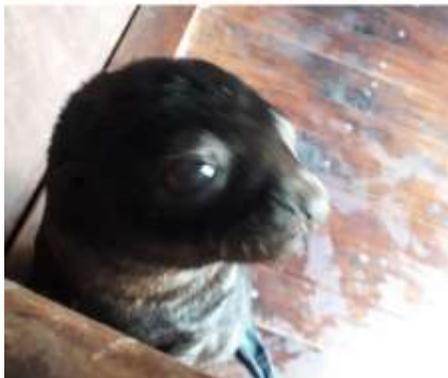




Hout Bay Seal Rescue Centre (HBSRC)



VISION

To rescue, rehabilitate and sustain the continued population of the South African Cape Fur Seal, for future generations and to avoid extinction.

MISSION

To rescue and rehabilitate Cape Fur Seal pups and yearlings and to integrate them back into their natural seal colony's in Hout Bay, which is on Duiker Island, in South Africa.

BACKGROUND

Twenty years ago (in 1999), the Late Francois Hugo (passed away in 2018) founded the Seal Alert Centre in the harbour of Hout Bay, in South Africa. This seal centre was, and still is, solely for the rescue and rehabilitation of Cape Fur Seals and their release into their natural habitat, which is the ocean off the west coast of South Africa. We salute Francois, whose love of seals was beyond reproach, and his legacy will be honoured by all who share his passion for seal rescue and rehabilitation, for decades to come. Since Francois's passing, the centre has continued operating with volunteers, who have given selflessly of their time and resources.

To ensure long term sustainability and to fulfil operational requirements of the ever growing rescues and rehabilitation of seals at the centre, upgrading of the facilities and full time carers have become a full time daily requirement. The centre has recently had a face lift, with repairs and maintenance being done and the upgrading of the facilities.



OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

The Hout Bay Seal Rescue Centre rescues and rehabilitates Cape Fur Seals, with specific focus on seal pups and yearlings, which have become stranded on the beach or been injured by whatever means.

Duiker Island, just off Hout Bay, has become one of the top attractions in the Western Cape. However, the boat-loads of tourists, who make the journey, are seldom aware of the plight of survival faced by the seal pups and yearlings, which is extremely challenging for them. The primary breeding season for the Cape Fur Seal is in November and December. Some of the young seal pups that are born, are often very thin and weak and they may be washed off the rocky islands and swept ashore by rough seas. These very young pups are often sick and injured, and require veterinary assistance and specialised feeding.

The seal pups require immediate attention once rescued, to enable them to have a chance of being resuscitated and rehabilitated. Our seal rescue volunteers are called out at all times of day or night, and immediately respond to calls of seal distress and drive them through to the Hout Bay Seal Rescue Centre, which operates 24 hours a day, where they receive immediate attention by our dedicated Seal Carers, who live and work on-site at the centre.

The seals are immediately treated for dehydration and are tube fed at regular intervals throughout the day and night, to ensure sustenance is provided to the distressed seals. Where necessary, we request veterinary assistance. We have a large water enclosure in the centre, where the seal pups can safely enter and learn to swim, before they are fully strong and healthy and able to fend for themselves in the large ocean. The length of assistance and recuperating time varies for each young pup, ranging from 6 months to a year.

The Cape Fur Seal is a protected animal since 1973 by the Sea Birds and Seal Protection Act, where only the state has been allowed to cull seals at specific colonies.



SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure the ongoing survival and sustainability of the Cape Fur Seals population, we drive campaigns of awareness and education directed towards the general public, life-saving clubs, schools and tourism operators. Our aim is to also promote awareness around how the ocean and environmental issues, impact the population of the Cape Fur Seals in South Africa, where plastics, fishing line and netting, can wrap around a seal's neck or body, causing them great injury and harm.

The Hout Bay Seal Rescue Centre works closely with Dr Greg Hoffmeyer from Bayworld and Mr Jacques Nel from the Westcoast Environmental Project and the Department of Environment Affairs, to ensure that we remain informed and up to date on all research and any issues around marine life in general, that may impact or cause harm to Seals and Marine animals. These organisations support the cause and the work performed daily, at the Hout Bay Seal Rescue Centre.

We maintain a database of volunteers, to assist with the rescuing of seal pups or to assist with protecting larger seals that beach for moulting or whatever other reason, to keep watch over them and keep dogs and people away.



FUNDING – DONATIONS / SPONSORSHIP

The Hout Bay Seal Rescue Centre is in the process of being registered as a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) and Funders, who are tax payers, which have made bona fide donations or sponsorship to the centre, may claim a tax deduction subject to a limit. The Hout Bay Seal Rescue Centre receives no funding from government or any other state institutions and relies entirely on donations and sponsorship.

The centre operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year and has 3 full time Seal Carers, who work on a shift rotation.

If you are interested in funding our good cause and vision of sustaining the Cape Fur Seals in South Africa and require any further information, please contact us on the details below. We are grateful to you for any amount of donation or sponsorship.

We thank you for your time and the opportunity to engage with you, in our fight of rescuing and rehabilitating the Cape Fur Seals.

Average Budget	Per Month
3 full time Seal Carers – working on shift rotation - Salaries Tea, coffee and Food	R 30 000
Handy andy, domestos, sunlight liquid, F10 (vetinary for hospital use) 2 mops, black bags	R 3 000
Medication, Prolite, Antibiotics, Cortisone and Royal canine Pup milk	R 7 500
Fish (100KG per month) (this will vary depending on the times of year, during pup season From October to November) it can go up to 300kg a month)	R 10 000
Repairs and Maintenance – ongoing upkeep of the centre and fencing and repairs to surrounding areas	R 5 000
Other – Veterinary services, transportation costs to purchase goods and fish, and other unforeseen emergency costs	R 5 000
Average monthly budget	R 60 500

Once off purchase

- 10 large dog crates for all volunteers for beach rescues : R50 000
- 3 pairs of working shoes size 11
- Working trousers

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Donations can be paid into the: Hout Bay Seal Rescue Centre, First National Bank, First Business Account Number 62846401579, Branch Code: 255355. Swift Code is FIRNZAJJ.

Contact us on:

Tel: 071 362 6019 / 072 988 5193

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/HoutBaySealRescue/>

Email: HoutBaySealRescueCentreFundRaising@compute.co.za

Additional pictures inside the centre

- Pup and yearling pool area before release
- Pup hospital
- Yearling quarantine area

