

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Brevard Zoo Releasing Loggerhead Sea Turtle**

MELBOURNE, Fla., July 29, 2024 — Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center is releasing Jupiter the sub-adult loggerhead after a nearly 3-month rehabilitation.

Jupiter is set to be released at noon on Wednesday, July 31 at Howard E. Futch Memorial Park at Paradise Beach, 2301 Florida A1A in Melbourne. This release will be held rain or shine – but it may be rescheduled if there's lightning in the area for the public's safety.

Jupiter came to the Zoo's Healing Center in May 2024 after being accidentally hooked by a fisherman, who followed the correct protocol when a sea turtle is accidentally hooked. Any hooked, injured or ill sea turtles should be reported to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Wildlife Alert Number at 1-888-404-3922.

This sea turtle was emaciated and covered in epibiota-like barnacles. After Jupiter had the hook removed, the loggerhead was treated to antibiotics, good food and a rest to prepare them to return to the ocean.

Jupiter was named by one of our veterinary staff as a birthday surprise. The loggerhead will be remembered as a curious and fun turtle who loved to play with a Hay Play Feeder ball. The Healing Center team uses it as a form of enrichment to allow a turtle who is almost ready for release to forage for food.

All media personnel are asked to RSVP to Senior 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 noon; media personnel are advised to arrive early.

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*Brevard Zoo is home to more than 800 animals representing 170 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).*