A Harbor Seal pup was only a few days old when someone spotted him on the beach. Thinking the seal pup was sick or injured, the person who found him picked him up and placed him in the bathtub in their hotel room. There was just one problem— he didn’t need rescuing! Luckily, PAWS was contacted and the pup was brought to the Wildlife Center. By that point, though, he was very dehydrated. He had been away from his mom so long, he wasn’t getting the nutrients that he needed.

Dr. Nicki, a veterinarian at PAWS, helped the seal pup recover during his two-month stay in the PAWS Wildlife Center. The pup was given plenty of room to swim and a ton of fish to eat, helping him gain over 40 pounds of weight. That extra weight would help him go back to the wild and live a good life there when eventually released from PAWS.

After the pup was fully recovered, PAWS took him to a private beach in Oregon and released him back to his home. After a little while of hanging out on the land, he swam away into the ocean.

Harbor Seals are on land about half of their life because it is where they spend time resting, warming up in the sun, and digesting food. The lesson learned is: if you see harbor seal on land, don’t worry—they’re probably not in any danger and are doing just fine on their own!

If you see a Harbor Seal on the beach, give them plenty of space, and don’t approach. They may look like they need your help, but your help will likely do more harm than good. Also make sure to keep your pets away from them, as seals can’t move very fast to get away from curious dogs.

The best way for us to help is to make sure we don’t bother them.

How do I know if my pet likes its treats?

Look at your pet’s body language when you give them a treat. If they like it, they’ll be eager to gobble it up. A dog might let out a whine when they see the treat. A cat might meow or reach out with their paw. If your pet doesn’t like a treat, they will usually give it a sniff but won’t take it. They might even walk away. Some pets don’t like treats at all. Instead, they might like a game of fetch or a good chin scratch as a reward!

Got a question for Riley? Send him your question, and he will answer it. You can reach him at Riley@paws.org or visit www.paws.org/kids/ask-riley.
PAWS helps dogs and cats in Washington find new homes, but did you know PAWS also helps dogs and cats all over the country? PAWS works with other animal shelters across the U.S. to give animals the best chance at finding their forever homes. We couldn’t do the work we do without them, so today we’re sharing more about one of our great partners: Miracle K9 Rescue!

Many shelters in the U.S. are overcrowded, so there isn’t enough space for all the animals that they need to help. Luckily, shelters like PAWS often have extra space. Miracle K9 Rescue helps dogs in overcrowded shelters move to places like PAWS, so the dogs can have the space they need. This gives these pups a second chance at life and better opportunities to find their forever homes. It’s a win for everyone!

Matt, Miracle K9’s founder, has moved over 2,000 dogs all over the country to less crowded shelters – that’s a lot of canine friends! Last year, Matt brought PAWS 250 dogs from other shelters. He drives two-and-a-half days from Texas to PAWS, only stopping to take care of the dogs in his trailer. Matt shows true commitment to Miracle K9’s motto: Until All the Cages are Empty. PAWS is so grateful for Matt and Miracle K9, and all our partners across the country. Working together helps us save more animals than working alone.

Make Your Own Cat Treats!

Ingredients:
1 (4 ounce) can of tuna, drained
1 cup flour
1 large egg

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Place all ingredients in a food processor and process until the dough is smooth and thick.

2. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Form dough into small balls and flatten slightly.

3. Bake for about 15 minutes until golden and crisp. Store in air-tight container for up to five days or freeze.

Vocabulary

Did you notice the brown words in this newsletter? These are words that may be new to you. Below you can find each word with its definition.

Dehydrated – When a person or animal doesn’t have enough water in their body.

Nutrients – The parts of food that are needed for healthy growth.

Digesting – When your stomach absorbs nutrients into your body.

Overcrowded – When a space is more full than it should be.

Canine – A dog.

Want to learn more about animals and how you can help?
Visit paws.org and click on the “Kids” menu to find activity ideas, animal books, and other fun things!