

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dragon given clean bill of health at Brevard Zoo

MELBOURNE, Fla., June 1, 2018 — Sheldon, a 10-year-old Komodo dragon who recently arrived at Brevard Zoo from St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park, underwent a checkup last week and received high marks in all areas. Nearly a dozen animal care professionals participated in the procedure, which was overseen by a veterinarian and two curators.

Zoo staff examined Sheldon's overall body condition, drew blood, captured X-ray images and used a sonogram machine to view his internal organs.

Sheldon measured 7'2" long and weighed just over 100 pounds, and he may still have some growing to do; the largest known Komodo dragon reached 10 feet and 366 pounds.

Sheldon is currently living behind the scenes. This summer, he will join four-year-old female Sha-Sha in the Zoo's Lands of Change: Australia and Beyond exhibit. Their keepers hope to see breeding behaviors and, eventually, offspring.

Komodo dragons, the world's largest lizards, can be found on five islands in the Indonesian archipelago. Habitat loss, human hunting and depletion of food sources all pose threats to this species, which is considered vulnerable to extinction.

Photos and video: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/549mhrah362kbud/AAB-uwRKELZrByz9bsMR9P8qa>

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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.