Friends of Horsey Seals (RCN 1169539) a charity run by volunteers, aims to reduce disturbance to seals and other wild animals, and takes part in rescues of seals that are injured or orphaned.

To become a Friend of Horsey Seals, or find out about wardening opportunities, visit: www.friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk

If you see a seal or any wild animal that is sick or injured, please contact:
RSPCA 24 hour helpline 0300 1234 999
or
British Divers Marine Life Rescue:
01825 765546 (9-5 Mon-Fri)
07787 433412 (out of hours)

RESCUES OF SEALS CAUGHT IN PLASTIC FLYING RINGS

Volunteers from Friends of Horsey Seals take part in seal rescues with other local organisations, including Marine and Wildlife Rescue. Co-ordinated and trained by RSPCA (East Winch) they attend callouts and consult with RSPCA vets on the best course of action for the injured animal.

At her rescue in September 2017, ‘Frisbee’ (overleaf) was very thin as she couldn’t catch fish any more, she was nursed back to health by the RSPCA and released in February 2018.

‘Pinkafo’ (right and overleaf) named after the pink plastic ring embedded in her neck was rescued in December 2018. She was close to death but after months of treatment and care at East Winch was fit for release in May 2019.

‘Sir David’ (overleaf) was monitored for weeks before rescuers were able to catch him in March 2019. After careful treatment and care by staff at East Winch, he was released in July 2019.

WHY FOCUS ON FLYING RINGS?

While playing with flying rings is fun and promotes healthy outdoor exercise, the problems they cause when found by young seals are not widely known.

Most people would not intentionally harm a seal or any wildlife, but might not know about potential injuries to seals from plastic flying rings.

Your awareness of this problem will help to save lives and unnecessary suffering.

Friends of Horsey Seals gratefully acknowledge the financial support of Sea-Changers for this campaign and thank all the individuals and groups who have given their support.

Please don’t throw flying rings on the beach

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ENJOY FLYING RINGS ON LAND NOT SEA!

Seals are curious, playful animals. They are a joy to watch with their spotted coats and varied colours: sleeping, making ‘banana’ shapes and pupping in season. In the sea they are graceful, agile and fast, they have to be to catch fish! As fellow mammals we feel a special connection to them. We also know they are wild animals who are wary of us; if we disturb them they will flee. If we get too close they will bite!

WHAT PROBLEM DO SEALS HAVE WITH FLYING RINGS?

Seals are being spotted with flying rings stuck around their necks.

It seems that younger seals find these flying rings in the sea where they have been thrown or lost and, being inquisitive animals, they play with them and put their heads through the hole.

The seals can’t get the flying ring off as they have flippers rather than arms like ours.

As the young seals grow the rings dig into their flesh causing painful wounds that can be fatal.

Seals and other wildlife can get caught in all sorts of plastic litter. Ropes, netting and ringed items are especially dangerous.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Please don’t throw flying rings, discs or dog rings on the beach.
- Please don’t throw them in the sea!
- Join a beach clean, or do your own litter collecting – take a bag, pop it in and put it in a litter bin – you’ll feel great! (www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch)
- Tell your family and friends - once they know they’ll want to join in!

Love seals? Then please don’t take flying rings to the beach. Do take all plastic litter home.