TO PROTECT THE WELL-BEING OF PET HEDGEHOGS THROUGH RESCUE, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR THEM. NEWSLETTER #22, MAY/JUNE 2006

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WILLA:

Living Life With Cancer



The brave and independent Willa.

Susan Goetcheus Arlington, MA

Our girl Willa, who turned three in May, was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma in May 2005. I don't know what the record is for living with this kind of cancer, but she must be close to it. Unfortunately, we don't have any great secrets that we can share; we think her longevity is due more to her internal fortitude than to any food, medicine, or care we have given her. Our Nell had the same cancer, received the same food, medicine, and care, and crossed the Bridge four months after her lump appeared. However, every little bit of information may be valuable to others dealing with

this kind of illness in their hedgehogs, so I thought I'd write about the progression of her cancer and what we've done

In May 2005, a month after Nell

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WILLA...

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was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma, we noticed a lump on Willa's face under her right eye. When we took her in for her checkup, the vet did a biopsy and it came back with the same result as Nell's. The vet put the girls on meloxicam (Metacam), which is an anti-inflammatory that we gave them once a day, and gave them prescriptions of butorphanol for pain relief. At first Willa got the butorphanol twice a day, but in the fall of 2005 we started giving it to her three times a day. Based on Willa's weight, each dose is .15 cc. The prescription says "Butorphanol: 1mg/ml in Ora Sweet, total 20 cc. Quantity: 4. Butorphanol 5mg tablets."

Willa's lump continued to get bigger, and in fall 2005 she began to have difficulty eating. The vet recommended that we give her Mazuri Insectivore Diet, and our routine is to soak the pellets, grind them into a paste in a mini chopper, and add water as necessary to each serving. We also add three capsules of IP-6 when we make the week's food.

As the lump grew, it looked like it might impinge on Willa's eye, so in fall 2005 we asked the vet to see if she could debulk the tumor. However, she found that it was extremely vascular (it has many blood vessels), as this type of cancer tends to be. If she tried to remove some of the tumor, she also might hit some blood vessels and Willa might bleed to death. We decided that leaving the tumor alone was preferable to our 2.5-year-old hedgehog dying during surgery. The vet noted that the tumor had grown around her upper palate.

Since then, the tumor has gotten larger but has not affected Willa's right eye, although if she puts her visor quills down, she can't really see out of that eye. It has also grown down over her gums and bulges out of her mouth. Her jaw is still pretty well aligned, though.

All along, we've told Willa that we will help her cross the Bridge if she needs help, and that if she stops eating or exercising, we will consider that to be her signal to us. However, she has not taken us up on that offer. A year after her diagnosis, she tubes for a couple of hours every evening and then runs on her wheel into the wee hours. She cleans her dish every night and has maintained her weight at around 280-300 grams (her high when well was 330).

Willa has never been a snuggler, preferring to play by herself instead of sitting on laps, which seemed to stress her. Her independent spirit shows during medicine time; she tolerates the syringe but can't wait to be let loose back into her cage.

And a bit of personal info: she came into our lives two years ago when Aimee asked if we could pick up a hedgehog named Wally from a man in Maine who didn't have enough time to care for him properly. We agreed to take him in until we could transport him down to Aimee; we didn't think we could keep him because we didn't want to frustrate him with Nell's proximity. However, we realized after a few days that we didn't know for sure



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www.hedgehogwelfare.org

www.cafeshops.com/hedgiesdotcom

www.cafepress.com/judiepeters



that he was a boy. His previous person hadn't spent much time with him and had taken the word of the pet store about Wally's sex. A few minutes later, with the help of a wire rack and a mirror, we determined that Wally needed a new name and that *she* could indeed have a Forever Home with us. We are very glad that she has spent two years with us, and we hope to have more.

New and improved HWS Petfinder site

Stephanie Hyne, Gilette, Wyoming

We are pleased to announce the re-activation of the Hedgehog Welfare Society's Petfinder page! In the past this was an outstanding resource we were able to offer. In the short time it's been reactivated we have already successfully placed one hedgehog!! We know what a valuable resource this is for our organization and have taken steps to ensure it will not become inactive again.

If you would like to list a RESCUE hedgehog through the HWS Petfinder site please e-mail Stephanie Hyne at: petfinder@hedgehogwelfare.org

For a direct link to our Petfinder homepage please type in: http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/CT171.html

OR you can access this page by going to: http://www.hedgehogwelfare.org and clicking on "Adoptions" on the left hand side.

Prayers for Peace

Compiled by B. Martin Pederson Reviewed by Jennifer Plombon, Minneapolis, MN

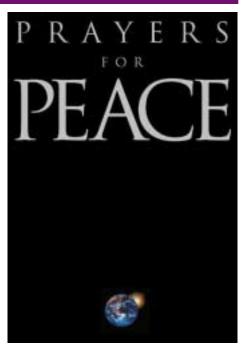
Whatever your spiritual beliefs, you'll find prayers and philosophies in this slim but packed book to comfort you, to make you think, and to offer a philosophy by which you can live. All have the same message: peace. They concentrate on themes of forgiveness, of respect for other beings (non-human and human), of love and kindness, and they cover a vast range of formal and traditional religions and beliefs. I feel blessed to have found this book, in a store at the Seattle airport, because reading it and pondering the words within made a four-hour flight seem too short!

The first section of the book, "Moral Guides", contains some of the more well-known historical guides to living: the Ten Commandments; the Ten Indian [Native American] Commandments; the Ten Perfections, Ten Fetters of Existence, and Avoiding the Ten Evils [Buddhism]. While every discipline has different guidelines, it's reassuring to see how ultimately similar they are. Respect for others and their needs and their lives is paramount.

The second section, entitled "Prayers for Peacemakers", contains exhortations one can use to ask for help and guidance when trying to be a peacemaker and make a difference in the world. Some phrases are very powerful and ask much of the person praying: "May I become at all times, both now and forever a protector of those without protection" - Shantideva; "Do not injure any living being" - Jainist Prayer for Peace. Others are very simple yet no less powerful: "The core of this advice is to make your life as meaningful as possible" - The Dalai Lama; "for it is in giving that we receive" - St. Francis; "Love is the refusal to defeat any individual" - Martin Luther King; "I desire only the deliverance from grief of all those afflicted by misery" – Hindu Peace Prayer. Some say things differently than we have been accustomed to hearing: "Nor an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, for him who counts no man his enemy, but all his neighbors, and therefore can never stretch out his hand for vengeance" – St. Irenaeus. Ultimately, these prayers tell us that "Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness" – Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

I have found that "Prayers for Inner Peace", in the third section in the book, are best read when despair begins to creep in; when I feel as if nothing we do to help other beings is enough, or is working. Like a loving balm, these prayers offer a wish for personal comfort and guidance: "May I be filled with loving kindness. May I be well. May I be peaceful and at ease. May I be happy" - Ancient Tibetan Buddhist Meditation; "Oh Great Spirit I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom" - Chief Yellow Lark. Here, too, there are surprising insights into historical figures we may have thought we knew: "Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty" - Albert Einstein; "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful honorable compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived, and live well" - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The prayers in the next section, "Prayers for Peace for All of Humanity", draw from a world-wide group of philosophers and spiritualists: Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II, Fred Rogers, Rumi, Bishops, Rabbis, Reverends and others. One of the briefest prayers is also one of the best and most powerful: "May the whole world enjoy good health, long



life, prosperity, happiness and peace" – Vethathiri Maharishi.

"Prayers for Peace During Wartime", the next section, contains my favorite speech; one which never fails to sadden me and make me see the true futility of fighting. "I Will Fight No More Forever", the Nez Perce tribe's Chief Joseph's surrender speech says (in part; I urge all of you to find and read the entire speech) "I will fight no more forever. I am tired of fighting. My heart is sad and sick. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever."

"Prayers for Peaceful Times", the final section, might seem unnecessary, but it is then, in peacetime, that they must be most urgently listened to and followed. One wonderful prayer offers a most hopeful view of the world: "When I despair, I remember that all through history the ways of love and truth have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fall. Think of it – always" – Mahatma Gandhi.

This is a lovely and inspiring book and I never fail to find something that touches me deeply when I open it. To all I say "Om Peace, Peace," – Ancient Vedic Prayer.

Shopping for Kids

Susan Goetcheus Arlington, MA

Looking for a cute gift for the hedgehogloving child in your life? Here are a few items to check out! (You might even get an extra for yourself...)

Ikea (ikea.com) carries *Tassa Igelkott* quilt covers and pillowcases for cribs, and has in the past had quilt covers and pillowcases for twin beds. They also have a hedgehog cushion: an inflatable plastic bladder with a hedgehog cover. Look for *Sagosten*.



Fisher-Price (fisher-price.com) has an adorable soft hedgehog called Miracles & Milestones[™] Touch & Cuddle Hedgehog[™].

Ruby's Rescue Shop (hedgehogwelfare.org/store_index.htm) has many items to appeal to your youthful friends, including a children's book, stamps, jewelry, and soap.

Judie Peters' CafePress site (cafepress.com/judiepeters) has a section just for babies and toddlers, with some adorable clothing.

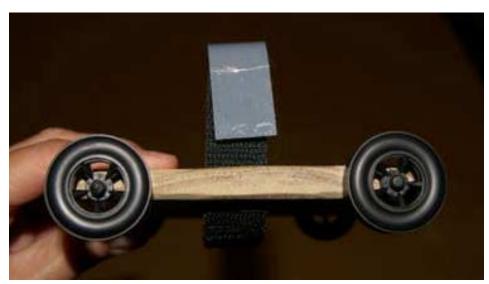
eBay (ebay.com) is always a treasure trove of hedgie stuff; plug "hedgehog sonic" into the search field and you'll find items ranging from a Playmobil hedgehog family to stuffed animals to a wall clock.

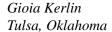
And don't forget to look for children's books about hedgehogs at your favorite online or brick-and-mortar bookstore! Check out old issues of this newsletter for Naomi's book reviews.

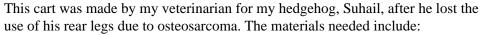




Cart for a Disabled Hedgehog







- A smooth, sanded piece of scrap wood measuring approximately 1/3" thick, 5" long and 4-1/4" wide
- Four model car wheels measuring approximately 1" in diameter
- Axle material (you can use a coat hanger cut to size, or purchase model car axle rods—just make sure to get brass and not aluminum, as aluminum is too soft)
- A velcro strap long enough to encircle the base of the cart and the hedgehog him/herself

You'll need to drill a hole through the width of the wood base in order to insert the axle material, and also cut slats in the base for the velcro to slip through. Your hedgehog will sit on top of the base with his or her front legs on the ground and rear legs suspended on the wood,

her waist. Some hedgehogs take to the cart more readily than others, so you

and you'll snug the velcro around his or





may have to be patient and practice daily for short periods. I can't guarantee that your hedgie will enjoy rolling around in his or her cart, but for those animals with WHS or other debilitating diseases, learning to wheel about in a cart during playtime can help them be more independent and happy.





Hedgehog Welfare Society Committee Reports

January-March, 2006 (Quarter 1)

VICE CHIEF VOLUNTEER OFFICER LINDA WOODRING

This quarter, the VCVO worked on a FAQ sheet of questions that are frequently being asked on the Yahoo lists. It will be posted on the HWS website. She continued organizing the Healing Candle ceremonies when needed. She is planning to develop a hedgie sitter program with Kristen Zorbini.

CHIEF ORGANIZING OFFICER VICKI McLean

In the first quarter of 2006, the COO has begun the process to develop operating procedures. Indications are that the IRS expects non-profit organizations that are tax exempt to have clear and current operating guidelines. Since we are approaching our five year renewal, it's a good time to be sure that those procedures are in place. She expects the procedures to be in place by 3rd quarter 2006, well in advance of our renewal period.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER NO REPORT

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.

CARE PACKAGE COMMITTEE JENNIFER PLOMBON & HEATHER JOHNSON, Co-CHAIRS

Between January 1, 2006, and March 31, 2006, the HWS Rescue Care Packages Committee shipped or delivered 11

Care Packages, hats, and food samples, to hedgehog rescuers throughout the U.S. and Canada. Expenses for shipping, postage, purchase of supplies, fabric, foods, treats, and wheels are covered by donations from iGive, newsletter subscriptions, hat sales, and personal donations.

FUNDRAISING AND RUBY'S RESCUE SHOP DONNASUE GRAESSER, MANAGER

This quarter, we focused on building Ruby's Rescue Shop and bringing in fresh inventory. In this quarter, we have added "Support Hedgehog Rescue" ribbon magnets for cars, as well as embroidered towels to the store inventory. We are planning a "Ruby Tuesday" Sale for sometime this summer.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE GIOIA KERLIN, CO-CHAIR

During this quarter, Jennifer Plombon, Health Research & Education Committee member, taught a 2-hour hands-on class on hedgehog care to a group of volunteers at The Raptor Center, University of MN Campus, on January 10, 2006. Jennifer also taught a 1hour hands-on class on hedgehog health, disease, and care to 3rd year veterinary students at the University of MN School of Veterinary Medicine on January 24, 2006. Ms. Plombon is a licensed USDA Class C Exhibitor and is available to teach hedgehog care classes to veterinarians and veterinary students, veterinary technologists and technology students, veterinary clients, and potential hedgehog adopters.

The Committee also included a "Hedgie How-To" article about syringe feeding a hedgehog, written by Linda Woodring, in the March-April HWS newsletter, and is currently planning

another article about how to bathe a hedgehog. We are also hoping to write an article about a hedgehog who was born with a congenital deformity that was not diagnosed until after his death, but are still waiting for lab results. Committee Co-Chair Gioia Kerlin wrote an article about her hedgehog Pi Saleh for the March-April newsletter, and is planning a memorial article dedicated to hedgehog community member Fran North.

Committee Co-Chairs Yolanda McLean and Gioia Kerlin, along with member Sarah Eshelman finished translating the HWS Care Brochure into Spanish.

Veterinary Funds provided to rescues this quarter tallied \$450.00

Members of the HWS have coauthored an article in the Journal of Exotic Pet Medicine entitled "Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome in African Pygmy Hegehogs." A second publication is currently in press.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE KATHLEEN H. KNUDSEN, CHAIR

As indicated by the publishing of yet another newsletter, the Newsletter Committee continues to pull together articles to amuse and educate readers. The number of articles ebbs and flows, reflecting the schedules of contributors. If you have something you think might be of interest to others, please do not hesitate to contact anyone involved in the Newsletter Committee!

PUBLIC RELATIONS TONYA THOMAS, Co-CHAIR

The Valentine and Easter fund-raisers were a huge success. We sold over 60 Valentines and 19 Hedgie Easter gift bags. The Comfort Card Program, where a card is sent to the family whose Hedgehog has passed is ongoing. Over 200 Comfort Cards have been sent to date. In a few months we will be doing a Canada Day Event, so look forward to more details in the upcoming weeks. We also want to Thank all of you who took time to fill

out the Members survey. All your suggestions are being discussed.

Quills and Comfort No Report

RESCUE COMMITTEE SHEILA DEMPSEY, CO-CHAIR

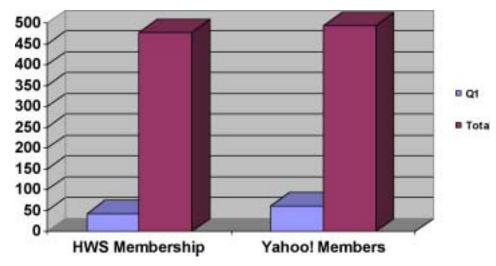
In the first quarter of 2006 we acquired 4 new rescue contacts: Laura Galloway of New Mexico, Cindy Lynn Huggins of Missouri, Beth Randall of Illinois, and Shelley Tozer of New Jersey were introduced in the March/April newsletter.

The "Share With A Shelter" program was also introduced in the first quarter of 2006. Seven Yahoo Group members responded to the introduction program, providing contacts to 13 shelters across the country. Many other members par-

Guess who's turning 5!

HWS will be celebrating its upcoming 5th 'birthday' in part with a special tribute in the September/October newsletter. For this anniversary issue we are asking that each and every one of you send in a little 'blurb' about what the HWS means to you. The deadline for these thoughts will be September 15, 2006, so put on your thinking caps...

ticipated by contacting shelters and providing them with the information via mail. If you are interested in providing your local shelter with hedgehog care information contact Sheila Dempsey for further instructions. (Sheila Dempsey can be reached at SexyTexy@comcast.net)



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

KERRI LEMOTTE, CHAIR

As outlined above, there have been 43 new members to the Hedgehog Welfare Society, for a total of 478. There have been 61 new members to the Hedgehogwelfare Yahoo! Group, for a total of 495 members.

During the previous quarter the literature in the membership welcome kits was redesigned and reformatted. The newly designed information is currently 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 the overall cost of postage.

Petfinder

STEPHANIE HYNE, COORDINATOR

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FINANCIAL REPORT

DONNASUE GRAESSER, TREASURER

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 activities division, and are available for public viewing on the ODJ web site (http://www.doj.state.or.us/ChariGroup/welcome2.htm) Registration # 31631.