

# Blue iguanas' fight for survival hangs in balance

Cayman News

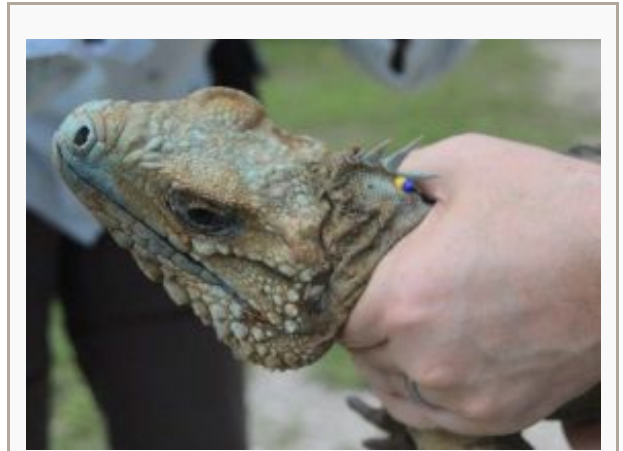
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(CNS): The Queen Elizabeth II Royal Botanic Park will soon have a fence surrounding its 65 acres to keep out unwanted predators and protect Cayman's endemic blue iguana. Having been rescued from the brink of extinction by the team at the Blue Iguana Recovery Program (BIRP), led by Fred Burton, there are still mounting threats to the unique reptile's survival. In an exclusive CNS mini-documentary Jamie Hicks finds out more about the latest issues facing this icon of the Cayman Islands.

Last week one of the Botanic Park's star iguanas, 14-year-old Inky, was killed by a stray dog, the second blue to die this month. As conservationists urge the community to address the problem of roaming dogs and even cats, the BIRP is facing numerous difficulties in its goal to increase the wild population of blue iguanas, and Burton believes that their only future may be behind a fence.

"I don't see any other alternatives. It's kind of like they're living natural lives, in wild places but they're not free just to go wherever they want. But at least it means they're separated from the threats," Burton told CNS.

Watch the CNS Video report for more about what researchers are doing to secure a future for one of the rarest iguanas in the world.



A blue iguana is tagged as part of the effort to save the species

[Read more about the Blue Iguana Recovery Program and find out how you can help](#)

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