



## WATCH: Brevard Zoo Highlights Recent Patient at the Sea Turtle Healing Center

By [Brevard Zoo](#) // May 10, 2021



### SEA TURTLE HEALING CENTER OPENED IN APRIL 2014

**WATCH:** *The Brevard Zoo Sea Turtle Healing Center highlights one of its newest patients.*

*Brevard Zoo, in partnership with the Sea Turtle Preservation Society, opened its 2,400-square-foot Sea Turtle Healing Center in April 2014.*



**BREVARD COUNTY • MELBOURNE, FLORIDA – The Brevard Zoo Sea Turtle Healing Center highlighted one of its newest patients. Brevard Zoo, in partnership with the Sea Turtle Preservation Society, opened its 2,400-square-foot Sea Turtle Healing Center in April 2014.**

The facility includes two separate holding facilities with a total of 12 tanks ranging in size from six to 20 feet. This facility is not open to the public.

Because the beaches of Brevard County are among the world's most important nesting areas for sea turtles and the largest in the United States, a significant number of animals are found with injuries and illnesses each year.

Prior to the opening of the Healing Center, the challenge the STPS faced was the great distance between our local beaches and existing sea turtle rehabilitation facilities, with one as far as 107 miles away.

An in-country facility means a shorter drive for patients, resulting in less stress and quicker treatment for distressed turtles.

Patients are brought to the Healing Center for a variety of reasons—they may be recovering from a boat strike, interaction with human debris such as fishing line or plastic, or debilitation.



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Brevard Zoo Sea Turtle Healing Center recently said farewell to green sea turtle Schnitzel and loggerhead sea turtle Sunflower, who returned to the ocean in Cocoa Beach after successful rehabilitation stints at our Healing Center. (Brevard Zoo image)

In addition to providing much-needed rest, experienced staff and dedicated volunteers use a combination of medication, surgeries and nutritious food to nurse the turtles back to health and, ideally, return them to the ocean.

The Healing Center was also designed to treat patients with the fibropapilloma virus (FP), which causes benign but cumbersome tumors to grow inside and outside the host's body. Since FP-positive and FP-negative turtles must be housed separately, the Center is one of just a few facilities that can accept animals with this contagious disease.

If an FP-positive turtle is a good candidate for surgery, the Zoo's veterinary staff will remove the tumors with a carbon dioxide laser.

Sea turtles are a defining part of our community, and the Sea Turtle Healing Center is integral to the rescue of these beloved animals!

**Have you found a sea turtle that needs help? Visit [this page](#) or call STPS at 321-206-0646.**



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