



42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium

Workshop Proposal for ISTS42

Title of Proposed Workshop:

Sea Turtle Rehabilitation and Medicine Workshop

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Preferred Date for the Workshop: Monday 25th March 2024

Suggested Duration of Workshop: Full Day (8 hours)

Description and Justification of the Workshop:

The proposal of this workshop emerges from the evidence of the numerous sea turtle rescue centres developed in the last decade, sometimes facing emergencies with no available support of expertise. The lack of information may cause waste of energy and economical resources, uncertain results, and more important: pain for animals.

This workshop is addressed to people directly involved in sea turtle rehabilitation and care, offering the opportunity to share rehab and medical skills, knowledge, experiences and standard operating procedures. We propose to compare expertise on diagnostics, husbandry, critical care, lesions, anaesthesia and surgery, with the aim to develop an open discussion among participants.

We hope to better update the role of sea turtle rescue centres in the conservation efforts, a functional network among them and their future perspectives. We hope the realization of a common agreement that may support the standardization of common protocols and medical administration to be adopted globally, with a particular attention to high quality procedures for the care and convalescence of sea turtles.

If there will be the opportunity to have a wet lab where to perform haematology, necropsy, diagnostics, in this case a full day workshop will be the ideal option, if



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there will not be this option, the workshop will need only half day, preferably in the afternoon.

Expected Outcomes of the Workshop:

The aim of the workshop, which has been held since 2010 (the next one will be the 13th), is to offer scientific guidelines for medical care and rehabilitation of injured and sick sea turtles, in charge of rescue centers, often far from specialized centers. the main goals are referred to developing:

the standardization of common medical procedures,

the realization of a common standardized agreement on high quality basic procedures for medical care and rehabilitation,

the training of the new generation of rehabilitators,

the training of people directly involved in first aid and rehabilitation centres,

the development of a targeted network led by experts. in order to support remote centers far from specialized facilities.