

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Brevard Zoo Set to Release Loggerhead Sea
Turtle Princess Hailey**

MELBOURNE, Fla., September 28, 2023 — Brevard Zoo is set to release a loggerhead sea turtle named Princess Hailey back to the ocean at 10 a.m. on Monday, October 2 at James Nance Park.

This release is open to the public. Please note that this release will happen rain or shine.

Princess Hailey came to be a patient of Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center after being found floating and lethargic by boaters on July 1. When the boaters brought Hailey onboard, a large amount of water came from the sea turtle's mouth. There were no external signs of why this turtle was sick, but a CT scan uncovered pneumonia.

The day after their rescue, bruising was seen around Princess Hailey's neck and front flippers.

"With this information, we suspect they were entangled in fishing line and had difficulty picking their head up to breath and inhaling water, leaving them susceptible to pneumonia," said Jess Patterson, Sea Turtle Healing Center coordinator.

Princess Hailey received antibiotics through a nebulizer daily for about a month, helping to clear the pneumonia.

Princess Hailey was named in memory of the niece of one of our Healing Center volunteers who shared Princess's fighting spirit.

This sea turtle was very patient throughout their rehabilitation journey with us. Our Healing Center staff and volunteers have adored Princess's curious but kind-of-shy personality. Princess Hailey will be especially remembered for her excellent behavior during her nebulization treatment.

"It felt like she understood that the treatment was helping her feel better," Jess said.

All media personnel are asked to RSVP to Communications Manager Lauren Delgado prior to the event and check in with the Zoo's communications team upon arrival. Flippers will be in the water at 10 a.m.; media personnel are advised to arrive early.

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About Brevard Zoo

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.