

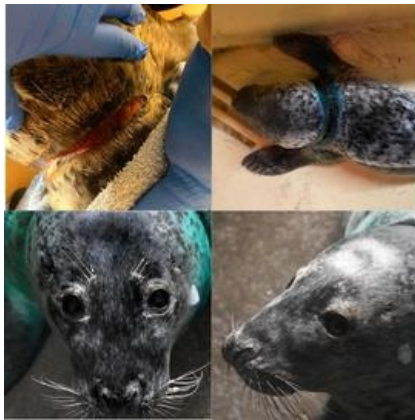


Seal Rescue Ireland Pup-date

In this Issue: Sealebrity of the month, A Seal Skeleton, Habitat Restoration Updates, Valentine's Date Ideas, New Research Underway & A Fairwell Message!



We love - Failinis the Fighter!



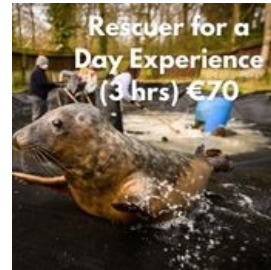
Meet Failinis, a male Grey Seal pup from Furzeditch, Co. Wicklow who was found in December with a serious fishing line entanglement around his neck. Although a horrible wound remained after the fishing line was removed, we are delighted to report that with rest and proper care, Failinis is well into recovery. We are so glad he is a fighter, and you can support his journey by adopting him at the link below!

Unfortunately, life-threatening entanglements from fishing gear are not rare for seals, and are especially dangerous for young juveniles. Without intervention, this entanglement would have gotten tighter as Failinis grew larger, so we were very lucky he was reported to us in time! Intentionally dumped or lost fishing gear, known as "ghost nets", kill thousands of marine animals each year, but there are simple ways YOU can help protect lives like Failinis! Always be sure to properly dispose of your own fishing gear, and if you ever come across it on the beach, please be sure to remove it! Most importantly, if you ever see an entangled seal on the beach, please do not attempt to free it yourself as this could cause further injury. Please maintain a safe distance and call SRI's 24-Hour Rescue Hotline at 087 1955393 where we will take it from there!

[ADOPT FAILINIS](#)

Sealed with a Kiss:

Treat your Valentine to a Visit with the pups!



Book your experience at the link below for a day you won't forget at the Seal Rescue Centre. Choose from our 30-min, 1-Hr, or 3-Hr immersive experience, and you'll be sharing the love by helping these pups make it back to the wild!

BOOK YOUR



Where Science meets Seals. New Research Projects Launched

This past month two exciting new research projects have begun through Plymouth University's Dr. Katherine Herborn. One project is studying seal behaviours through remote cameras positioned at each of our rehabilitation pools, to monitor and explore the idea of different seal "personalities".

The second project involves gathering DNA samples from the rehabilitation pools to help steer data collection methods for the study of wild seal genetics. We are very excited to be facilitating this fascinating work, and look forward to sharing the findings in the future!



Habitat Restoration Hits The Headlines

SRI's Habitat Restoration work has been receiving a lot of recognition lately! Our Project Manager, Jeshua Taucher, has been the driving force behind its success through direct engagement with local land owners and facilitating the planting of 19 different species of native trees, with funding support from our friends at Salesforce. One key stakeholder is local farmer, George Percival, who has partnered with SRI to plant 4,500 trees on his land to date, and now has plans for 16,000 more as part of the Native Woodland Scheme! In a country that has suffered from mass deforestation over the centuries, the benefits from these new trees can't come soon enough! The planting is being focused alongside waterways to form a "riparian buffer" which filters out pollutants from farm run-off, and protects downstream waterways. As the trees grow, they will also fight climate change and create food and habitat for wildlife, amplifying these benefits as they mature. Learn more about this habitat restoration project, as well as a recent tree planting event with Ballycanew National School, at the links below!

**Farmer to plant
16k Trees**

**Ballycanew
National School
Plant & Learn**

A Bonafide Seal Skeleton!

Visitors to our Seal Rescue Centre will notice a unique, new feature which has recently been added to our educational display: a real seal skeleton! This preserved, polished and mounted skeleton is from a common seal pup, and offers visitors the opportunity to explore the anatomical links between these semi-aquatic mammals and us human mammals.

A huge thank you to Duncan Kenny of The Cove Discovery Project for preparing and assembling this skeleton for our display. It will be celebrated for years to come as a teaching tool to help educate, fascinate and inspire future generations for the conservation and protection of wild seals.



[Book Your Visit](#)



A Fond Fairwell



Words from Outgoing Executive Director

Almost six years ago I made the journey to Ireland to join SRI and commit to saving and protecting these iconic animals. Over 780 seal rescues later, and with over 19,000 native trees planted, the time has come for me to part ways with SRI.

Although I'm excited for my next adventure, I'm sad to say goodbye to some of the most amazing, dedicated, and capable people I've ever met: SRI's management team based in Courtown. It's been an honour and privilege to work alongside literally hundreds of interns, volunteers and colleagues over the years at our small seal rescue centre, most of whom worked full-time on a voluntary basis, with out whom none of this work would have been possible. A heartfelt thank you to our fantastic network of volunteers nationwide who have helped every seal reach our care. Thank you to the many supporters, sponsors, collaborators, members, donors and media outlets over the years who have helped SRI become leaders in Ireland's environmental movement, and spread our message across the globe. With our rise in profile, the demand for our services has grown, yet despite the many challenges (including a pandemic!) we've managed to keep up with capacity while vastly improving the quality of animal care for each and every seal that comes through our doors.

Through it all, my proudest achievement has been broadening SRI's scope from solely focused on wildlife rescue & rehab, to a wider environmental focus to take action on the biggest threats facing both seals and humankind: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. I truly believe our obligation to the seals does not end when we return them to the wild, as we must ensure they have a safe and inhabitable environment in which to thrive once released. Wildlife rescue and environmental conservation must go hand in hand, and I'm excited and hopeful to see SRI continue on this trajectory.

Kind Regards & Thank You!

Melanie Croce, Executive Director



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