

LIVE STRANDING CODE OF CONDUCT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



All stranded whales, dolphins and porpoises, alive or dead, pose a health risk

Do not approach or move any animal without help/guidance from a trained IWDG responder and proper Personal Protective Equipment. Until help arrives, you can assist without touching the animal by keeping crowds, dogs and gulls away.



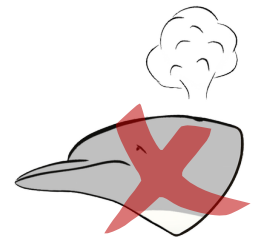
REPORT IMMEDIATELY
Call the IWDG HOTLINE:
(097) 28118



'Don'ts' at a Live Stranding Event



For your safety, stay clear of the blowhole (mammals can transfer dangerous diseases to humans) and tail (stressed animals are highly unpredictable and may inflict serious harm). Keep crowds and dogs away.



NEVER drag an animal – especially not by the tail! This could seriously injure the animal.



Do not approach animals in dangerous locations, such as mudflats. Your safety comes first.



Please report all strandings and sightings to the IWDG via our Website or Reporting App.

LIVE STRANDING CODE OF CONDUCT



What to do if you encounter a live stranded whale, dolphin or porpoise.



A live stranding is when a marine animal is alive but has come ashore or is in very shallow water and cannot return to sea on its own. Your actions can save lives and help protect these amazing animals.



DO



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Call the IWDG HOTLINE:
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STAY CALM AND KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Keep noise, crowds, pets and gulls away and give animal space.



KEEP ANIMAL COOL AND WET

Gently splash or pour seawater over the animal's body, avoiding the blowhole. Use wet seaweed or wet towels to help keep the animal cool.



SUPPORT THE ANIMAL UPRIGHT

If it is safe to do so, help the animal into an upright position. Dig holes in the sand for the pectoral fins to give them space and to prevent pressure.



FOLLOW EXPERT ADVICE

Wait for guidance from trained responders

REMEMBER



Your safety comes first

Stay aware of the tides, weather and your surroundings.

The welfare of the animal depends on calm, responsible actions and prompt reporting.



DON'T



DO NOT PUSH IT BACK INTO THE SEA

This can cause serious injury or drowning.



DO NOT DRAG IT BY ITS TAIL

This can cause internal injuries.



DO NOT COVER THE BLOWHOLE

Cetaceans breathe through it. Keep it clear and avoid standing over it.



DO NOT ATTEMPT RESCUE ALONE

Wait for trained responders and follow their guidance.



DO NOT CROWD THE ANIMAL

Too many people cause stress and can hinder responders.



DO NOT SHARE LIVE LOCATION DETAILS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

This could cause disturbance and put the animal at risk.

FOR LIVE STRANDINGS: CALL THE IWDG HOTLINE IMMEDIATELY

FOR ALL OTHER CETACEAN ENCOUNTERS: Please use the IWDG Reporting App by scanning the QR code below.

YOUR CALL IS IMPORTANT – WE WILL ALERT VOLUNTEER RESPONDERS

IWDG Stranding Responders are volunteers. When we receive your call, we alert local responders and determine who is available to attend.

Your actions while you wait can make a real difference.

Please stay with the animal if safe to do so and keep in touch with IWDG.



Scan for more info on the IWDG Reporting App



or visit:

REPORT.IWDG.IE

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