



## Gannet Fact Sheet 8

### Mating

When males have found a suitable breeding spot they will attempt to attract a female. To show their availability females will fly over the colony with their neck outstretched and this tells the male that they are available for courtship. In return the male will shake his head in a similar way to when he is guarding the nest but instead of having his wings outstretched they are closed.

Gannets are monogamous which means they will stay with the same bird over many years, if not their entire lives. Once the chick has fledged from the nest the pair of birds will live by themselves for the winter and then pair up at the colony during the next breeding season.

Each pair will aggressively defend their nest.

