

HEALTHY STRANDED ANIMALS AND LABORATORY RESEARCH

The review article by Moore *et al.* published in the October 2007 issue of *Marine Mammal Science* presents a decision tree designed to deal with the management of stranded marine mammals. If an animal that has stranded has survived the stranding and passed the health assessment there are only three alternatives prescribed for it: (1) euthanasia, (2) placement for long-term public display, or (3) release back into the wild. Stranded animals are a source of subjects for marine mammal laboratories conducting research requiring long-term captive care (*e.g.*, Nachtigall *et al.* 1990) and there is a definite need for animal subjects. We suggest that it would be valuable to add a fourth alternative for stranded animals judged to be healthy—that of placement in APHIS and IACUC approved laboratories conducting cooperative psychological or physiological research. Such programs can provide high-quality placements for stranded animals while improving the understanding of marine mammal species.

LITERATURE CITED

- 1 NACHTIGALL, P. E., J. L. PAWLOSKI, J. P. S. SCHROEDER AND S. SINCLAIR. 1990. Successful maintenance and research with a formerly stranded Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*). *Aquatic Mammals* 16:8–13.

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