

HOW TO HELP STRANDED WHALES

**IF YOU'RE THE FIRST TO DISCOVER A STRANDING
CALL DOC 0800 362 468 (0800 DOC HOT)**

Give as much information as you can - the number of animals, their size, colour, condition (alive, dead or badly injured) and their location.

Then follow the instructions given to you over the phone.

1. COOL

Out of water whales will overheat quickly and their delicate skin will dry out and burn in the wind and sun. Pour water over them to keep them cool and cover them with light coloured wet sheets.

⚠️ **Don't pour water down the whale's blowhole or cover their eyes or blowhole with sheets.**

2. COMFORTABLE

If they're lying on their side, dig a shallow impression alongside them and roll them into an upright position (only do this if you have enough people to help). Once upright, dig holes under their fins to help relieve cramping.

⚠️ **Don't pull their dorsal fins, flippers, or tail. Never attempt to drag or roll a whale back to sea.**

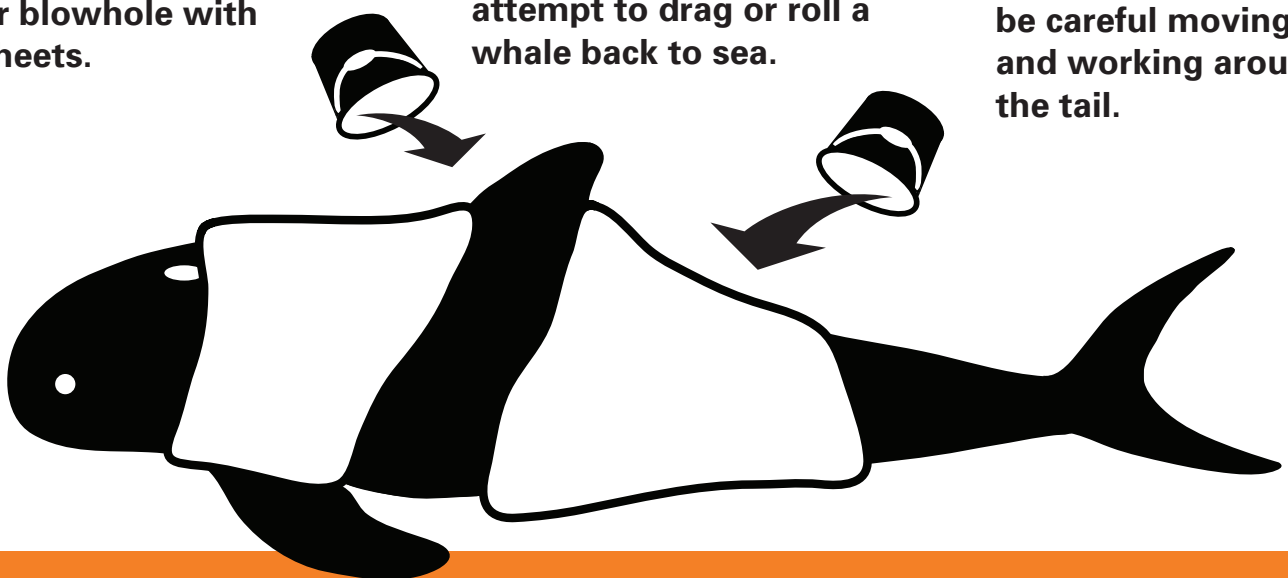
3. CALM

Keep the stranding site as quiet as possible; noise will stress these animals out. Don't shout or make loud noises.

⚠️ **Keep dogs and noisy children away.**



For your own safety, be careful moving and working around the tail.



Be ready to help by becoming a
Project Jonah Marine Mammal Medic
www.projectjonah.org.nz

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