

The grey seal pupping session is well underway on Orkney and whilst the majority are flourishing, BDMLR has received reports of several seal pups that have required an assessment check by our marine mammal medics.

On Friday a member of the public found a small moulted grey seal pup on the side of the road at Hoxa. The member of the public picked up the seal and placed her in the boot of her car. We never recommend touching or interacting with a seal as they are dangerous and will give a nasty bite!

The member of the public contact Orkney Seal Rescue who due to personal circumstances was unable to take custody of the seal pup so Ross instead instructed the member of the public to take the seal to Flett and Carmicheal vets for assessment and treatment. Ross also made the BDMLR Orkney team aware so that we could arrange for her continued care and onward travel to Shetland.

On assessment of the seal pup it was clear Boots (named after her unusual method of transport to the vets) was in a poor condition, had sustained some minor injuries and would not survive without additional care. BDMLR Orkney set to action making ready their treatment and holding facility. Over the weekend Boots was hydrated, treated, fed, and cared for by BDMLR medics until the NorthLink ferry sailing for Lerwick on Sunday evening. Boots took the exciting ferry trip to Hillswick Seal Sanctuary for rehabilitation and is now settling into to her new interim home.

BDMLR Orkney would like to thank everyone that keeps an eye out for seal pups and gives us a call when they see one in trouble. A special thanks must go out to the following who have given their time, expertise, and support to ensure that seal pups on Orkney needing help on their journey to recovery get the best chance they can. Thank you -

- Orkney BDMLR volunteer medics
- Flett and Carmichael Vets
- Redland Farm (Orkney's newest Seal Care Facility)
- EMEC (For providing our seal rescue crate)
- NorthLink
- Ross at Orkney Seal Rescue

**For more information, please contact Donna-Claire Hunter on 07568504884 or Tom Hadley on 07927 333998.**