

## Disney's Sea Turtle Conservation Program

### Sea Turtle Rehabilitation and Telemetry



Cast at the Living Seas and Animal Program veterinarians, have rehabilitated and released over 200 sea turtles back into the wild. However, what happens to these and other rehabilitated sea turtles once they are released is generally unknown.

To learn more about the long-term effects of sea turtle rehabilitation Animal Programs scientists (in collaboration with the University of Florida's Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, Central Florida Marine Turtle Research Group and US Fish and Wildlife Service) have pioneered new satellite technology that will allow them to track the travel patterns of rehabilitated turtles. If successful, this project will provide a better understand of the impact of rehabilitation methods on sea turtle behavior and ultimately their survival



A satellite telemetry devise is carefully attached to a rehabilitated sea turtle ready release into the open ocean This newly designed technology will help Animal Programs scientists gain knowledge that will help them enhance rehabilitation techniques and survival rates.

## Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring at Disney's Vero Beach Resort



Since 2001, as part of the Index Nest Beach Survey (a national program that examines the nesting habits of loggerhead, green, and leatherback sea turtles) Animal Programs cast have been monitoring sea turtle nests from Sebastian Inlet to Vero Beach. This study, in partnership with Disney's Vero Beach Resort and the US Fish and Wildlife Service is also examining the effects of predation and beach armoring on nesting activity.



An Animal Program's Cast Member studies eggshells left behind by sea turtle hatchlings as part of the Index Nest Beach Survey. Animal Programs participates in this long-term program that monitors sea turtle nesting habits and productivity.

## Vero Beach Resort and Walt Education and Awareness at Disney's Disney World Theme Parks

Through educational experiences at the Living Seas, Disney's Animal Kingdom and Disney's Vero Beach Resort Guests can learn about sea turtles while participating in once in a lifetime experiences. Whether it's watching a female come ashore at night to lay her eggs, observing rehabilitated turtles at the Living Seas or learning about the latest research at Disney's Animal Kingdom, these incredible experiences have influenced and inspired guests to take conservation action for sea turtles and other wildlife.

At Disney's Vero Beach Resort Animal Programs cast participate in "Turtle Troops"-an education program that exposes resort guests to sea turtles conservation issues while helping researchers mark nests and collect data. Guests can observe nesting turtles during evening turtle walks or from the resort boardwalk with the aid of night vision goggles. Animal Programs cast present sea turtle information to local residents, distributes education materials and organizes local beach cleanups.