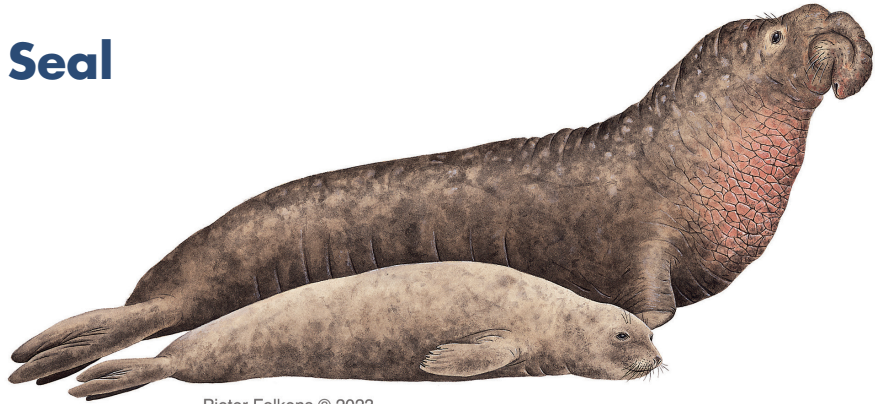


Northern Elephant Seal

Mirounga angustirostris



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- True seal (has ear holes)
- Coat color is uniformly gray, tan or brown
- Have a broad, round face with large eyes
- Crawl on their bellies when they are on land; swim by moving their rear flippers from left to right
- Spend majority of their time underwater and solitary
- Pelagic (open ocean) dwelling
- Pups are born in December and January
- Average of 75 pounds at birth
- 1 pup is born each year and nurses for 4 weeks
- Adult males are significantly larger than females and have a large, flexible and inflatable nose (proboscis)
- Adult males weigh up to 4,500 pounds, have a straight length of up to 13 feet long
- Adult females weigh up to 1,500 pounds, have a straight length of up to 10 feet
- Pups molt February - March, older animals molt April - August
- Molt occurs in a concentrated time period, shedding the outer layer of skin and fur (catastrophic molt)
- Lifespan is 13 years for males and 19 years for females
- Range from Alaska to Baja California, Mexico
- Strand because of malnutrition, trauma and communicable diseases as well as entanglement in fishing gear and marine debris
- Strand from March - June
- CIMWI's 2nd most common patient