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**CONTACT**

Lauren Delgado, Communications Manager

321-254-9453, ext. 236

[ldelgado@brevardzoo.org](mailto:ldelgado@brevardzoo.org)



**Brevard Zoo Adds CT to Medical Offerings**

MELBOURNE, Fla., September 27, 2023 —Brevard Zoo has expanded its level of medical care for its animal residents with the recent installation of a computerized tomography (CT) scanner in the Zoo's L3Harris Animal Care Center.

"The CT will change the game for the medical care that we can provide," said Dr. Trevor Zachariah, the Zoo's director of veterinary programs. "It will also open new opportunities for research to improve the knowledge about and medical care for our animals."

There are less than 10 zoos in North America that have CTs on-site. The funding for this CT is thanks to the incredible generosity of Clint Severson and Conni Ahart.

CT scans combine a series of x-ray images to get a detailed look at the internal structures of the body. A CT builds upon the views radiography and ultrasonography offer with a 3D aspect and additional details.

"This is particularly true for skeletal structures, as well as certain organs like the lungs," Trevor said. "As an example, CT provides extensively more detail of shell trauma in sea turtles."

In the past, the Zoo's veterinary team has partnered with both veterinary and human medical facilities for CT scans of our animal patients. However, taking any animal off Zoo grounds requires extra logistical concerns like planning for additional travel time and working around our partners' schedules, Trevor said.

Bringing the Zoo's patients to an outside facility is also an animal wellness issue. The animal patients may need to be anesthetized for a longer period of time to account for traveling or may need to deal with the stress of travel while awake.

"Due to these issues, we do not utilize CT as much as we would like to," Trevor said. "So, with the increased capability afforded by having the machine on site, we are able to improve the amount and quality of care for our animals."

Many patients of the Zoo's Sea Turtle Healing Center need CTs, which give their care team an idea of the extent of everything from injuries to fibropapillomatosis tumors. Brody the Florida black bear is another top priority for the in-house CT. The Zoo's animal care team wants to check on the condition of his pelvis and hindlimbs since [surgery and treatments](#) years ago.

The machine's gantry, or the ring in which a patient is placed, has a diameter of 75 centimeters. The table holds up to 650 pounds. A full scan from our new machine can take 5 minutes or less with images created within seconds.

Having a CT at our Zoo is the culmination of a long process – Trevor has been advocating for it for more than 5 years.

"I am proud of the Zoo for taking the idea seriously and working to make it happen," Trevor said. "It demonstrates our dedication to animal wellness and the high quality of care that we provide."

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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).*