



## First to arrive and one of the first to go home

You can see here that Zehr was shedding her fuzzy blackcoat, or baby fur, replacing it with a smooth, silvery coat. You should've seen it—tufts of fur were flying everywhere!

### Zehr has you to thank!

At about a month old, this young pup was the very first seal you helped this year. You might be shocked to learn that when Zehr was rescued, she weighed less than she would have at birth, which means she was likely separated from her mother too early. But your generosity gave her a second chance at life—a chance an orphan like her would not have had without you.

they have to learn how to compete with their pen-mates for food so they have the best chance of survival back out in the wild.

**You should feel proud** because it wasn't long after Zehr began her lessons that she had her "lightbulb moment" and realized that fish is food! It's thanks to you that the very first seal pup patient of the year transformed from a skinny, orphaned pup to a strong, healthy seal ready to return to the wild! ♥

**Curious about what a lesson of fish school looks like? Visit [MarineMammalCenter.org/Zehr](https://MarineMammalCenter.org/Zehr) to see!**

### Watch Your Impact in Action:

**[MarineMammalCenter.org/Watch](https://MarineMammalCenter.org/Watch)** to find out how you can see highlights of the Center's work on National Geographic's special "Born Wild: The Next Generation."

*"We feel good knowing that in our one small way, we are helping the earth."* fellow supporters TMMC, Mark & Donna

### As a Center supporter, writing your will costs you nothing!

**You can write your will** today via FreeWill—it's legal, it's fast (done in less than 25 minutes) and it's absolutely free to you as a Center supporter.

#### Ready to get started?

Visit [FreeWill.com/MarineMammalCenter](https://FreeWill.com/MarineMammalCenter).

In these uncertain times, people like you have found peace of mind by creating their will. You can feel comforted too when you set up your plan to look after the people and causes, like The Marine Mammal Center, that are most important to you. ♥

#### A word from your fellow supporters...

### Mark and Donna have been giving to the Center for many years. Now they've put a gift in their will.



**Donna:** We first visited The Marine Mammal Center in the late 70s or early 80s. At the time, there were two trailers as offices and several pens and pools with rescued animals. We were very impressed with what was being done with limited facilities! We've visited since and have also attended a few releases which are always exciting—seeing the results of everyone's hard work is so special.

**Mark:** We are particularly impressed with the research being done and we knew we wanted our estate to be used by a group doing work we consider so important. Others should think about leaving a gift for the Center in their will because

the work done there is like the canary in the coal mine for the ocean. They work to not only save animals but to also study the health of the marine mammals and the ocean. They share this important knowledge with other institutions to gain a better overall understanding of our ocean's health.

**Donna:** Plus, we feel good knowing that in our one small way, we are helping our earth. ♥

**Learn more** about joining the **Steller Legacy Circle** by leaving a gift in your will. Visit [MarineMammalCenter.org/Steller](https://MarineMammalCenter.org/Steller)



### Try These Ocean-Friendly Meals

You can embrace sustainable seafood, like our pup patients do. With help from "Top Chef" Eric Adjepong, you can make ocean-friendly seafood choices that will help protect our ocean.

**Visit [MarineMammalCenter.org/EarthDayEats](https://MarineMammalCenter.org/EarthDayEats)** for videos, recipes, tips and more from Chef Adjepong. Thank you for helping keep marine mammals and our ocean healthy! ♥



# Rescue



A newsletter for our donors and friends



## You could use some good news, right?

### A species you're saving from extinction: sea otter success stories

**Southern sea otters** have the most luxurious fur—the thickest and warmest of any mammal, sea or land—which is why they were hunted to the very brink of extinction. But thanks to your commitment, southern sea otters are making a comeback!

Yes, they are still classified as "threatened" but now over 3,000 individuals are thriving off the coast of California. You are helping this species recover, one sea otter at a time.

**Above** That's a rescued sea otter named Patronus. Read more about him inside. →

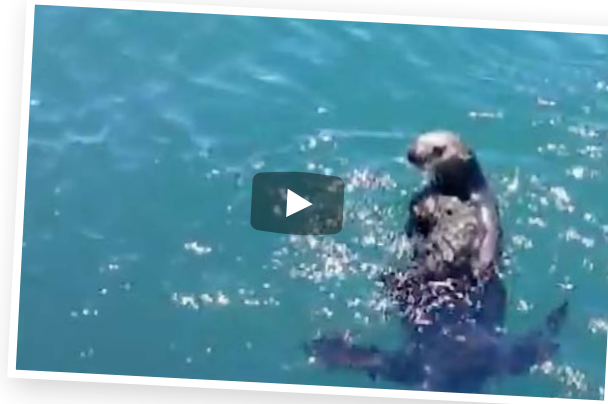
Just a few of the otter patients who would not have had a fighting chance if it weren't for you. Thank you.



USFWS PERMIT MA101713-1

**Patronus**

Found on the beach not behaving like a healthy otter and with a bite wound on his shoulder. Remarkably, after less than a month thanks to the veterinary care you make possible, Patronus was released back to the wild... lively and in great condition.



USFWS PERMIT MA101713-1

**Roary**

Got separated from her mother. Thanks to you, trained responders and our state partners scouted known otter resting spots... hoping the pup's mom would respond to Roary's calls. And she did! Reunited, Roary was cradled atop her mom's belly as her mother swam them back to the group of otters.

**Feel the joy!** Watch Roary be reunited with her mother. [Visit MarineMammalCenter.org/Roary](http://MarineMammalCenter.org/Roary).



USFWS PERMIT MA101713-1

That's **Pip** making a mad dash for the ocean after her treatment was finished.

**Yankee Doodle** chews on his enrichment toy while at the Center for treatment.



USFWS PERMIT MA101713-1

## You Can Really Get to Know Your Marine Mammal Neighbors

Fill your family's extra hours with fascinating facts, marine mammal games and a fun video by a Pixar animator.



"A Word With Dr. Whizzlepuff" is available on our website along with games and activities for kids.

**With life seemingly put on pause** for some of us, you may be finding yourself and your family with more free time to fill. Just like you've helped marine mammals, we want to help you!

You can find online learning resources that you and your family can dive into on our website. Expand your knowledge with activities like learning what goes into a marine mammal rescue or

with experiences like watching fun animated videos about marine mammal health. You'll find so many great ways to engage kids of all ages! ♥

**Get your resources at [MarineMammalCenter.org/online-learning](http://MarineMammalCenter.org/online-learning)**



*"Mahalo for your generous support! The school and youth programs you make possible empower teachers and their students to take action for our ocean and for the endangered Hawaiian monk seal."*

WENDY MARKS, M. ED., SCHOOL & YOUTH PROGRAMS MANAGER, HAWAII



**Harbor seal** pups like Agaptimoss test their natural instincts with toys like this box full of fish.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

## Seal pups prepare to survive in the wild thanks to toys you make possible

**Yes, you read that right!** Toys for seals is a real thing! Not just any kind of toy though—seal pups need items that act as educational tools to encourage their natural behaviors, like foraging for food and diving.

You see, in the wild, animals must problem-solve to meet their daily needs. But when a pup is in rehabilitation, they are getting the nutrition and care they need served to them on a silver platter! So what will they do when humans aren't around? This is where educational toys come in!

their own more quickly than their pen-mates that didn't engage.

**And you know what's even more marvelous?** This knowledge is being used when caring for endangered patients like Hawaiian monk seals! That's right—our monk seal patients get similar toys to help them prepare for life after release.

It's truly amazing that you are helping young and vulnerable marine mammals learn important survival skills—giving them the best possible second chance at life. ♥

### Boxed Lunch

Some pup patients get their meals served in a box at the bottom of the pool—they must lift panels to get a fish. Other toys include items like a floating raft, which encourages pups to haul out, and fake kelp stuffed with fish to spur exploration. Now doesn't that just put a big smile on your face?

Studies show that our harbor seal pups who interacted more with their toys (known as "enrichment" among scientists!) learned how to forage on

### Looking for a Dose of Hope?

**Visit [MarineMammalCenter.org/Return](http://MarineMammalCenter.org/Return)** to watch an endangered Hawaiian monk seal return to her ocean home.