

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**

**CONTACT**

Elliot Zirulnik, Communications Manager  
321-254-9453, ext. 236  
[ezirulnik@brevardzoo.org](mailto:ezirulnik@brevardzoo.org)



**First sea turtle of her kind released by Brevard Zoo**

MELBOURNE, Fla., September 24, 2018 — This afternoon, Guacamole became the first adult green sea turtle released by Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center. A crowd of hundreds gathered to watch the 200-plus-pound reptile wade her way into the ocean.

This turtle's massive size prohibited Healing Center staff and volunteers from carrying her to the beach, so Guacamole "hitched a ride" on a Brevard County Ocean Rescue UTV.

Guacamole was released at Lori Wilson Park in Cocoa Beach around 3 p.m. She was found stranded at the same beach back in February with old predator attack wounds.

Guacamole was missing most of her right front flipper and had several lacerations when admitted to the Healing Center. The Zoo's experts treated her wounds with medication and honey, assisted with her eating and eliminated a parasitic infection before deeming Guacamole ready for release earlier this month.

Photos and video:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jg01y3cuty4z6f8/AABAhk9zjxerill5nYsWpQLHa>

###

*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).*