

December 1, 2017

Hey there friends. It's me, Montel. I just wanted to let you know that I am doing great here at the hospital with all my other sea turtle friends. The hospital staff takes very good care of me and I am so lucky that there are such caring and generous people out there like you. I really appreciate your interest in me.



The last few months have been quite busy for us here at the Turtle Hospital. We have rescued 60 turtles and over 100 hatchlings and released 40! It is always sad to say goodbye to our friends, but we are always so happy for them that they can go back out into the ocean healthy and happy. Although I will not be able to go back in the ocean (because I am missing on flipper completely, half of my other one is missing, I was hit by and boat and I am blind in one eye), the Rehab staff takes very good care of me and I am quite happy here.

Most recently Hurricane Irma directly impacted the Keys during the early hours of September 10th, 2017. Prior to the hurricane The Turtle Hospital staff worked diligently to move myself and all of my turtle friends to our 30,000 gallon "hurricane" tanks where we were able to safely ride out the storm. The staff also took every effort possible to prepare and secure the facility. Many of the staff had to evacuate but there was a brave crew that stayed behind to care for all of us, including Turtle Hospital founder, Richie Moretti. After the storm passed, the stay behind crew found the hospital without electricity or running water but all the turtles and I were safe. The humans fired up the generator to keep refrigerators and freezers storing our food and medication running and began the process of cleaning up. There was a lot of damage to surrounding trees, our enclosure on the back part of the property and some water in our hospital but overall, we were very lucky. After 2 weeks of long, hot and exhausting days we are all pleased to announce we are back open to the public!

Many people have been curious about how hurricanes affect sea turtles in the ocean. Here are a few examples of what has happened to sea turtles in the Florida Keys. I learned many nests that were laid on the beach were washed out to sea due to the storm surge, and many sea turtles were found on dry land after the flood waters were gone. Additionally, many sea turtles have been getting rescued because they have become entangled in debris washed into the ocean during the storm. Hurricanes affect sea turtles and human alike. Luckily, sea turtles in the Florida Keys have the folks here at The Turtle Hospital to rescue them and help them recover.

Thanks again for adopting and caring for me. It is truly the compassion of people like you that will carry this hospital into the future and help to preserve the vitality of our oceans by ensuring the survival of my friends and family. None of this could be done without you. Be sure to visit me on the website. You can stay up to date on the latest rescues, surgeries, releases and other exciting news online! Please visit www.TurtleHospital.org for information or find us on **Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat.**

With Love,
Montel



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