

Seal, any of 32 species of web-footed aquatic mammals that live chiefly in cold seas and whose body shape, round at the middle and tapered at the ends, is adapted to swift and graceful swimming. There are two types of seals: the earless, or true, seals; and the eared seals, which comprise the sea lions and fur seals. In addition to the presence of external ears, eared seals have longer flippers than do earless seals. Also, the fur of eared seals is more apparent, especially in sea lions.

Ringed seals have blotches over their entire bodies, harp seals have a large blotch of black on otherwise mostly silver-grey fur, harbour seals have a marbled coat, and ribbon seals have dark fur with ribbons of paler fur around the neck, front limbs, and posterior part of their body.