

# Save-A-Turtle.Org

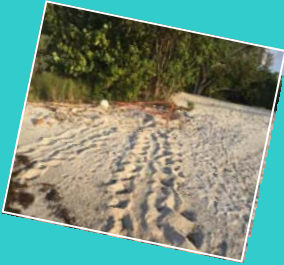
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## What We Do

Save-A-Turtle (SAT) is comprised of Volunteers throughout the Florida Keys who monitor the beaches during nesting season. Everyday, our permitted beach



walkers rise before the sun to walk the beaches in search of Sea Turtle nests. The nests are staked and monitored through hatching, approx 50 days later, and excavations are performed afterwards, where we collect important data regarding the hatchlings. This data is forwarded to the State of

Florida and used for Sea Turtle preservation. Often, live babies are found stuck or tangled in roots within the nest, and our permitted members will gently free and assess the little ones. If they are in need of a little R&R or care, they are whisked to the Turtle Hospital in Marathon, where they are tended to until they are able to be released back to Mother Ocean.



Our Officers and Board Members also work with the community at special events and through outreach programs at elementary schools providing education regarding the turtles themselves, nesting habits, predatory and environmental threats, and turtle friendly lighting.



Many of our members also volunteer with the Florida Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network and assist FWCC as needed throughout the Keys.

## About Sea Turtles

Sea turtles are living dinosaurs, having been in our seas virtually unchanged for more than 100 million years. Sea turtles are reptiles and have evolved to excel in their aquatic environment by having a flattened or streamlined shape, very powerful wing-like flippers for propulsion, and webbed hind limbs for steering and nest digging. Unlike most land turtles, they cannot retract their heads into their shells. Sea turtles do retain one characteristic from their days on land: females must return to their native beach to lay eggs. Sea turtles are long-lived and don't reach sexual maturity until 10-20 years of age. They breath air and must return to the surface of the ocean to do so. Although they can remain submerged for long periods of time, most return to the surface to breath several times in an hour.

Every 2-3 years, a female turtle returns to the beach where she hatched to lay her eggs. She excavates a body pit and then digs an egg cavity where she deposits about 100 ping-pong ball sized eggs. She then buries the eggs, disguises her body pit area to confuse predators, and returns to the sea. The hatchlings will dig their way out of the nest roughly 2 months later and make their way to the ocean. This journey to the ocean is the most hazardous of their lives as birds, crabs, fish and other predators may capture them at this vulnerable time.

The most common Sea-Turtles in Florida are Loggerhead (below left) and Green (below right). To learn more about all species, please visit our web site.



HOTLINE TO REPORT AN INJURED , SICK  
OR DEAD SEA TURTLE IN FLORIDA:

**1-888-404-FWCC**

# Save-A-Turtle.Org

Become a Member of SAT  
Sign up on our Website.  
Receive all the latest turtle news &  
monthly Turtle Tracks Newsletter.



Check out our website for some  
awesome pics & videos.  
Watch live video of Doppler  
and lots of baby turtles.

## THREATS TO SEA TURTLES

- Predators such as sharks, raccoons, crabs, birds
- Human Development
- Plastics
- Trash & Marine Debris
- Fishing & Shrimp Nets
- Crab & Lobster Trap lines & buoys
- Lighting near or on beaches
- Global Warming
- Boat Strikes



## How You Can Help

- Properly dispose of trash & recycle.
- Stop using plastic straws & plastic bags.
- Don't buy plastic bottled water . Instead use a reusable & refillable water bottle.
- If you live on the coast, please be sure to turn off your lights at night, close your shades and if possible swap your lighting for turtle friendly lighting. Check out our web site for more info.
- When walking the beach or out on the boat, please pick up any trash you may find.
- NEVER disturb a nesting turtle or the nest itself.
- If you see a turtle while boating, please slow down and keep your distance.

## Just for Fun: Hot Dudes, Cool Chicks

Chances are, if a nest is in a sunny spot, the hatchlings will be male, while if it's in a shady spot, they will be females!

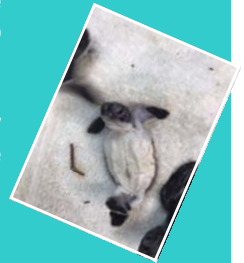
### Volunteers Needed

If you live in the Keys and would like to become a Beach Walker, please email us.

## Meet Some of our Rescues

### Doppler, Our Ambassador of Hope

Doppler is a Green Sea Turtle who was found during an emergency nest excavation in July, 2017. He was a preemie with his yolk still attached (pic1) and his chances of survival were very slim. He was taken to the good folks at The Turtle Hospital, who provided him with the very best care. Within a few days, he absorbed his yolk (pic2) and he made it! Doppler was released a few weeks before Hurricane Irma. We have dubbed him our Ambassador of Hope for all hatchlings Pre-Irma.



### Poseidon's Adventure



Poseidon, is a Loggerhead Turtle, hatched here in the Fla Keys and rescued by permitted SAT beach walkers during an excavation. He too needed a little help after hatching in August, 2017 and was taken to The Turtle Hospital for some R&R. This lucky dude was selected into the Head Start Program and will remain at the hospital until he is about 45cm, between the ages of 2-3 years old. Sadly, only 1 out of 1000 baby turtles survive to adulthood due to the threats listed to the left. By being a Head Start turtle, his chances of survival have greatly increased! **UPDATE Oct 2019:** Poseidon will be released very soon!

### Turtle CPR

This little Loggerhead Turtle, also hatched here in the Keys. He was not breathing when he was discovered during yet another excavation by SAT members. After performing "Turtle CPR" by gently blowing into his nose, he was revived! Of course, he too went to the Turtle Hospital in Marathon where he was cared for until he was strong enough to be released.



### Adopt a Baby Turtle or Nest

Please visit our Website. Click Adopt a Turtle Tab.  
It's Tax Deductible and 100% goes to the turtles!

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