

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Brevard Zoo Celebrating its 200th Sea Turtle Release**

MELBOURNE, Fla., January 20, 2023 — Brevard Zoo’s Sea Turtle Healing Center plans to release its 200th patient – a sub-adult green sea turtle named Hope – on Wednesday, January 25 at 11:30 a.m. at Lori Wilson Park in Cocoa Beach. To mark this extra special occasion, we’re planning our biggest release celebration to date!

Hope was found stranded in Indian River County. Volunteers with Coastal Connections, a nonprofit that works to protect sea turtles and their habitats, responded to Hope’s stranding and brought them to the Healing Center on November 19 - helped in part by the Sea Turtle Preservation Society.

Our Healing Center team found that Hope was extremely buoyant – making them unable to dive. A sea turtle who is unable to dive may find it difficult to avoid predators, boats and other hazards.

To get a full look at Hope’s health, the green sea turtle received radiographs, blood evaluation, physical examination, antibiotics, fluid therapy and a CT scan at Rockledge Regional Medical Center. Hope was treated for an inflammation of the digestive tract.

Hope will be remembered by our Healing Center team as a “sassy sub-adult with a great fight or flight instinct.” This turtle is ready to go home to the ocean!

The theme for this release is a quote of marine biologist Sylvia Earle, “No water, no life. No blue, no green.” We’re encouraging all attendees of this release to wear blue or green to celebrate Hope’s return.

This event is open to the public. Please note that this release will happen rain or shine.

All media personnel are asked to RSVP to Communications Manager Lauren Delgado prior to the event and check in with the Zoo’s communications team upon arrival. Flippers will be in the water at 11:30 a.m.; media personnel are advised to arrive early.

To celebrate Hope's release, a special presentation of Brevard Zoo's Turtle Tech initiative will take place at 10:30 a.m. on January 25. One of Turtle Tech's goal is to develop and advance technologies, including unmanned drone flights, which will lead to a better understanding of the sea turtle species here in Florida and around the world. One of these unmanned flights or Beyond Visual Line of Site (BLVOS) flights will take place by our Turtle Tech partner Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, who will video Hope's release. This project is a collaboration among the Brevard Zoo, local engineers, Florida universities, Brevard County Public Schools and other organizations, and is supported by a generous grant from the Northrop Grumman Foundation.

More information about Hope is available at [www.brevardzoo.org/blog](http://www.brevardzoo.org/blog).

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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](http://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](http://www.treetoptrek.com).*