

Baby seal beached on Coburg Peninsula



Colwood bylaw officer Rick Smith monitors an injured baby seal at Coburg beach Thursday. The SPCA airlifted the seal to the Vancouver Aquarium.

By [Sam Van Schie - Goldstream News Gazette](#)
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An injured seal pup was flown to the Vancouver Aquarium for care after it was discovered beached on Coburg Peninsula Thursday. Colwood bylaw enforcement officers were alerted of the distressed animal around noon, while they were responding to another incident at the lagoon.

"It's not unusual for a mother seal to leave its young ones on the beach while it goes out to hunt for the day," officer Rick Smith said. "This is the second one I've seen here this summer." The pup had a cut on its stomach, which attracted flies as it rested on its back. Officers used police tape to cordon off the area until the SPCA came with a crate to fly it to the Mainland.

"It will be rehabilitated at the aquarium until it can be released back into the wild," Smith said.

Ideally officers would have liked to see the pup return to its mother. However, if people have touched the animal, it's likely it would be abandoned.

"When people see a beached seal they may think its dead and poke it with a stick," Smith said. "The best think to do is just call the municipal office, so we can come down and take care of it. If nobody touches it, it can go back to the wild."