

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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East Coast Zoological Foundation Releases Two Green Sea Turtles

MELBOURNE, Fla., December 10, 2025 — Two juvenile green sea turtles are back in the ocean thanks to the rehabilitation efforts of East Coast Zoological Foundation's (ECZF) Sea Turtle Healing Center at Brevard Zoo.

Cassiopeia and Cheyenne were privately released from Lori Wilson Park on Wednesday, Dec. 10 to the delight of beachgoers and a group of Founders of ECZF's future second campus, Bowen Aquarium.

Cassiopeia came to the Healing Center after being found with general debilitation off of Jetty Park Pier in Port Canaveral. This juvenile green sea turtle was slightly emaciated, with superficial wounds and a moderate number of barnacles on their body. Thanks to rest, medication and nutrition, Cassiopeia recovered fully and was sent back out to the ocean.

Cassiopeia was found on June 16, which was leatherback day during World Sea Turtle Week. Cassiopeia was named after a type of jellyfish, a favorite snack of leatherbacks.

Our Healing Center team will remember this little sea turtle's love of scratching their shell on enrichment items. "Cassi" received a pool all to themselves and loved to look through the pool's window to see fellow patients Jiminy Cricket and Tajin next door.

Juvenile green sea turtle Cheyenne was also released after a nearly 2-month stay at the Healing Center. This little turtle was found washed ashore in Cape Canaveral.

At first, our Healing Center team wasn't sure what had caused Cheyenne to wash ashore. The sea turtle had a state of decreased alertness, but there were no visible physical wounds – only blue paint on their head and body. Unfortunately, the team believes Cheyenne may have been hit by a boat and suffered a traumatic brain injury.

Cheyenne started showing more “normal” sea turtle behaviors after being given a diuretic, a medication that increases urine output, in the hopes of helping bring their brain swelling down. Cheyenne made a full recovery as well and is now back in the ocean.

Cheyenne was “everyone’s favorite tiny turtle,” according to Healing Center staff, who was thrilled to see her head home after such a short stay.

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About East Coast Zoological Foundation

Driven by a mission to answer the call, East Coast Zoological Foundation (ECZF) is focused on educating, engaging and empowering the community to take action for conservation. The 501c(3) nonprofit located in Melbourne, Fla., includes Brevard Zoo and Bowen Aquarium campuses. ECZF works directly with Florida species and the community to develop programs and workshops to make a difference locally and around the world. From sea turtle rehabilitations and releases, building living shorelines along the Indian River Lagoon, providing scholarships and grants to the community and more, the Foundation creates opportunities for guests to connect with nature and make an impact in conservation and education. Founded in 1986, ECZF is governed by a volunteer board of directors and receives no recurring operating funds from any city, county or state government, relying on donations from people and companies to continue answering the call for wildlife and the environment along Florida’s Space Coast and beyond. To learn more, visit OurLegacyCampaign.org.