

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brevard Zoo Releasing Loggerhead Sea Turtle After 4-Month Rehabilitation

MELBOURNE, Fla., February 26, 2023 — Brevard Zoo will be sending Curry the sub-adult loggerhead home to the ocean after a nearly four-month stay at the Zoo’s Sea Turtle Healing Center. Curry will be released at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, February 28, from James A. Nance Park, 201 N. Miramar Ave. in Indialantic.

This sea turtle release is open to the public. Flippers will be in the water by 11 a.m.

Curry was found washed ashore covered in barnacles and algae along Melbourne Beach on Oct. 2, 2023 – during National Curry Week. This turtle had a suspected propeller strike injury on their shell. Curry was brought to our Healing Center by the Sea Turtle Preservation Society – thank you!

Our Healing Center team noted that Curry had buoyancy issues that caused them to list to one side. A CT scan found that Curry had air in the body cavity, likely due to a tear in the lung. Curry underwent surgery to release some of the air from the body cavity and help with their buoyancy issues until the loggerhead was able to heal from the lung tear.

Another CT scan on Oct. 27 found that Curry had pneumonia, which they recovered well from thanks to nebulizer treatments and antibiotics. Sea Turtle Healing Center coordinator Jess Patterson had to fashion an airtight hood to properly administer the medications for Curry’s pneumonia, which they made from a gallon water jug, pool noodles and recycled wetsuits.

Curry will be remembered by our Healing Center staff and volunteers for their “spicy” and curious personality. Curry is highly food motivated – and loves their “itchy” enrichment. This device is made of PVC pipes and allows turtles to rub the top of their shell on it – like they would a rock ledge in the ocean.

Curry would rub on their itchy all day and slept next to or under it. Volunteers knew Curry was enjoying rubbing on their itchy by the loud banging of the toy against the tank walls breaking through the quiet of the day. This sea turtle will be remembered fondly.

All media personnel are advised to arrive early for this sea turtle release. Please RSVP to Communications Manager Lauren Delgado prior to the release and check in with the Zoo's communications team 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.