

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brevard Zoo Releasing Two Sea Turtles

MELBOURNE, Fla., June 16, 2022 — Brevard Zoo is celebrating World Sea Turtle Day today, June 16, by returning two juvenile green sea turtles, Venus and Reptar, back to the ocean. The event will take place at 3:30 p.m. at Howard E. Futch Memorial Park at Paradise Beach in Melbourne.

When juvenile green sea turtle Venus first came to us in July 2020, we weren't sure this day would come. Biologists had found Venus entangled in fishing line. The entanglement around his front flippers was so severe, the line had cut through the skin and bone, affecting the integrity of his bones. Our team started a number of treatments to keep the area clean and the blood flowing to his flippers: antibiotics, laser therapy, honey therapy, flipper massages and even leech therapy. It took time for Venus to get most of the range of motion in his front flippers, but this curious and active turtle beat the odds. Thank you to East Coast Biologists for bringing Venus to our Healing Center for treatment.

Reptar, another juvenile green sea turtle, was found stranded in Port Canaveral in October 2021. Reptar came to us severely emaciated, dehydrated and covered in algae and leech eggs. Despite their rough shape, this sea turtle had a lot of spunk and even began eating during their first night at the Healing Center. This turtle also began to grow small fibropapillomas, which were quickly removed. Reptar has an old, healed carapace (top shell) fracture, which left them with damage to the left scapula. They received a CT scan at Rockledge Regional Medical Center to get a better look at the carapace damage. While this old injury has affected Reptar's appearance, good food and a steady course of treatments from our Healing Center have helped get this turtle ready to return to the water. Thank you to the Sea Turtle Preservation Society for bringing Reptar to our Healing Center for treatment.

The public is welcome to watch as these two sea turtles are sent home to the ocean.

All media personnel are asked to check in with Brevard Zoo communications manager Lauren Delgado upon arrival.

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Brevard Zoo is home to more than 900 animals representing 195 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education and conservation. More information is available at www.brevardzoo.org.

Treetop Trek features five aerial obstacle courses that whisk guests above parts of the Zoo and through lush Florida landscapes. More information is available at www.treetoptrek.com. The Aquarium Project is a plan to construct a world-class aquarium and conservation center at Port Canaveral. More information is available at www.theaquariumproject.org.