

A turtle called Ladybug goes home February 17, 2010

JUNO BEACH, FL-- For Ladybug the Loggerhead turtle, Wednesday was a big day.

"She'll be not only the first turtle on the [web cam](#), but the first turtle to be released from the web cam tank," said Melissa Ranly, Loggerhead Marinelife Center Hospital Coordinator, as she began emptying Ladybug's tank.

But after many months of rehabilitation, it's not as easy as letting a turtle just walk out into the ocean. There's a little bit of prep work that needs to be done first.

"Today (Wednesday) what we're going to do is get some measurements, some final measurements on Ladybug, and get the algae scrubbed off her get her all cleaned up," said Ranly.

The scrubbing takes a while, both on the topside and on the undercarriage as well. But all of the preparation is necessary to help Ladybug reach her "turtle goals."

"To get back out there and actually get a chance to live a long and happy life, and reproduce and make lots of baby sea turtles," said Ranly.

Next, it's out of the tank, onto the gurney, and into the ambulance for a short drive.

"Right now with the beach renourishment there's a lot of pipes and sand being spread out on our beach. With the conditions out there it's better to take her a little farther north," said Ranly.

Soon Ladybug is at her final destination, and with the roar of the Atlantic close by she is noticeably excited.

"Oh yeah, she's like 'I am bustin' out of here,'" said a Loggerhead volunteer as Ladybug scurried toward the ocean.

Ladybug didn't waste any time heading for the foaming waves. She'd been away too long and she is happy to be home.

"She'd come such a long way since we first got her, and it's great to see her go. We know she'll do great out there," said Ranly.

