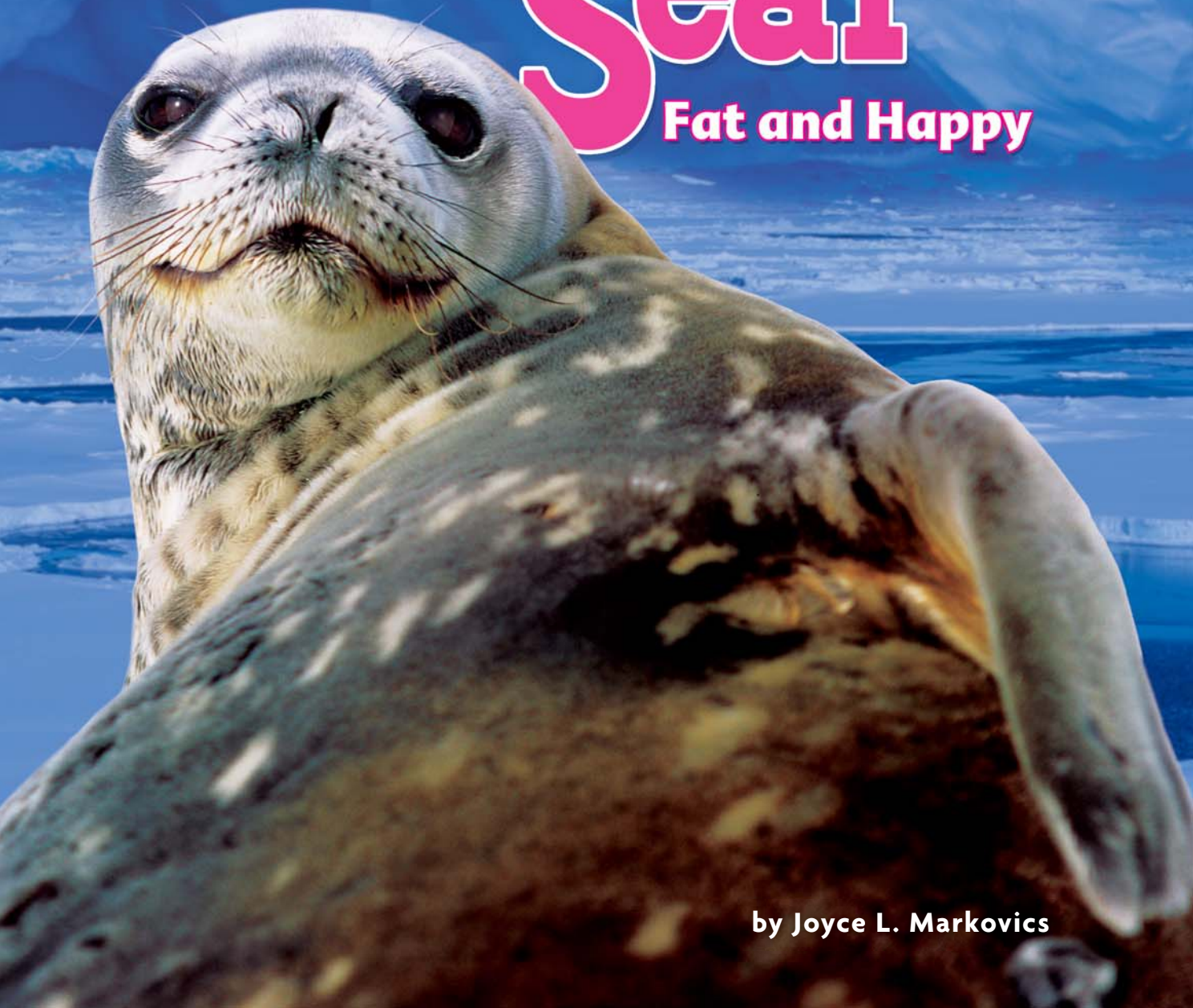


Uncommon
Animals

Weddell Seal

Fat and Happy



by Joyce L. Markovics

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Consultant: Terrie M. Williams, Ph.D.

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Lisa Wiseman

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Dawn Beard Creative

Photo Researcher: Beaura Kathy Ringrose

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Markovics, Joyce L.

Weddell seal : fat and happy / by Joyce L. Markovics.

p. cm. — (Uncommon animals)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-734-5 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-734-7 (library binding)

1. Weddell seal—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL737.P64M34 2009

599.79'6—dc22

2008014391

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Lost!

Dark clouds filled the Antarctic sky. A huge snowstorm, called a Herbie, was on its way. **Biologist** Terrie Williams plodded through the snow that already covered the ground. Her search for Seal 19 was going nowhere.

Had the Weddell seal slipped below the ice into the deep water? Soon, the Herbie would make it impossible to find out. Everything in sight would become a white blur.



Weddell seals are named after James Weddell. He was an explorer and seal hunter who traveled to Antarctica in the 1820s.

Terrie had been **tracking** Seal 19 for days. If she didn't find the seal, important **scientific** information would be lost forever. Terrie had no choice but to return to camp. If she stayed outside to look for the seal, she would never survive the extreme conditions of Antarctica.

Weddell seals are the only mammals, other than humans, that can spend the winter in Antarctica.



A Close Call

When the storm ended the next day, there was still no sign of Seal 19. Then, at midnight, Terrie heard a beeping sound. It was coming from the **radio transmitter** that Seal 19 was wearing. The seal was safe. She had survived the storm!




Terrie and her team shoveled snow around their camp after the big Herbie.

Seal 19, nicknamed Ally McSeal, was the first seal Terrie and her team of scientists **tagged** on their 2001 trip to Antarctica. Terrie had attached a tiny camera and computer to Ally's back. This equipment allowed Terrie to learn how Weddell seals live and hunt below the sea ice. It was a good thing that Ally came back after the storm. It meant that **data** from the camera and computer were saved.



Ally McSeal



Waterproof glue was used to stick the equipment onto Ally's back so that it wouldn't fall off in the water. When the seal returned, the equipment simply peeled off like a Band-Aid.



A tagged seal

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About the Author

Joyce L. Markovics is an editor, writer, and orchid collector. She lives with her husband, Adam, and their pet aquatic frog. One day, she would like to snooze on the Antarctic ice with Ally McSeal.

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Animals**

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Fat and Happy

Antarctica is the coldest place in the world. Temperatures there can drop to as low as -128°F ! Very few animals can live in such a harsh climate. One creature that can, however, is the Weddell seal. How does it do it? Since 2001, biologist Terrie Williams has been making trips to Antarctica to find out. Look inside to discover what Terrie has learned about this fascinating and uncommon creature.

Arctic Fox
Very Cool!

Fossa
A Fearsome Predator

Tasmanian Devil
Nighttime Scavenger

Aye-Aye
An Evil Omen

Platypus
A Century-long Mystery

Weddell Seal
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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-10: 1-59716-734-7

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-734-5



9 781597 167345