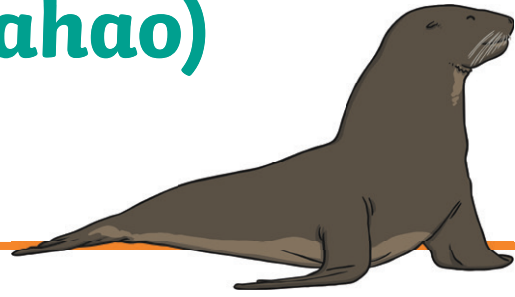


Sea Lions (Whakahao)

Life Cycle



Embryo/Gestation

The mother is pregnant for a period of 12 months. During this time, she looks after her other pup, teaching it how to survive.

Pups

Pups are born during December and January. All pups are born in a particular part of the beach. 6 weeks after birth, the mothers move the pups further inland. The mothers then alternate their time between being with pup and hunting in the sea. Pups will suckle for 8 months.

Juvenile

After 8 months, the pup then needs to fend for itself. The mother leaves and the juvenile must hunt for its own food.

Adult

A female NZ sea lion gives birth to its first pup around the age of 3. They will give birth to one pup each year.

Males mature between 8 and 9 years of age. They fight each other for both territory and breeding rights.

The maximum lifespan of a NZ sea lion is 23 years.

