

Smart Animals 

# SEA LIONS



by Margaret Fetty

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# Contents



Zak on Guard . . . . .	4
An Intelligent Choice . . . . .	6
A Whale of a Good Time. . . . .	8
A Rocky Language . . . . .	10
A Memory Test. . . . .	12
Out in the Wild. . . . .	14
Communication . . . . .	16
Skillful Watching . . . . .	18
Hunting with Whiskers. . . . .	20
Playful Pups . . . . .	22
Emotion in the Ocean. . . . .	24
Sea Lion Safety . . . . .	26
Just the Facts. . . . .	28
More Smart Sea Lions . . . . .	29
Glossary . . . . .	30
Bibliography . . . . .	31
Read More . . . . .	31
Learn More Online. . . . .	31
Index . . . . .	32
About the Author. . . . .	32

# Zak on Guard

Zak swims through the **harbor**. He is searching for enemy divers who are trying to blow up U.S. Navy ships.

Zak listens for clues. He hears the soft sounds of air bubbles floating through the water. They may be coming from a dangerous diver. So Zak goes into action.



▲ Zak is a 375-pound (170-kg) California sea lion.

First, Zak quietly swims up behind the enemy. He then attaches a clamp to the swimmer's leg. Before the diver knows what has happened, Zak swims away. A rope is connected to the clamp. Sailors can now pull the enemy out of the water and question him.



▲ Zak leaps onto a boat after training.



Dolphins and whales, as well as sea lions, have been trained to help the U.S. **military.**



# An Intelligent Choice

Since 1975, sea lions like Zak have been trained by the U.S. Navy. They have been taught to guard harbors and carry tools and equipment. They have also been taught to find and **recover** objects lost in oceans and lakes.



- ▲ Sea lions are trained for about a year and a half before they are ready to work for the Navy.



Sea lions have many skills that make them a good choice for Navy training. These clever **mammals** can see well in deep, dark water. They can hear faraway sounds. They can dive many times without getting tired. Sea lions can also move quickly on land and in water. So they can chase an enemy out of the ocean.



▲ **This sea lion is trained to recover objects lost in the water.**



Sea lions can dive down more than 500 feet (152 m). So it's easy for them to find objects deep in the ocean.

## Index



- Beaver 9
- blubber 19, 26
- bulls 15, 16, 23
- California 8, 10, 27, 28–29
- California sea lions 4, 14, 28
- camera 8–9
- colony 15
- communication 16–17, 23, 25
- cows 15
- dolphins 5
- emotions 20, 24–25
- killer whales 24–25, 28
- language 10–11
- Marine Mammal Center, 27
- memory 12–13, 14–15
- New England Aquarium 29
- painting 29
- playing 22–23
- predators 25, 28
- prey 20
- pups 15, 17, 18–19, 20, 22–23, 24–25
- Rio 12–13, 14
- Rocky 10–11, 14
- Schusterman, Ronald 10–11, 12–13
- sharks 24–25, 28
- sign language 10–11
- Steller sea lions 26, 28
- territory 15, 16, 23
- Tyler 29
- U.S. Navy 4, 6–7, 8
- whales 5, 8–9
- whiskers 20–21
- Zak 4–5, 6

## About the Author

Margaret Fetty has written numerous children's books. She lives in Austin, Texas, where she enjoys running and biking.

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# SEA LIONS



Zak swam through the harbor. He was searching for enemy divers. If he spotted one, he would quickly attach a clamp to the swimmer's leg and dart away. As a reward, Zak would get a fish—after all, he's a sea lion! Look inside to find out more about Zak and other sea lions whose brainy behavior helps humans stay safe, recover lost objects, and even film whales.

**Chimpanzees   Crows   Dolphins**  
**Elephants   Octopuses   Parrots**  
**Pigs   Sea Lions**

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