

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Brevard Zoo Caring for 374-pound Green Sea Turtle**

MELBOURNE, Fla., July 7, 2023 — A 374-pound adult green sea turtle was brought to Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center on Friday, July 7, after being found with commercial fishing line wrapped around her neck and front flippers.

The unnamed sea turtle was found at Mark's Landing by beachgoers dragging the fishing line. Sea Turtle Preservation Society responded to the sea turtle and was assisted by a number of different organizations in bringing this turtle up the beach and into an SUV. Once she arrived at the Healing Center, more than eight Zoo staff and volunteers were needed to carry her inside.

She was given a full exam with bloodwork, an ultrasound and an x-ray to determine the extent of her injuries. She was found to be gravid, or carrying eggs. Our Healing Center staff will collect any eggs she may release and coordinate with the University of Central Florida Marine Turtle Research Group (UCF MTRG) to have the eggs placed in a hand-dug chamber on the beach to be monitored for development.

The cuts caused by the fishing line have exposed muscle and nerves in that area. Her wounds were thoroughly cleaned, and a medical-grade fish skin graft was placed over some of the left flipper cuts in order to promote healing.

Her condition is very guarded.

If you find a sea turtle that appears to be in distress, contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 888-404-3922 or Sea Turtle Preservation Society at 321-206-0646. Don't remove any items on the sea turtle, including fishing line, unless they're impeding their ability to breathe.

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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).*