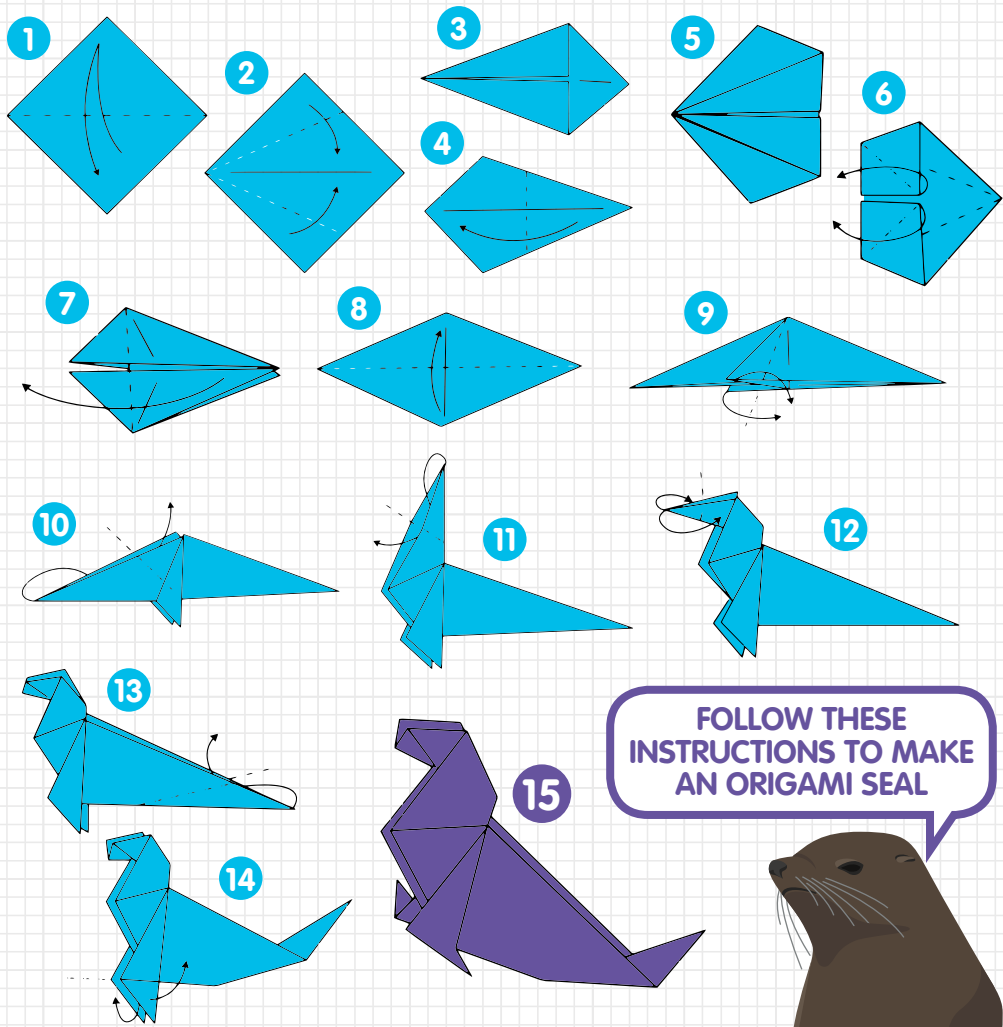
I got into the Central Zone speech competition at my school, and my speech is about factory farmed eggs. I hope to raise awareness about this topic because chickens have done nothing to deserve this abuse.



Name: **Lillian**

Age: **11**

Hometown: **Mt Victoria**



ALL THIS OCEAN
RUBBISH MIGHT
SEAL OUR FATE



PEOPLE NEED TO
BE RESPON-SEA-BLE
RECYCLERS



THAT WOULD
GET OUR SEAL
OF APPROVAL



ANIMAL SQUAD MEMBERS



Liam (10)

Liam had his birthday recently. Instead of presents, he asked his friends to bring a donation for animals. Liam raised over \$100 for both SAFE and HUHA animal sanctuary.

Amazing stuff, Liam!

Ava (10) and Jolie (8)

Ava and Jolie along with their younger sister Daisy and their parents, adopted three lambs whose mums had rejected them. They are sleeping on warm straw beds in their garage until they get big enough to live outside. The family also have six other sheep who are very interested in the lambs. They are all getting to know the lambs who will live with them once they are familiar.

Fantastic kindness, Ava, Jolie and Daisy!

JOIN SAFE ANIMAL SQUAD

If you are 8-14 you can **join for free.**

Sign up online at **SafeAnimalSquad.org.nz**

Or email **animalsquad@safe.org.nz**



Animal Squad



**ANSWERS
PUZZLE PAGE**