

# California Sea Lion

*Zalophus californianus*



- Eared seal (has external ear flaps)
- Coat color is light tan to dark brown
- Have an elongated snout, heart-shaped nose and a long neck giving it a dog-like appearance
- Walk on all four flippers on land; swim by using front flippers as oars
- Gregarious, playful, social animals that gather on rocks, docks and beaches
- Coastal dwelling
- Pups are born in June and July - "official birthday" is June 15th
- 13 - 20 pounds at birth
- 1 pup is born each year and nurses for 6 - 12 months
- Adult males are much larger and have a sagittal crest on the top of their head
- Adult males weigh 300 - 800 pounds, have a straight length of up to 8 feet
- Adult females weigh 150 - 200 pounds, have a straight length of up to 6 feet
- Go through a gradual molt August - October
- Lifespan is 20 - 30 years
- Range from British Colombia, Canada to Baja California, Mexico and into the Sea of Cortez
- Strand because of malnutrition, trauma, domoic acid, communicable diseases and cancer as well as entanglement in fishing gear and marine debris
- Strand year-round with higher strandings March - May
- CIMWI's most common patient