



Cheers as nine seals named after beers are released back into wild

It's a refreshing moment for Skol and his bevy of friends

Nine grey seals rescued as sick or orphaned pups and looked after by the RSPCA's East Winch wildlife centre have been returned to the wild.

The six males and three females - all of whom were named after beers - were released on Friday 12 May 2017 after being nursed back to health. They had all been rescued from various sites along the East Coast earlier this year seriously underweight, or suffering from wounds or lungworm.

Once the young seals - Skull Splitter, Jimmy Riddle (pictured here on his arrival), Hofmeister, Mad Goose, Pickled Santa, Corona, Waggle Dance (pictured further below), Norfolk Nog and Skol - were admitted to the RSPCA's East Winch site, they were given around the clock care and rehabilitation.

The seals started in the intensive care cubicles at the centre, where they are hand fed, before being moved into the large pools as they began self-feeding and gaining weight until they reached 'release condition'.

Alison Charles, Manager of the RSPCA's East Winch Wildlife Centre said: "We are so happy to see these gorgeous creatures returning to the wild after having such difficult starts in life.

"We always release seals into the River Nene at Sutton Bridge in Lincolnshire on a receding tide. This takes them out to the exposed sandbanks in the Wash where there are other wild seals.



The RSPCA uses this route after data from its satellite tracking study of 2004 showed that this release method is ideal for the seals and gives them a good start to life back out at sea. From there they are able to return to familiar waters on their own.



Alison added: “For the purposes of identification (to prevent medication or feeds getting mixed up), we always give our seals names. This season, we decided the theme would be beers.”

RSPCA advice on seals

- **Please do not touch the seal.** They can give a nasty bite, which will become infected by the bacteria that live in a seal’s mouth.
- Do not allow dogs or other animals to harass a seal – it could be scared back into the water and washed out to sea by strong currents.
- Never put a seal pup back in the sea as it may get into difficulty. Many pups are suffering from pneumonia and the last thing they want or need is to go back into the water. Seals tend to get themselves as far away from the water as they can when they are sick and the RSPCA has found them some distance inland.

If you have concerns about an animal please call the RSPCA's emergency line on 0300 123 9999

If you would like to help raise funds to support the vital work carried out by the RSPCA’s Wildlife Centre at East Winch, please visit their [Amazon site](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/2QW97YL6JNRPQ/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1) to purchase your animal care products.
https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/2QW97YL6JNRPQ/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1

The RSPCA is a charity and we rely on public donations to exist.

