

# september 2019

TRUST // SEA LION // BLUE

**A mother sea lion** usually gives birth to one pup in the summer. The baby nurses for six months to a year. But when Mom has to go off in the ocean and feed herself for a few days, what does she do? She leaves her little one in the care of other sea lions on land.

When she returns, the cow recognizes her baby through scent and sounds. She sends out a special call, and her offspring answers back with its own unique bark.

Male sea lions migrate after mating season, but females and their pups stay in breeding colonies. Females usually weigh 200 to 400 pounds, while males are much larger, weighing 600 to 800 pounds, or even 1,000. A group of sea lions is called a "raft" and might include 1500 members!


Though large, sea lions still have to keep an eye out for predators, including sharks (especially Great Whites) and orcas.

Zoo and aquarium shows often use California sea lions. Other types live as far away as South America, Alaska, Australia, and New Zealand, where numbers have dwindled and scientists are trying to restore them.

Along with seals and walruses, sea lions are "pinnipeds," a Latin word meaning "fin-footed." By turning their large hind flippers underneath them, sea lions can walk on land.

Sea lions are playful. In the ocean, they have been observed "porpoising" – jumping up from the surface and gliding as they swim, making for fast travel. They also like to surf!

***TRUST: Putting your confidence in someone you can depend on.***



**Mother sea lions trust each other to watch their young while they go hunting.**