

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Two sea turtles released by Brevard Zoo**

MELBOURNE, Fla., June 21, 2018 — Skipper and Ginny are back in the sea. This afternoon, more than 100 animal lovers joined staff and volunteers from Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center as these green sea turtles made their way to the open ocean off Hangar's Beach.

Skipper was found floating in Port Canaveral after she was struck by a boat in February. Ginny was discovered on the coast of Melbourne Beach in May; when put in water at the Healing Center, she demonstrated buoyancy issues, likely due to a gaseous buildup in her gastrointestinal tract. Both patients were treated with medication, nutritious food and rest.

Skipper was initially the only sea turtle to be released, but, much to the delight of onlookers, a last-minute request for Ginny's release was approved by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Brigadier General Wayne R. Monteith, commander of the Air Force's 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing, had the honor of carrying Skipper to the water's edge.

Green sea turtles are considered endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature due to human hunting, entanglement in fishing equipment, marine debris, shrinking beaches, pollution and climate change.

Photos and video:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bqa4kpqtqngxk4j/AACIDUde6jxgNIGLNxbvGEfNa>

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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](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).*