

# STCCS NEWSLETTER



December 2nd, 2025

Vol. 2



## GULF STREAM BOUND

Since opening our hospital three months ago—coinciding with sea turtle nesting season—we've cared for hundreds of hatchlings and post-hatchlings in need of assistance. This busy season brings thousands of tiny turtles to Florida's beaches each year, and many require care before they're ready to survive in the ocean.

At STCCS, we've been at full capacity, supporting our partner facilities by providing care and safely transporting turtles offshore to the habitats best suited for them. This

season alone, we assisted over 1,800 young sea turtles by transporting them miles offshore by boat and releasing them into deeper waters where they could continue their journey.

Without the support of our donors, volunteers, and partner facilities, we could not fulfill our mission. Caring for these little sea turtles is truly a team effort — together, we support staff, share resources, and give thousands of hatchlings and post-hatchlings another chance at life. We are building a beautiful, ocean-minded community, and our hearts are filled with gratitude for everyone who makes this work possible.



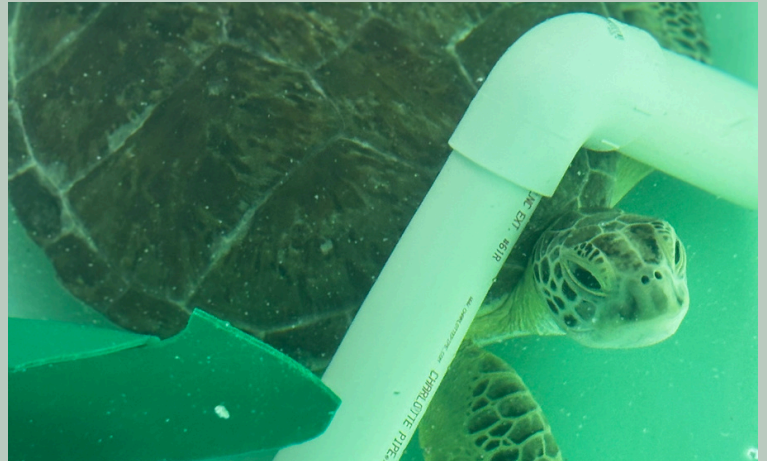


# PATIENT HIGHLIGHTS



**Ella** was the very first official hospital patient! Tags upon arrival revealed a history with a sea turtle hospital in 2022 after being caught on a nearby pier. After recovering from a boat strike, weight therapy & relearning diving techniques, Ella's adorable personality and turtle "smile" quickly captured hearts. Released 11/21/25, Ella is back to ocean adventures!

📸: ELLA HEALTHY AND HEADING BACK TO THE OCEAN!



📸: ELLA SPENDING TIME IN THE HOSPITAL!

**Chinchilla** was the second official hospital patient, stranded on 9/26/25 after being found floating at the surface and unable to dive. Arrived with a carapace wound, spinal fracture, and gastrointestinal gas buildup. After supportive care, medications, and relearning diving techniques, a full recovery was made. Always with a spicy attitude, Chinchilla reminded everyone how wild and ready to return to the ocean home they were. Released 11/21/25.



📸: CHINCHILLA EATING SNACKS IN HOSPITAL TANK



📸: CHINCHILLA BEING RELEASED!





**Schnitzel**, admitted 9/27/25 after fishing line injuries wrapped around the flipper, causing pain and restricted circulation. Line was removed, and supportive care with laser therapy is aiding recovery. Also being treated for Fibropapillomatosis; tumors will be removed once bloodwork allows surgery. Appetite and mobility are improving!

📷: Schnitzel during treatment



📷: Schnitzel during treatment



📷: Schnitzel recovering in hospital tank



**Skittles**, a juvenile green sea turtle, was found entangled in fishing line and crab trap debris on 10/28/25. Also affected by Fibropapillomatosis (FP), which can impair vision, swimming, and foraging, Skittles is receiving supportive care and awaiting surgery with the goal of returning to the ocean fully recovered.

📷: Skittles arrival to our hospital



📷: Skittles arrival to our hospital



📷: Skittles tumor removal procedure



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# PATIENT RELEASE HIGHLIGHTS





# GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

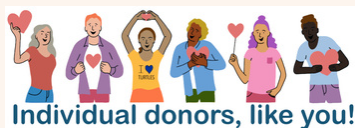
We opened our sea turtle hospital in August, and since then our community of supporters, partners, and friends has continued to grow. Our grand opening brought everyone together to celebrate this incredible milestone and the mission that unites us.

Heartfelt thanks go to Copperpoint Brewery for generously donating the space and providing the perfect venue. Special recognition to Ben Hicks, for donating a signed, one-of-a-kind metal sea turtle artwork from one of our first offshore releases and a signature hat, and to Allison Ragle, for contributing a beautiful custom painting — both adding something truly special to our raffle and displays. We are also grateful to Whole Foods Market for providing delicious food for the event.

The room was filled with smiling faces, and our hearts are full of gratitude. Thanks to everyone who helped bring our rehabilitation hospital to life — with your continued support, we're excited for the future of sea turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and conservation at STCCS!



# SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



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## Sea Turtle Care & Conservation Specialists



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