



**CAUTION**

## CONFIRMED RABIES AMONGST SEALS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Dear Visitor,

CapeNature CAUTIONS the public to stay away from seals following the confirmation of rabies amongst seals in the Western Cape.

Rabies is a viral disease transmitted from the saliva of an infected animal when it bites or scratches a person causing acute inflammation of the brain tissue. There are two forms of rabies: furious and paralytic. Once symptoms of the disease develop, either form is almost always fatal.

Please follow the safety precautions below should you come across a seal on the beach or while in the water:

- ▶ DO NOT approach, disturb, touch or interact with seals whether they look healthy or not.
- ▶ Always keep a safe distance of 10m or more from seals.
- ▶ Do not swim near seal colonies or in areas where they occur in high numbers.
- ▶ Do not touch, handle or consume a seal carcass or any parts thereof.
- ▶ Listen and obey requests to vacate the sea or coastal areas when given by a competent authority.
- ▶ If you are bitten by a seal, wash the wound out ASAP with soap and water for 5-10 min and **seek medical attention immediately** and inform the medical practitioner that you have been bitten by a seal that may be rabid.
- ▶ No dogs are allowed in any of the CapeNature reserves. In other areas where seals may be present dogs must be kept on a leash.

Report any bite incidents and unusual behaviour, including excessive aggression, docility, abnormal vocalisation, or foaming at the mouth by seals to CapeNature on **083 236 2924**.



CapeNature  
**079 463 4837**



Knysna Provincial Hospital:  
**044 302 8400**  
George Provincial Hospital:  
**044 874 5122/802 4528**



Emergencies (ambulance, fire, police):  
**112** (mobile phone)  
**10177** (landline)