



The Hedgehog Welfare Society

TO PROTECT THE WELL-BEING OF PET HEDGEHOGS THROUGH RESCUE, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR THEM. NEWSLETTER #21, MAR/APR 2006

The Hedgehog Welfare Society
PO Box 242
Chaplin CT 06235
www.hedgehogwelfare.org

HWS Committees/Contacts

Advocacy – Pet-store/USDA Liasons
Jennifer Plombon, Stephanie Hyne
advohws@aol.com

Rescue Coordination
Sheila Dempsey, Yolanda McLean
rescue@hedgehogwelfare.org

Health Research and Education
Gioia Kerlin, Yolanda McLean
health@hedgehogwelfare.org

Rescue Care Packages
Jennifer Plombon advohws@aol.com

Quills and Comfort
Judie Peters
judie@quillsandcomfort.com
Carol Fish Kregear
carol@quillsandcomfort.com

HWS Administration

Public Relations
Judie Peters, Tonya Thomas
public_relations@hedgehogwelfare.org

HWS Donations and Store Items
Donnasue Graesser
donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu

Website Additions/Deletions/Corrections
Janelle Zorko
advohws@aol.com

Newsletter
Kathleen Knudsen
bollask2@aol.com

Finance
Donnasue Graesser
donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu

Membership
Kerri LeMotte
onceuponabluemoon@hotmail.com

IDEAS

Animal Welfare in the Biomedical Science Lab: An Emerging Opportunity

Imagine: Your best animal pal, your hedgehog, develops what appears to be WHS. Heartbroken, you do your best to spend more time with her; massaging her body, helping her with assisted exercise and physical therapy. You hand feed her nutritious food many times daily. You do things she can enjoy; smelling flowers in the garden, or visiting the Worm Guy in the reptile store. She gives you unconditional love and shows her great willingness to combat her disease. But you are exhausted, for you have other pets, a family, a job, a home, and, oh yes – yourself to nurture as well.

What if: There were a WHS research facility in your area. Staffed with scientists who are researching WHS for a cure – both for the hedgehogs and to share research applicable to humans and other beings with similar disorders. What if there were hedgehog-loving volunteers, perhaps even your friends – who spent large amounts of quality time with your pet? What if this spontaneously occurring disorder could be researched, your pet treated, and provided deep, life-enriching supportive and emotional care at the same time? Below, a doctor presents his vision of an ethical and beneficial animal care-scientific research alliance.

(Carol Fish Kregear, CIO, Hedgehog Welfare Society)

STEPHEN HAINES, M.D.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – Observers of the last five decades of medical science can agree on two facts: the scientific investigation of disease and its treatment has led to remarkable advances in successful medical intervention; and the millions of



(PHOTO: JENNIFER PLOMBON)

Beloved Norma – a true crusader in the battle against WHS.

animals who have contributed to these advances could not be assured of humane treatment in the laboratories where this work was done.

(Continues on page 2...)

In this issue

Animal Welfare in the Lab	Page 1
Quills and Comfort	3
What Has HWS Been Up To?	4
New Hedgie Caretaker	4
Kindred Spirit, Kindred Care	5
Syringe Feed Your Hedgehog	7
Hedgie Stencils	7
Pog Profiles	8
Pi's Story	9
FAQQ – Car Sickness in Hedgies	11
Schoharie Encampment	11
New FAQ Section	11
Neurogenic Bladder in Huggles	12
HWS Quarterly Reports	13
Welcome New Rescues	14

ANIMAL WELFARE...

(...Continued from page 1)

There are major arguments about the magnitude and significance of both of these observations, and there is no doubt that, as in any scientific endeavor, many experiments did not lead to therapeutically successful outcomes. One of the problems contributing to this relative inefficiency of the scientific approach is that, in many cases, the animal diseases being studied were induced, not spontaneously occurring, and may therefore have been inappropriate models of the target human disease.

In some (but not all) circumstances, there are spontaneously occurring animal diseases that appear to mimic human disease and for which the animals' caregivers wish to seek treatment. This is certainly true of traumatic injuries and we have recently identified canine populations of spontaneously occurring degenerative spinal disease and brain tumors that bear substantial resemblance to similar human diseases.

Such diseases present an historic opportunity to unite the concerns and goals of animal advocates and biomedical scientists in an effort to understand and treat disease in animals with the hope of applying the results to the treatment of human disease.

In this scenario, animals with diseases under study would be enrolled in treatment research programs that have the specific goal of furthering the understanding of the disease and its treatment in animals. As in human studies, this would involve observation of signs and symptoms, obtaining specimens of blood and other body fluids, imaging, biopsies, autopsies, studying tissues and cells in the laboratory and applying experimental treatments. The animal advocate community could participate in providing in laboratory and home care for these animals, assuring their humane treatment throughout the process.

In order to be successful, large enough numbers of animals with specific diseases would have to enroll at the treatment centers. The provision of loving, humane care for these animals, provided by the animal advocacy community, would make it far more feasible for caregivers to have their animals go to such treatment programs for extended times away from home. It would also address the simple fact that such care is

too expensive for research programs to provide from the restricted funds available to support research. The analogous care for people involved in similar research is not paid for from human research funds.

If the intense study of naturally occurring animal disease leads to successful human treatments there will be substantial pressure to increase the rate of progress by concentrating large numbers of spontaneously ill animals in successful research programs. This would require a substantial animal advocacy effort to provide the needed care. That effort would be well worth the trouble, however, for the animals would realize the benefits of this research before their human counterparts. The real pressure point will arise when the suggestion is made, as is inevitable, that animals be bred specifically to produce diseased animals for study. The ethical debate that ensues will advance the cause of animal advocacy because it must recognize the important contribution that animal advocates will have made to the progress of disease identification and treatment and the high standard of animal care that has been established. The possibility that disease-specific breeding could alter the disease to the point of making the disease model inappropriate will also be a strong argument against that practice. The opportunity to focus the vast resources of biomedical science on animal disease is well worth the effort to provide care for these animals and advocate for effective ethical animal research.

Both the animal advocacy community and the biomedical science community would have to change parts of their approach to biomedical animal research for such a plan to succeed. The close interaction between these communities would, I believe, lead to better animal care and better disease-oriented research.

(c)2006 by Stephen Haines, M.D.

Welcome
Springtime!



(PHOTO COURTESY APOSTROPER)

Want to relax with a copy of the latest HWS newsletter?



(FILE PHOTO)

This wee hedgie can't wait to get the next HWS newsletter!

For not only the current newsletter but also the entire archive of HWS newsletters, visit our website at www.hedgehogwelfare.org and click on the "Newsletter" option.

To receive printed color copies of the newsletter in the mail, you can sign up for a year's subscription (six issues) by doing one of the following things:

Write a check for \$10.00 USD, payable to the HWS, and mail it with your name and mailing address to The Hedgehog Welfare Society, P.O. Box 242, Chaplin CT 06235; or

Use PayPal to send \$10.00 USD to donations@hedgehogwelfare.org (make sure to include your mailing address).

Printed color copies of back issues are available through Ruby's Rescue Shop at a cost of \$2.50 per issue.

Quills and Comfort

JUDIE PETERS

Bluffton SC – Quills and Comfort supports the hedge community with several outreach programs: the Healing Candle Ceremony, Circle of Light, and Comfort Cards. Listed below are the Healing Candle Ceremonies conducted for the first quarter of 2006 as well as the Circle of Light Ceremony. Special thanks to Tonya Thomas, who faithfully sends Comfort Cards to grieving companions. Thanks to all who contribute to and support the Quills and Comfort programs.

HEALING CANDLE CEREMONY

Linda Woodring organizes the cyberspace Healing Candle Ceremony; as Hobie Wikane expressed to his animal communicator, hedgies are gathered around a campfire to honor those who are in need. Since the very first Healing Candle Ceremony, other hedgies have expressed to animal communicators this exact image and that they feel the power of collective prayer and energy.

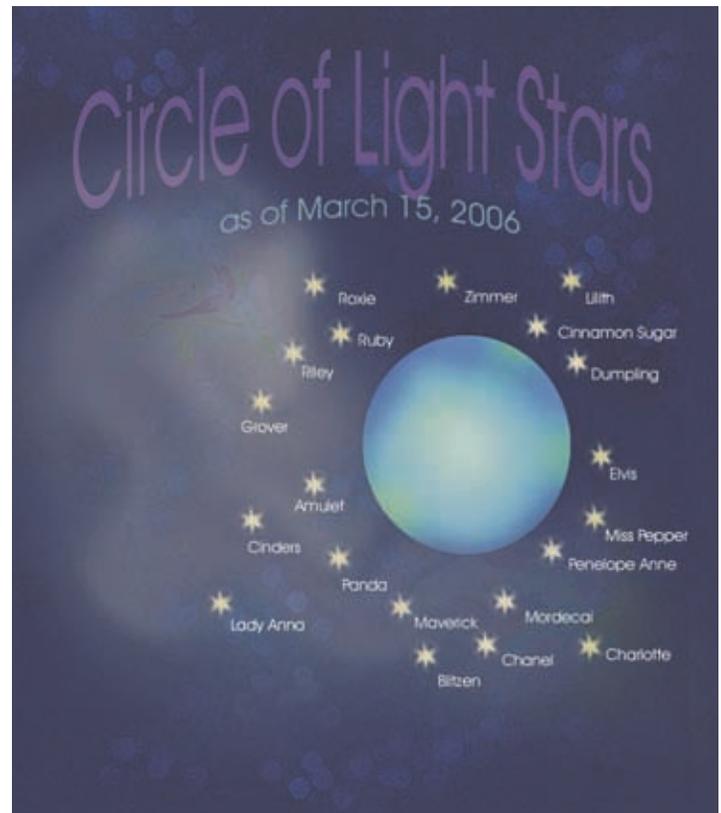
January 25, 2006

Requests for healing energy:

Belva, Jacque's mom
 Buckwheat, guardian Naomi
 Cidhis, guardian Su
 Darla, guardian Donnasue
 Elena L.
 Emma Rose, Guardian Judy D
 Emma, guardian Nancy
 Heddie, guardian Kristen
 Hobie, guardian Naomi
 Honey, guardians Linda & Gary
 Keelin, guardian Jacque
 M&M, guardians Sheila & Murphy
 Molly, guardian Deb
 Payton, guardians Linda & Jim
 Snuggles, guardian Cyndy
 Suhail, guardian Gioia
 Timmy the bunny, guardian Jennifer

February 20, 2006

Belva, Jacque's mom
 Buckwheat, guardian Naomi
 Cidhis, guardian Su
 Daisy, guardian Jan
 Darla, guardian Donnasue
 Devendra, 5 month old boy, requested by Cindy D
 Elena Leber
 Emma Rose, guardian Judy D
 Emma, guardian Nancy
 Heddie, guardian Kristen
 Hobie, guardian Naomi
 Honey, guardians Linda & Gary
 Keelin, guardian Jacque
 Libby the ferret, guardian Tonya



Molly, guardian Deb
 Payton, guardians Linda & Jim
 Sari, guardian Amber Lynn
 Thuhail (Suhail), guardian Gioia
 Timmy the bunny, guardian Jennifer
 Winnifred, Jenn D.'s grandma
 Winston the ferret, guardian Bridget S

CIRCLE OF LIGHT

Circle of Light candles were lit for the first time in the new year on March 15, 2006. Many hedge companions, plus a much loved Aztec Corn Snake, were honored during the Circle and were given a special star in the heavenly skies. The honorees and their guardians are listed below.

Riley (guardians Bill & Serena)
 Zimmer (guardian Elana Adler)
 Dumpling (guardians Linda & Gary Edwards)
 Amulet (guardian Dawn Wrobel)
 Grover (guardian Deb Weaver, best friend Molly)
 Elvis (guardians Maurita & Claire Plouff)
 Panda (guardian Betsy Ellingsworth)
 Roxie (guardians Teresa & Cliff Johnson)
 Maverick (guardians Erin & Brenda)
 Penelope Anne & Miss Pepper (guardian Laura D)
 Cinnamon Sugar (guardians Teresa & Cliff)
 Mordecai (guardians Tonya & Rick)
 Chanel & Blitzen (guardian Brenda)
 Charlotte (Aztec Corn Snake, guardian Cory)
 Cinders (guardian Nancy)
 Ruby (guardian Cindy D)
 Lilith (guardian Mary)
 Lady Anna (guardian Judith)

What Has the HWS Been Up To?

We thought our members would appreciate a brief overview of just what we've been doing with all of our free time (that's a joke):

* Elections and new Board members: an election held in November added new members Linda Woodring as Vice Chief Volunteer Officer (VCVO), and Sheila Dempsey as Rescue Committee Co-Chair. We welcome both of them and as you will see, they have already had some great ideas!

* SWAS: "Share with a Shelter" was organized by Sheila Dempsey. Any HWS member can download and print posters, hedgehog care sheets, and business cards, all of which the member can personalize with their own contact information (or have Sheila print for them) and take them to animal shelters in their area, giving those shelters care information and a contact person in case a hedgehog should show up in their shelter. This has wonderfully far-reaching consequences for our needy hedgehog friends.

* FAQ: Linda Woodring has written an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) which

will be available on the HWS web site at www.hedgehogwelfare.org Many oft-asked questions will be covered, and this will be extremely useful to new and experienced caregivers.

* Oxbow and Putnam grants: Donnasue Graesser pursued and won the Oxbow Pet Products "Nontraditional" Animal Rescue Grant from Oxbow Hay Company, based on excellence in our assistance for an animal species classified as small exotic. Kerri LeMotte pursued and won a grant from Putnam Investments Mutual Fund Company in Boston; this grant was awarded as part of a new program designed to award Putnam employees who serve as Board Members of non-profit organizations.

* Educational events (NJ, CO, OR): several HWS Board members attended the 2005 Mile High Show Hedgehog Show in CO and distributed care sheets, newsletters, and membership information, and sold wonderful hedgehog products from Judie Peters' Café Press Store, Ruby's Rescue Shop, and individual members. Judie Peters and possibly Donnasue Graesser will be

attending the Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey 2005 Conference, to distribute information about hedgehog care, welfare, and rescue, and attend the animal welfare presentations. Several Board members will attend the Lewis & Clark Law School Annual Animal Law Conference again this October, in Portland, OR.

* Wheel-a-Thon: Heather Carlin/Johnson once again organized a fund-raising Wheel-a-Thon, which collected hundreds of dollars to be donated to the HWS for assistance with its programs.

* Petfinders: Stephanie Hyne will be running the Petfinders site for hedgehogs.

* Valentine's & Easter fundraisers: Tonya Thomas organized a Valentine's Day fundraiser which sold Valentines made by Judie Peters and fleecies donated by HWS members; 63 Valentines were sold. An Easter fundraiser is planned, which will be an egg scavenger hunt and promises to be great fun. Watch the list for details!

* Care sheet translations into Spanish and French: the HWS Care Sheets are now available in English, Spanish, and French, thanks to the hard work and efforts of Gioia Kerlin, Yolanda McLean, Sarah Eshelman and Sophie Hannan.

Willa celebrates a new hedgie caretaker

Willa Goetcheus is happy to announce the addition of a new hedgie caretaker to the Goetcheus-Kohl household. Audrey Lee was born at 12:42 AM on March 28, 2006, weighing 9 lbs. 15 oz. and measuring 22.5 inches long. Her big sister Cheryl is looking forward to helping Audrey learn all about hedgehogs!



Kindred Spirit, Kindred Care

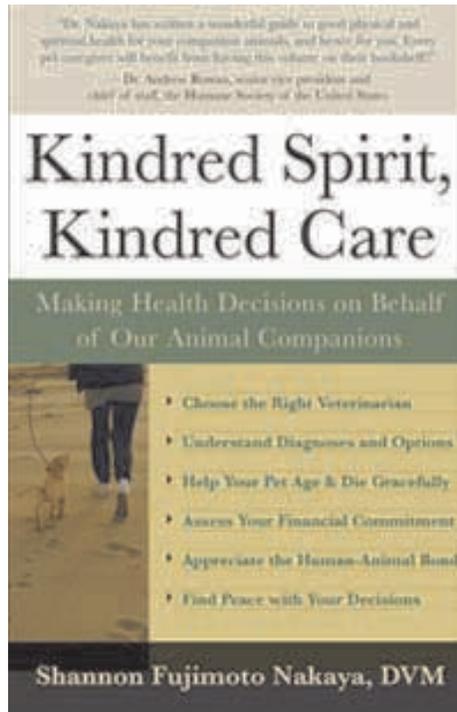
By Shannon Fujimoto Nakaya, DVM
Reviewed by Jennifer Plombon

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – This book is intended to be a “guide to good physical and spiritual health for your companion animals” and indeed it is! Dr. Nakaya, who has practiced veterinary medicine in Massachusetts and Hawaii for over 20 years, hopes that her book will help animal guardians make health care and end-of-life decisions about and for their animal companions.

In the introduction, Dr. Nakaya describes long experience in helping animal guardians make medical decision for their pets, and her realization “that the best decisions consider factors besides the patient’s medical needs.” (Dr. Nakaya follows the common veterinarians’ convention of referring to the animal guardians who come into the office as “clients” and the animal companions as “patients.”) Her hope is that by assisting clients with difficult decision-making, “though it will still be hard on your feeling-self, your thinking self will know that you are doing the best you can for your loved one.”

Chapter One discusses the bond between humans and their animal companions, and asks why society seems to expect us to “rationalize, justify, and defend our commitment to the animals who share our lives ...?” Acknowledging this bond and its necessary use of non-verbal communication between the participants may lead to better, more accurate decision-making; behaviours and feelings and non-verbal sensing are often more honest than words. Dr. Nakaya has found that treating patients with kindness and respect and honesty leads to cooperation from patients; she honors the strong bond between animals and their humans by never separating them, and by minimizing the use of restraints and forceful submission.

Chapter Two discusses healthy living and how to maximize your animal companion’s enjoyment of life, and graceful aging, which she admits most “people don’t like to think or talk about ...” Since neither aging nor death can be avoided in anyone, how can we best enjoy the time we are given? We can be fair, we can set rules of behaviour, we can provide proper diet and exercise, we can be observant of health care



needs and provide them, while acknowledging that every animal, not just every species, has different needs and desires. These techniques have the best chance of giving us a long and healthy time with our animals.

In Chapter Three, Dr. Nakaya suggests methods for finding the right veterinarian for your animal companions; generalized veterinarians and any needed specialists. She urges you to look for similar personal values, for the correct level of expertise for the problem or care needed, and if possible, to schedule a “new patient” appointment for your healthy pet to see how they and the veterinarian and her/his staff interact. She provides helpful references in the back of the book for finding veterinarians with specific specialties, though unfortunately the “Exotic Pets” references are for birds, reptiles and rabbits; we members of the Hedgehog Welfare Society probably have the best list of hedgehog-experienced veterinarians in existence! For readers of this newsletter, that list is available at www.hedgehogwelfare.org

Chapters Four and Five are more medically-oriented. In Chapter Four, Dr. Nakaya describes the (often difficult) process of reaching a diagnosis. An example is given of the “simple” exercise of finding the reason an animal is vomiting, for which she lists the over 75 causes she has ob-

served! It is thus helpful to veterinarians to have clients with close observational skills and much familiarity with their animal companion’s usual behaviors and the changes seen. She says “I learned a long time ago that clients who insist something is amiss ... are usually correct ...” While we would all wish that the process of diagnosis could be made non-invasively and without pain, there are times when answers can only be found with an invasive procedure or one involving some unpleasantness for your animal friend. At such times, your veterinarian should be able to help you decide if the answer, and thus the indicated treatment, are worth the risk and pain, especially in older, sicker, or less tolerant animals. When a diagnosis is reached, there are generally options for treatment and Chapter Five covers the categories of options clients should consider: medical; surgical; alternative or integrative; experimental. Western medicine, the most prevalent system of health care in America and Canada, leans toward medical and surgical solutions, but Dr. Nakaya points out that many problems have no easy solutions in Western medicine, such as viral or immune-system diseases and many cancers, and gives methods for evaluating alternative and experimental treatment options. Veterinarians take an oath to “do no harm” and thus Dr. Nakaya’s qualifying questions regarding alternative treatment options are:

- 1) Can it harm the patient?
- 2) Will the patient tolerate it?

Most importantly, she points out that the placebo effect (which demonstrates that patients may improve in response to inert substances), and the “Hawthorne effect” (which demonstrates that patients may improve in response to caring and concern) are seen in animals as well as in people, and that while “Love is not likely to cure cancer ... animals with connections and a reason to live ... tend to live longer. Caring and compassion should be incorporated into all forms of health care.”

The difficult topic of financial commitments is discussed in Chapter Six. We all wish there were free and accessible care for every being who needs it, but no health care system is capable of doing this. Clients who

(Continues on page 6...)

KINDRED SPIRIT...

(...Continued from page 5)

have difficulty accepting veterinary fees may need to know that at the beginning of their practice and for many years thereafter, many veterinarians "are paying off student loans in excess of \$100,000 and trying to eke out a living ..." If we were to look at a medical bill closely, we humans would be astonished at the price medical doctors charge for procedures which are identical to those offered by veterinarians at a fraction of the cost. Dr. Nakaya offers many suggestions to make veterinary care more affordable; pet insurance, outpatient care, generic medications, a savings account or credit card dedicated solely to veterinary bills; her closing thought, after saying that she was correctly warned that becoming a veterinarian would never make her rich, is priceless: "... if bearing witness to sacred moments between humans and animals counts for anything at all, then I am one of the richest human beings on the planet."

In Chapter Seven, Dr. Nakaya talks about the spiritual nature of animals. With regards to wondering whether animals have souls or some other unique individual "something", she asks "Where there is ambiguity, is it not better to err on the side of spiritual equality?" And if so, does this make treatment decisions and the decision for euthanasia more or less difficult? Her personal opinion, based on observing animals in many situations, is that "... pain and suffering are worse than dying" BUT that "... no one should be coerced into ending the life of an animal companion."

Chapter Eight is an extremely useful look at decision making. Given a diagnosis and treatment options, having taken into account one's personal ethics, morals and belief systems, having considered the financial burden and the concern for one's animal companion, how can a treatment option be chosen? Dr. Nakaya offers a decision tree that can usefully narrow choices down and lead to a "best decision", bearing in mind that conditions change, and so do options and choices, over time.

Caring for aging, disabled, or special needs animals is the focus of Chapter Nine. She asks us to remember that "animals appreciate the comfort of a familiar and safe environment." Their homes should not be randomly or needlessly changed, and if they must be away

from home, a familiar blanket or other item should accompany them. As vision and hearing decrease, there are steps Dr. Nakaya outlines that can make life those sensory losses less devastating. She reminds us to step back from the busywork of care to "offer love and acceptance every day", and gives excellent suggestions for providing comfort and alleviating discomfort. Those of us with hedgehogs can appreciate this comment "Maintain a sense of humor about bodily functions and life. All life-forms poop and pee, sometimes with control and sometimes not."

The final two chapters cover death and loss and finding peace with them. In Chapter Nine, Dr. Nakaya acknowledges the great difficulty humans and their animal companions face in letting go. When we humans cannot let go, often our animal friends cannot do so either and linger on far beyond the point of suffering too much; often they need us to accept loss and tell them they can go. Veterinarians are unique in the field of medicine in that they are licensed to perform euthanasia and thus, to end life. This is an enormous responsibility and deciding to do so (on the part of clients and veterinarians) should always be well-considered and the decision made only when there are compelling reasons to make it. These reasons include a disease process with no hope of recovery and an attendant intractable pain and suffering; a disease process with no hope of recovery and an attendant risk to others (such as rabies), or an animal companion whose unmanageable behaviour poses a public threat (such as a dog that cannot be stopped from attacking humans or other animals). Chapter Ten looks at the larger implications of the grief faced when a beloved animal companion must leave. She has "witnessed animal passings where I am certain that a part of the person died right along with the animal companion." Rather than allow this to make

one fall into a hole of forever grieving, one can use this experience to "memorialize our beloved animal companions" by helping all animals (and humans). She asks that we who have been lucky enough to connect so deeply with animals share our experience until others can learn to honor these bonds; "... if enough people in our society can recognize companion animals as kindred spirits deserving of kindred care, perhaps such consideration will be extended to other animals in farms, zoos, laboratories, and all the earth's ecosystems." Do not let your grief at the loss of an animal companion stop you from loving others; "It is possible to love more than one animal companion in a lifetime." The more we learn to respect and care for our animal companions as kindred spirits, the more we teach others to do so, and the more likely Dr. Nakaya is to reach her goal to "... help and empower some of the best humans on the planet: those who truly love and respect their animal companions ..." I know that my many years of volunteer work helping injured and sick animals would not have happened without the desire I had to make the life and passing of my first hedgehog, Norma, mean something. I end with Dr. Nakaya's final quote:

"Aloha aku, aloha mai"

~ Breathe as one with the universe ~



*A question for the pogs?
Favorite Rescue Story?
Favorite Photo(s)?
Letter to the Editor?*

**Submissions for the
Newsletter Welcomed!**

Please send it/them to us either electronically
at bollask2@aol.com

or via snail-mail to
HWS Newsletter c/o Kathleen Knudsen
P.O. Box 70408, Seattle WA 98107

How To Syringe Feed Your Hedgehog

LINDA WOODRING

At some point in your hedgie's life, you may need to get nourishment or medication into your little guy or gal from a syringe. This may or may not be an easy task, depending on the hedgie. Of course, the easiest way to get a once a day med into your "kid" is in their canned food, but if you have a hedgie that doesn't finish his food, isn't eating, or will only eat dry kibble, that option isn't available.

One thing to remember when you're syringe feeding is that the hedgie should not be on his/her back because there is a chance of choking or aspirating in that position. Ideally, you can bundle the little one up in a blanket and just offer the syringe which they will take willingly. But, we all know that probably won't happen. I find the easiest way is to scruff them. Get your syringe(s) all ready to go.

(Continues on page 8...)



HEDGIE STENCILS

SUSAN GOETCHEUS

ARLINGTON, MA – My daughter Cheryl's room has lots of one-of-a-kind hedgie decorations, so when we started to put her little sister's room together, I had to come up with some more unique hedgie-related things. I like doing crafts, but I'm not a very talented artist, so I decided to decorate the closet doors with a simple hedgie stencil. (Yes, I did end up stenciling Cheryl's doors as well. Sigh.)

Here's how you can put hedgies all around your favorite room too!

MATERIALS (AVAILABLE AT MOST CRAFT STORES):

Stencil paints: I used water-based stencil gels that cleaned up with soap and water.

Stencil sponge or brush: Mine is a round sponge on a short wooden handle. If I keep doing stencils, I'll get a better quality (more expensive) one; this one is starting to shed.

Stencil plastic: thin sheet of plastic onto which you trace your design.

X-Acto / artist's knife: to cut out your design (much easier than using scissors, I find).

Piece of cardboard: to put under the plastic while you cut out the design.

Wet paper towel.



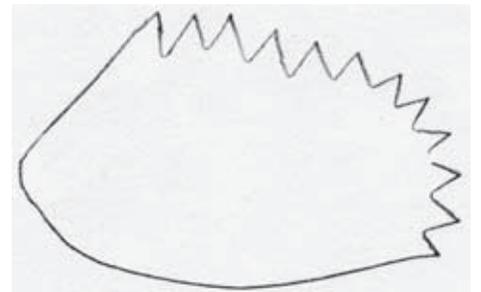
1. Trace your design onto the stencil plastic. The hedgehog cookie cutter available from Ruby's Rescue Shop makes an excellent outline, or you can freehand one. I drew the "Fangio design" shown with this article.

2. Put the cardboard under the stencil plastic and cut out the design. Be careful with this part, because any flaws in the outline can show up in stark relief when you paint.

3. If your piece of stencil plastic is long or large, cut off the part with the design. I left about an inch all the way around the design so that I had room to hold it.

4. Load your sponge or brush with paint, following the instructions on the paint package.

5. Hold the stencil design flat against the surface, and go for it! I used the dab-dab-dab method for a neat-looking texture, and I used varying amounts of paint on the sponge so that each hedgie has a slightly different intensity. I also had the wet paper towel handy so I could wipe paint off of the back of the stencil plastic and prevent smudges.



Pog Profiles

This column introduces our readers to some of the wonderful hedgies with whom HWS members share their lives. Each "profilee" is given a list of 15 questions and chooses some of them to answer. In this issue, we profile Molly Weaver. Her mom Deb writes:

"Molly became a Weaver back in November of 2004, coming from the Hedgehogging Around herd in Iowa. She and Grover first met in a small enclosure under supervision. Grover sat in the middle with his quills at half mast. Molly crawled all over the place, including up and over Grover. Back at home they had nightly sofa time together. At first Molly (296 grams) was a bit afraid of Grover (1070 grams). I'm sure he thought one of his beanie babies had come to life. But Molly soon came to love the gentle giant that Grover was and they spent many happy hours together. Molly is now 21 months old and a very pretty apricot girl, who has spunk, spunk, spunk; hence her nickname Ms. Molly Dolly Snickerdoodles Sassy Pants Weaver."

THE QUESTIONS:

Q: What is your favorite food, and do you think you get enough of it?

SYRINGE FEEDING...

(...Continued from page 7)

Try to grab the hedgehog behind the ears and right at the bottom of the quill line. Gently lift them. Some hedgehogs may try to ball up, but usually if you leave their butt on the table they feel secure enough not to ball up. Put the syringe in the side of their mouth and very slowly push the plunger so they get a steady stream of the food into their mouth. Some hedgies will sit for a whole meal... others just have to get a small bit at a time, rest, then another small bit until it's gone. Meds are a bit easier because they're usually very small amounts and you can just squirt the whole thing in at once.

Don't be alarmed if some of the food dribbles down the front of them. This is normal, and the syringe fed hedgehog will probably need more baths than usual (and so will mom or dad!!!).



The lovely and precocious Molly Dolly Snickerdoodles Sassy Pants Weaver proudly shows off her IHOG medal.

A: Hmm, I've doubled my weight since I've come here, so I guess I'm getting enough chow. I like my bowl of kibble every night, but I'm not too big on eating other stuff. Those worms that Grover was so fond of are just gross!

Q: Which recreational activities do you pursue?

A: Ahhh, night time is my time! I run on my wheel nightly. I also enjoy pushing around the balls Mom's given me; I'm especially fond of the one with the bell in it. I also enjoy wrestling with my two stuffed animals and digging. I also enjoy climbing in and on the PVC tubing in my cage.

Q: Do you have a significant other?

A: Yes I do, my big snuggly-wuggly boy Grover, even though he's no longer with us in body. He was older than me and he was very helpful in making me feel at home here when I first came. He was really very tender-hearted and put up with all my many moods quite well. Our nightly sofa-snuggle-time was my favorite time of day. We were always there to support each other. (Mom and me hope to bring another hedgie into our home sometime this spring, so I'm looking forward to that.)

Q: Where is your favorite place?

A: Hee, hee. My favorite place is at the far end of my PVC tubing (which is in the far corner of my cage). My Mom can't reach me there! I just sit back there and stare at her. It's lots of fun. Hmm, a close second would be any time Grover and I were snuggled up together under a blankie.

Q: If your human caretaker quotes you in email messages, do you think your thoughts are communicated accurately?

A: Well, she seems like a reasonably bright person most days. And Grover assured me that that she really is tuned in to us — even though she still thinks she's in charge around here — so I would guess that I'm quoted reasonably well. I certainly let her know my thoughts in no uncertain terms.



Pi's Story: Musings about a Special Hedge-Man

GIOIA KERLIN

In late March of 2005, I noticed that my hedge-man Pi Saleh (22 Feb. 2002-25 Dec. 2005) seemed to be gaining weight. Pi had always been the kind of hedgehog to eat anything that didn't eat him first, so I initially thought his problem was his appetite, and didn't worry further. But after about a month on a restricted diet, his weight was still going up. I then noticed that when Pi came out to free range in the evenings, he looked a little asymmetrical in his bottom; it was like one of his testicles was larger than the other. So we made an appointment with the vet for the next day, and off we went.

The vet agreed that Pi looked "off" in his nether regions, and put him on a large, twice-daily dose of prednisolone to see if that wouldn't make a difference. It was magic. Within a few days Pi was looking normal again and had lost the extra weight he had gained (which was a result of his swollen boy parts, not his appetite). Since the prednisolone had worked so well and so quickly, we thought it might be some kind of allergy that was making Pi's parts swell up. So I restricted his diet to Hill's Z/D and insects only, made sure to wash his textiles in All Free and Clear laundry soap and rinse multiple times, and not to use any shampoo at all when I bathed him. We kept him on his steroid until he looked normal, and then weaned him off, but within a week or so from weaning him off the prednisolone, he was swollen up again. So my vet scheduled him for surgery to be neutered late last spring.

When Pi went in for surgery, we found that his problem was more complex than had been anticipated. Pre-surgery, we had thought that it was Pi's left testicle that was swollen. But when the vet made the incision and looked inside, he found that it was Pi's whole penis that was affected, and that the testicles were fine. So we took a sample of the tissue and sent it to the lab, and Pi was sent home to heal and re-start his steroid treatment. Several weeks later, the lab results were back, and indicated a sort of cancer called "myxofibrosarcoma." As time went on (several months later) we became suspicious of this diagnosis, given that Pi was acting fine and not appearing to feel



(PHOTO: GOIA KERLIN)

Pi Saleh – a very special Hedge-Man.

unwell except for his enlarged penis, so we sent the sample to another lab which returned an inconclusive diagnosis of general inflammation. For eight months Pi was taking prednisolone on and off, but mostly on. He was starting to suffer negative side effects like tummy upset (evidenced by diarrhea), muscle wasting, weakness and lethargy, so we tried to get him off the medicine by substituting it for another anti-inflammatory drug used in chemotherapy and allergy treatments, called cyclosporine. Pi's physical condition seemed to improve while taking cyclosporine - he was more energetic, seemed stronger and was acting like his normal, curious self, but the new treatment had no effect on his swollen penis after a month, so it was discontinued.

Pi fought hard to keep going. That was just how he was. Everything Pi did, he did with gusto. There were times his little winkle was swollen to the point where he couldn't urinate a stream - just dribble a little bit here and there. He took his medicine twice a day, every day, like the little trooper he was. Near the end of his life, we found that injecting a steroid directly into his penis (under anesthesia, of course!) seemed to help greatly, and once again we considered neutering Pi because we were beginning to suspect a sperm allergy. But Pi was too sick and weak by

this point, and he died the morning before he had been scheduled to have surgery. The next day, my vet did a necropsy on him and found that Pi had been born with what appeared to be a malformed uterus and ovaries attached to his bladder. My vet has speculated that this could have provoked some sort of hormonal imbalance, causing his penis to swell, although these findings have yet to be confirmed by the lab.

Pi left my life in much the same way he had entered it: lying on his tummy in my hand with me giving him something. I know I've said this many times before, but when Pi came to me he was missing his mom quite a bit. He would lie flat on his belly in the palm of my hand and stretch his little arms and neck out to "nurse" from his water bottle. Then at exactly 7 weeks old, he decided he would be wearing big-boy pants from now on, and stopped his baby-like nursing. So in a way, our friendship sort of came full circle. Pi passed away on Christmas morning of 2005 while I was holding him, wrapped in his blankie and sitting in the room where he had spent his evenings free ranging and exploring, giving him pain medicine until I could get him to the vet.

Pi and I had a good life together. I teach Spanish language and literature, and Pi

(Continues on page 10...)

PI'S STORY...

(...Continued from page 9)

visited all my classes until he got sick. When I lived in Colorado, Pi was my stand-by lunch date for when we went out with his Aunties Sherry, Su and Fran. He especially liked it when I secretly slipped him bits of banana, chicken or other yummy treats while we sat in the restaurant. In many ways, Pi's life was one of firsts. He was the first hedgehog in the US to be videotaped having acupuncture, and was invited to attend a veterinary seminar on alternative treatments in Fort Collins, CO. And at home, Pi was the first hoggie to be given free-ranging privileges, an honor which he took very seriously.

When he started ranging, I explained to Pi that running free carried many responsibilities, and that he had to stay in his bedroom if he wanted to keep ranging. Pi was very good about remembering that, except for one time when he was a baby, and once as an adult. I could leave the door open, go to the kitchen to make dinner for everyone, and he'd still be in his room when I came back. The very few times he was tempted to trespass the boundaries of his freedom, all I had to do was say (in my best mommy voice, of course) "Come back here, young man", and he stopped at the edge of the doorway and came back inside. As a baby, the only time Pi ever escaped was before he had been given official ranger status, and didn't know any better. I found

him the next morning after gut-wrenching hours of searching, curled up under the reclining chair in the living room and very hungry and thirsty. As an adult, Pi forgot the rules once and I found him in the bathroom, gleefully chewing on the toilet brush! After trying and failing to wash his wee mouth out (obviously I was horrified that he had had "that dirty thing" in his mouth), I explained to him that even though he liked to chew things, this particular thing was very icky and was not to be eaten, even though eating was his favorite activity.

And speaking of food, Pi's appetite was legendary. As a baby hog, he was eating 4 tablespoons of kibble every day – 2 in the daytime, and two at night – as well as his cooked foods and his bugs. He would have eaten more had I offered. Pi had the Amazing Expandable Tummy. I guess that's why at his first and only hedgehog show he was chosen by his judge as an example of what "over-conditioned" meant. But he walked away with second place in his class, only beat out by his friend Pat Storm's Souvenir.

Pi was the kind of hoggie who met you at the door of his cage, chubby arms and wee nose reaching between the bars, when it was time for play or dinner. He knew that when I called "Pi-Pi" or "Pi-Man", there was something good in it for him. He was actually in some ways better trained and just as friendly as a lot of puppies: he normally came when he was called, enjoyed and asked for human company, and he followed my feet around as I pattered about in his



Pi Saleh enjoying his free-range time.

(PHOTO: GOIA KERLIN)



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bedroom. He was truly an affectionate hedgehog, and even gave "Pi-kisses" by pressing his wee snout against my cheek when I picked him up and kissed him before putting him into his house for the night. Pi was also smart. He learned very fast how to forage for his dinner (we started this because of his "over-conditioning" and it became routine even when Pi's weight came down a bit) and impressed his Auntie Sherry with his intelligent and methodical approach to treat hunting. There are so many little, yet very important things that take place over a lifetime, and I could go on forever telling stories about Pi-Man. He was my only boy to figure out how to mate with a female (his girlfriend Aliyya, with whom he had a close and special relationship), although I never got any Pi babies from his several trysts. He was very cute when he was with his girl, and he acted just like a guy—he ate all her food, messed up her house, took over the whole bed, and then made a mess in the bathroom. But Aliyya loved him anyway (Pi being Pi, I ended up having to take him out of her house during the day so that she could get something to eat, then I put him back with her in the evenings). Pi's gusto for life was his most remarkable characteristic. He ate hard, played hard and slept hard. His energy was always "out there", and he was always ready for a new adventure.

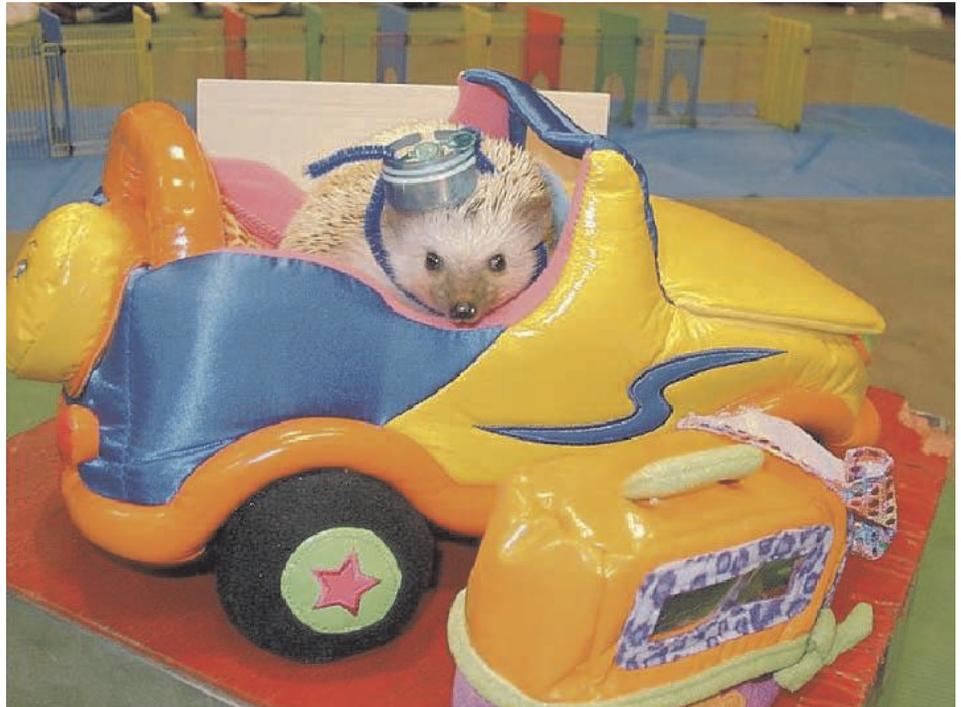
FAQQ: Frequently Asked Quilly Questions – Preventing Car Sickness in Hedgehogs

In this column each month, we hope to answer some typical (and not so typical) quilly questions by drawing on the collective wisdom of the hedgehog community. This month our featured question focuses on car sickness in hedgehogs. Traveling even short distances, for example to the vet's office, can be very stressful to some hedgehogs and their guardians. It's great fun to bring your hedgeie along to a hedgehog show or to a show-and-tell, but constant barfing can definitely take the fun out of a road trip.

First, we should comment that most hedgehogs feel perfectly fine when they travel. Car sickness is the exception, not the rule.

We asked our online community members for suggestions to help those hedgehogs who are prone to motion sickness. As always, there is no one correct answer to this question. Unfortunately for some hedgehogs, such as Gioia's Safiyya Pearl, it seems like nothing eases the barf-o-rama. Below is a list of common suggestions to help lessen or prevent car sickness in hedgehogs. Keep in mind, we are not veterinarians. Your veterinarian should be consulted before giving your hedgehog any remedy, even a natural or over-the-counter remedy.

Thank you to this month's FAQQ contributors: Brenda, Deb, Gioia, Jennifer, Julie, Pat, Stephanie, and Tonya.



Skeezix Plombon-Haines shows just how a proper hedgeie-girl travels in style.

SUGGESTED REMEDIES / METHODS TO PREVENT CAR SICKNESS IN HEDGEHOGS

- 1) Ginger
- 2) Bach's Rescue Remedy
- 3) Pepto-Bismol (just a drop or two is recommended)
- 4) Fasting for a few hours before the car trip
- 5) Smooth driving behaviors (don't speed up or make turns too quickly)
- 6) On long trips, let your hedgehog out to stretch his/her legs at rest stops.
- 7) Try different types of carriers.
- 8) Try different positions in the car: front seat, back seat, floor-whatever works best for your hedgehog.
- 9) MOST IMPORTANTLY, if your hedgehog does vomit during a trip, as soon as he/she is feeling better, make sure to give plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration.

Schoharie Encampment Cancelled

I'm saddened to say that because of health reasons I've cancelled our Schoharie, NY Hedgehog Encampment show for June 24th. All my friends who were set to help are sorry as we had a unique and special event planned. I may get stronger again and who knows what another year or two might bring. The good news is there are more people in this area owning hedgegies and maybe even somebody else may eventually plan a show here in eastern upper NYS.



– Naomi Wikane

New FAQ Section on Web Site

We are proud to announce that a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section has been added to the Hedgehog Welfare Society Web site (www.hedgehogwelfare.org). We find that new hedgehog owners and sometimes even experienced owners tend to ask the same basic questions about caring for their little ones, so we've put those questions on the Web site with answers. Not to say they are the only answers, but they're a good starting point. If we find other questions that come up frequently, we will certainly add them at a later date. We hope this will be of help to everyone.

A Case of Neurogenic Bladder in Huggles the Hedgehog

CYNDY BENNETT

ROSEVILLE, MN – Background history: Huggles Shiphrah, a female African Pygmy Hedgehog, was approximately two years of age when she suddenly stopped eating. She was still drinking water up to 120 ml (4 oz.) a night. She was gaining weight each day.

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On July 27, 2005, Huggles went in for a veterinarian visit, including blood work-up, urinalysis, and exam. She was checked for diabetes, urinary tract infection, and bladder stones. At this time an oral mass over a carnassial tooth was removed. Pathology findings on the mass indicated a benign squamous papilloma.

Blood Chemistry results are as follows:

ALB	=	3.6 g/dL
ALKP	=	38. U/L
ALT	=	14. U/L
AMYL	=	416. U/L
BUN	=	19.0 mg/dL
CA	=	9.0 mg/dL
CHOL	=	136. mg/dL
CREA	=	0.3 mg/dL
GLOB	=	2.7 g/dL
GLU	=	134. mg/dL
PHOS	=	3.4 mg/dL
TBIL	<	0.1 mg/dL
TP	=	6.2 g/dL
Na	=	145. mmol/L
K	=	5.4 mmol/L
Cl	=	117. mmol/L

Hematology results are as follows:

WBC	10,725
NEUT	49%
LYMPH	41%
EOS	9%
MONO	1%
BASO	0%
T.P.	5.2
PCV	36%
PLTS	Adequate
NRBC/100 WBC	None seen
POLYCHROM	+3

Huggles' urinalysis showed no sign of infection, but the urine was very dilute.

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AUGUST 4, 2005

Huggles visited the veterinarian again, and started on Enrofloxacin, an antibiotic.

AUGUST 5, 2005

The veterinarian expressed about 4 oz. of urine from Huggles' bladder. X-rays were taken and showed that Huggles' bladder was still distended.

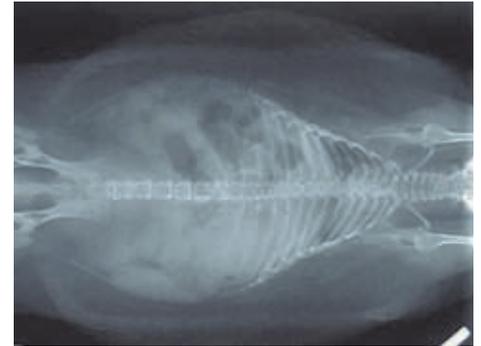
Report of radiographic interpretation by the veterinarian:

Whole Hedgehog: Urinary bladder is distended. Although I admit to limited knowledge about the normal gut variation in this species, there are some rather dilated loops here. The question I would raise is if there is any possibility of pre-renal disease related to bowel disease, as well as the circumstances surrounding the bladder. There is a questionable increased density at the level of the bladder trigone as seen on the lateral view. I would repeat the lateral view of this thing to be sure that it is real. It might have prognostic relevance. There is also a little grainy density in the bladder which might indicate some low-density stones. What I can see of the vertebrae and the regional orthopedic structure looks unremarkable. What I can see of the abdominal parenchymal organs looks fine. I think that most of the changes that are showing up on the Ventral-Dorsal view of the chest are superimposition artifacts.

Diagnostic Impressions: Possible bladder stone; distended bladder; no fluid in the peritoneum; somewhat hefty-diameter small bowel loops here, raising concern as to whether or not there could be a pre-renal component to this whole "ADR" circumstance; I think that at this point an additional lateral view would be helpful to be sure how reproducible these



The top arrow shows where the organs are being displaced forward and upward. The lungs have limited room, causing her to tire easily when the bladder is full. The other arrows show the faint outline of the distended bladder.



This x-ray shows the organs pushing on the lungs.

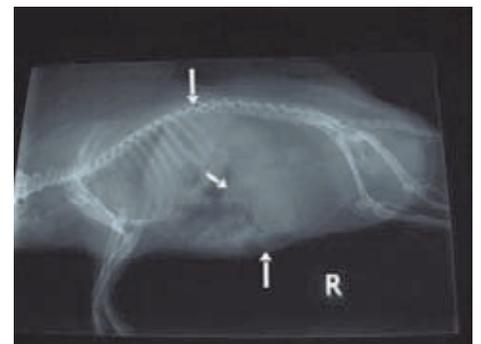
findings are, particularly the grainy, stone-like densities.

Huggles was prescribed Phenoxybenzamine Suspension (0.1 ml twice a day) to improve bladder function. This drug is used in small animals primarily for its effect in reducing internal urethral sphincter tone, allowing the urine to pass more easily.

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AUGUST 11, 2005

Huggles was brought into the vet for a repeat x-ray.



Report of radiographic interpretation:

Abdomen: Current views are compared with those dated 8/5/05. Bladder is distended to +/- the same degree that it was earlier. However, the previous grainy densities noted are no longer clearly seen. Therefore, at least within limits of survey radiographic sensitivity, it doesn't look like we've got bladder stones. There is some fullness in the ventral neck region in the transverse plane of the larynx. This should be checked clinically. It could not be seen before because of the superimposition of the legs. There still seems to be some excess gas in some of the small

(Continues on page 13...)

HUGGLES...

(...Continued from page 12)

bowel loops. It's not, however, as prominent as it was before. Again, clinical judgment as to what else you want to do with this and how persistent the clinical signs are.

Diagnostic Impressions: Stone-like densities in the bladder not reproducible; still some excess gas in the bowel; check the bulge below the larynx to see if there's anything going on there; the urinary bladder is still quite distended, and on a random sampling basis this raises concern that it never empties.

Huggles was also prescribed Bethanechol (0.2 ml twice a day). This drug is used primarily to increase bladder contractility. By the end of August, Huggles had gained 213 grams in one month. Once she reached the weight of 578 grams, her back legs did not work properly, making it very difficult for her to move.

Diagnosis: Neurogenic bladder. Neurogenic Bladder is a bladder in which the nerve impulses fail to communicate to the bladder muscles to contract to empty the bladder. The muscles of the bladder then become stretched out and can no longer contract to empty the bladder. The bladder then takes on a flat flaccid form. The bladder then needs help to empty otherwise the urine backs up into the kidneys resulting in renal failure. They suspect pre-renal in Huggles.

~ ~ ~

NOVEMBER 2005

Medication Decision: Huggles has since been taken off the Bethanechol, because it worked for about one month at this dose then had to be increased to 0.03 ml twice a day. About every 2-3 weeks we had to increase the amount by 0.01 ml to keep the med working like it should. I felt uncomfortable to increase it any higher than 0.06 ml twice a day. We also took her off the Phenoxybenzamine at this time.

Therapy Decision: I started bladder retraining twice a day, helping her to express her bladder. She is weighed before and after each bladder expression. At first she dropped as much as 90 grams with each bladder expression. Now she drops about 12 to 45 grams with each expression.

Hedgehog Welfare Society Committee Reports

October-December, 2005 (Quarter 4)

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

**JENNIFER PLOMBON & STEPHANIE HYNE,
Co-CHAIRS**

The Committee assisted concerned HWS members in contacting the USDA to report poor conditions seen in pet stores. The Committee assisted others in determining the licensing status of pet stores and breeders, and ensured that contact information for the USDA remained up-to-date on the HWS Website.

Elena Leber has joined the committee and has assisted members with the above-mentioned tasks.

CARE PACKAGE COMMITTEE

**JENNIFER PLOMBON & HEATHER JOHNSON,
Co-CHAIRS**

Since October 1, 2005, the HWS Rescue Care Packages Committee has shipped or delivered 23 care packages,

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JANUARY 2006

Vet Discussion: At the beginning of January 2006 the vet talked me into putting Huggles back on the Phenoxybenzamine 0.1 ml twice a day to help express her bladder more easily. She sometimes urinates on her own once a week.

Summary: Huggles has been maintaining her weight in the mid-500 grams. She is starting to be a little more active at this weight and is allowed 50 ml of water each night, of which she drinks every drop.

The bladder retraining/expressing is effective for now, but that could change.

Huggles is thought to be intersexed; the only way to know for sure is exploratory surgery. She is high risk for surgery due to her bladder issues. When Snuggles (our little rescue in November) had her last exam in January, I learned that intersexed animals usually have the sex organs attached to the bladder. This could be causing Huggles' problems with her bladder, but there is only one way to find out and that is with surgery. Right now we are trying to weigh the benefits and the risks.

hats, and food samples, to hedgehog rescuers throughout the US and Canada.

Kimberly Clark donated 20 plastic food bowls. Brenda Ice donated 20 stick-on thermometers for care packages.

FUNDRAISING AND RUBY'S RESCUE SHOP DONNASUE GRAESSER, MANAGER

The HWS was awarded the Oxbow Pet Products Animal Rescue Grant. The grant-writing was a collaborative effort among Donnasue Graesser and several other members of the HWS community. The grant was ranked #1 by every reviewer on the grants committee. The HWS was awarded \$1000 to be used for our VetFund and Care Packages programs.

Janelle Z. has agreed to be the new webmaster for Ruby's Rescue Shop. She has been a pleasure to work with, and has really gotten the store going! December, 2005 was a record month for gross sales.

The Thanksgiving cookbook project has been very successful (thanks to Cindy Delarosa, Maurita Plouff, and Judie Peters). The annual hedgeie-Christmas stocking sales were a huge success (thanks to Cindy Delarosa, and other contributors). The sales of 2006 "Quilled Friends" calendars has been extremely successful (thanks to Sheila Dempsey and Deb Weaver).

Future fundraising plans include a "send a Valentine" fundraiser and the great "Egg Hunt 2006!" Both these fundraisers will be organized by Tonya Thomas.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE GIOIA KERLIN, Co-CHAIR

During this quarter, the Health and Education Committee spoke with Dr. Priscilla Dressen at the Colorado Hedgehog Show about her writing an article for the newsletter on the benefits of spaying hedgehogs. We have also been working on our educational video discussed in previous reports. We have corresponded

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COMMITTEE REPORTS...

(...Continued from page 13)

with Welfare list members and Board members concerning organizational issues and potential projects for the future. These upcoming projects include a "hedgie how-to" article about syringe-feeding hedgehogs, another "how-to" article about bathing hedgehogs, and an article about a specific hedgehog who suffered from a congenital deformity that was undiagnosed until after his death. The committee has planned and begun work on translating the HWS care brochure into French and Spanish, and is also planning an educational event to take place at the Tulsa Public Library in May 2006.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

KERRI LEMOTTE, CHAIR

Hedgehog Welfare Membership: Quarter 4

As outlined above, there have been 58 new members to the Hedgehog Welfare Society, for a total of 478 members. There have been 33 new members to the Hedgehogwelfare Yahoo! Group, for a total of 462 members.

Several updates to the membership

information have been made. Updates include forwarding the membership form to various addresses to ensure efficiency with processing. Additionally, the literature in the membership welcome kits has been redesigned and reformatted. The newly designed information will be distributed to all new members of the organization and includes organization information, officer information, program overviews, a shopping guide, and a membership kit. Due to the rising costs of postage, the kits were redesigned to reduce overall administrative costs.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

KATHLEEN H. KNUDSEN, CHAIR

Samara Rabinowitz continues to work her incredible magic on the articles and photos provided to her for inclusion in the newsletters. We continue to expand the ranks of proofers going through the articles submitted, reducing the post-layout modifications which have a greater impact than those made pre-layout.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

DONNASUE GRAESSER & TONYA THOMAS, CO-CHAIRS

Judie Peters has been elected as the new co-chair of the committee.

Tonya continues to send "Comfort Cards" to guardians of hedgies who have crossed over the rainbow bridge.

We are planning a "Canada Day" to promote awareness of hedgehog rescue in Canada, to support our Canadian rescue stations, and to encourage our Canadian members to become official rescue stations.

The Phileas Hogg traveling project is well underway, and a great success thus far. I'm happy to report he has been on schedule, according to his itinerary. During this quarter, he has traveled to Texas, Washington State, and New Mexico.

QUILLS AND COMFORT

JUDIE PETERS & CAROL FISH KREGG, CO-CHAIRS

Quills and Comfort is a support and outreach program for hedgie companions, and is comprised of the Circle of Light, Healing Candle Ceremony, Comfort Cards and a CafePress Store. Additionally, a Quills and Comfort column overviews recent events in each HWS Newsletter.

In summary for the year, the Circle of Light was conducted 7 times with over 159 names honored. For each HWS Newsletter, the Circle graphic was updated depicting all honored names-along with a star-in a night sky. The Healing Candle Ceremony was originated by Naomi and Hobie Wikane and is now coordinated by Linda Woodring. Numerous ceremonies were conducted during the year. The Comfort Card program continues with 180 cards sent to hedgie companions since its inception in 2004, the majority of the cards being sent in 2005. Lastly, during 2005 the Quills and Comfort Store was able to make two cash donations.

RESCUE COMMITTEE: NO REPORT

WEB SITE AND PETFINDER: NO REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT

Detailed monthly financial reports are available to any HWS member, or other interested party, by sending a request to: donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu. HWS yearly reports are submitted to the Oregon State Department of Justice, Charitable Organizations Division, and are available for public viewing on the ODJ Web site (Charity Registration # 31631).

Welcome New Rescue Contacts

The following individuals have opened their hearts and their homes to become rescue contacts in their area. Let's hear a round of applause for...

Laura Galloway, New Mexico
Cindy Lynn Huggins, Missouri
Beth Randall, Illinois
Shelly Tozer, New Jersey

We still need rescue contacts in many states and it never hurts to have multiple contacts in any given state. If you are interested in becoming a rescue contact, go to www.hedgehogwelfare.org, click on "Rescue Contacts" on the left side of the page, and then click on "Rescue Application" on the page that comes up. We'll be



(PHOTO COURTESY WESTERN VIKING)

Young Miss Chloe loves practicing her skills as a future hedgie rescuer.

in touch with you not long after that. If you have any questions about the process or what's entailed, contact Yolanda at Yolanda.McLean@biogenidec.com or Sheila at SexyTexy@comcast.net.