

Why I'm here:
Severe boat propeller injuries, critical

Patient : Sachs
Species : Green
Latin Name: *Chelonia mydas*
Age : Juvenile
Gender : Unknown
Weight : 3.2 kg/ 7.04 lbs
Found : GTM Estuarine
Research Reserve, FL
Arrived : December 20, 2013
Rescued by : Eastman
Environmental Group



TREATMENT

FOR:

Sachs

(MAY BE PREVIOUS OR CURRENT)

- Initial IV electrolyte and dextrose fluids (LRS + 2.5% dextrose).
- Initially tube fed Emeraid Herbivore diet until eating
- Meloxicam (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug)
- Ceftazidime (antibiotic for aerobic bacterial infections)
- Tramadol (morphine-like drug for pain management)
- Wounds regularly debrided and flushed with antiseptic solutions and saline. Wounds treated with MediHoney and honey comb, waterproof bandaging, RediHeal, and bone cement.
- Therapeutic laser treatment on carapace wounds.

Exam Findings:

- Propeller wounds to anterior and posterior carapace
 - Open coelomic cavity
- Abscess on left marginal plastron
- Several large barnacles on carapace
 - Debilitated

Diagnostic Findings:

- Initial blood work revealed dehydration, low blood protein, muscle wasting or trauma, low calcium
- Currently has consistently elevated liver enzymes, phosphorous, cholesterol, and triglycerides, possibly from fatty liver. He/she will only eat sea food, and not vegetables. All other abnormalities have resolved.

Update:

For the first eight months of his/her rehab, Sachs resided in the tank systems in the back of our rehabilitation pavilion. For more information on his/her extensive rehab during those first eight months, flip to the back of this page.

Current Weight:



Sachs was found in the late afternoon/early evening on December 19, 2013. Following Dr. Terry Norton's instructions from GSTC, Dr. Brooke Burkhalter (veterinarian with Whitney Lab) triaged Sachs overnight and transported the turtle to our facility the next day. The boat propeller wounds were severe. The caudal wound was open to the body cavity, involving both the carapace and plastron. The anterior wound exposed the joint of the shoulder bones.



Though Sachs' wounds healed amazingly well, he/she still seemed to have trouble with swimming in deeper water. The filtration systems for the tanks in the rear of our hospital allow us to maintain shallow water (as low as 6 inches deep!) while still providing excellent water quality for our

patients. These tanks, installed in November 2013, were funded jointly by Sea Life Aquariums and the Jekyll Island Foundation. Sachs is recovering well and is able to swim in deeper water now. We will continue to monitor his/her swimming ability and determine if he/she will be able to be released.

