



# OHS HUMANE EDUCATION

# NEWSLETTER

Promoting Education in Animal Welfare

NOVEMBER 2022

## ANIMAL NEWS



### Juvenile Haul Out of Elephant Seals at Año Nuevo! From the [California State Parks Website](#)

- September 1 to November 30 - Fall Juvenile Haul Out
- By summer's end, most elephant seals have returned to sea to feed. Small numbers of 1 to 3 year old juveniles haul out on remote beaches as part of their early development.
- During the "Fall Haul Out" the Wildlife Viewing Area of the Natural Preserve is open for self-guided hiking by Visitor Permit only. Obtain your free permit from the entrance station, between 8:30 am and 3:30 p.m. only. No reservations are required and no Guided Walks are offered. Visitors must exit the Natural Preserve by 5 p.m., which is earlier than the general park's closing hour of sunset. Please plan to arrive early enough to obtain a permit and make the 4-5 mile hike before 5 p.m. Most groups require about 3 hours to make the round-trip hike. In December, breeding season starts and you must make reservations.

### November Animal Holidays

Adopt a Turkey Month  
Manatee Awareness Month  
National Animal Shelter &  
Rescue Appreciation Week - November 6-12,  
Jellyfish Day - November 3  
Bison Day - November 5  
World Numbat Day - November 5  
American Frog Day - November 10  
Fancy Rat & Mouse Day - November 12  
Turtle Adoption Day - November 27



### AWARENESS ACTIVITY FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

- Elephant seals "crawl" on land with rhythmic belly flops. Do you think they move faster on sand or in the water? Why?
- Now try to crawl the same way as they do on a carpet and then try a smooth floor. Which way is faster? Why? How is your belly crawling like what the elephant seals do?
- For students in a wheelchair: Have you tried to roll over carpet and then a smooth floor? Which is easier and why?
- Click on the photo to the left to see and hear the elephant seals at Año Nuevo, courtesy of Monterey Bay Aquarium.

## A CLOSER LOOK

### [AÑO NUEVO LIVE CAMERA](#)



### Elephant Seals

- Elephants at the beach?! No, not elephants - elephant seals! These large mammals are seals that have a long, elephant-like nose, but they live in water almost all the time. They swim and feed in the waters off of Mexico, California and along the coast up to Alaska. The only times they come out or HAUL OUT of the water are for a month to quickly shed their fur and a layer of skin and to make new fur. During the same time, they stay ashore to make babies and feed them for a few months.
- First the young males and females arrive in September to November, then in December the huge males arrive to find mates, and eventually, the pregnant females arrive to give birth and nurse. The male elephant seals can be as long and heavy as a truck and the females are not much smaller. The babies can weigh about 75 pounds when they are born and may weigh about 300 pounds or more after a month.
- The beaches are closed to people from December to March so they are not disturbed with their babies, called pups. A long time ago, elephant seals were killed for their fat or blubber to use for heat and light until there were only about 50-100 left. Luckily, Mexico and then the United States passed laws to protect them and now there are over 200,000.
- Around this time of year in our community, young elephant seals come up on the beach at Point Reyes, Año Nuevo State Park, and other coastal areas to molt and reproduce. They live about 15-20 years and males can dive down about a mile for food.