



Reef HQ is looking to build a Turtle Hospital

Reef HQ Aquarium is looking to raise \$500,000 over the next three years to establish a Turtle Hospital where sick and injured animals can be cared for and rehabilitated.

We are currently appealing to visitors, the local community and businesses to help get the hospital off the ground.

With more sick or injured turtles requiring care, we need to expand our facilities to cater for an increase in patients and to ensure they get the best care possible.

The Turtle Hospital is expected to play a key role in treating acute and chronic ailments and rehabilitating turtles so they can be released back into the ocean.

It is expected that the facility will provide short, medium and in some cases, long-term care for turtles. Reef HQ is currently rehabilitating two green sea turtles.

“Willow” pictured, arrived at Reef HQ after a member of the public had contacted the Environmental Protection Agency when they found the animal stranded. She was very lethargic, dehydrated and malnourished, but improved dramatically when taken into care. She is now expected to make a full recovery and be released back into the wild by the end of the year. “Willow” has been named after the Willows State School, which has been involved in a Reef Guardian Schools Program for 6 years, and actively raises funds for turtle rehabilitation. The program encourages schools to commit to the protection and conservation of the Great Barrier Reef.

We are hoping the community and local businesses can get behind us to help establish and run the hospital, thereby helping sick and injured turtles to have the best chance of survival.

The Hospital will be built at the Aquarium during 2009, utilising environmentally friendly products and sustainable energy options to minimise its carbon footprint.

To make a contribution or for further information, contact Martina Neidig at Reef HQ Aquarium, Townsville on (07) 4750 0755, Email: Martina.Neidig@gbrmpa.gov.au or refer to website: www.reefHQ.com.au

Donations can also be made over the counter at Reef HQ Admissions.

