



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 #24, SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006

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Real Hedgie Boys Wear Pink

On October 1st The Hedgehog Welfare Society kicked off another fundraiser. This one is a little different, helping two good causes... The Hedgehog Welfare Society and Breast Cancer Research.

Tonya Thomas
Jellico, Tennessee

I call it *Real Pogs Wear Pink*. Our Hedgehog group has lost two wonderful members to breast cancer, and we also have some breast cancer survivors on our list.

Not only do we people need to show our support, you Pogs (both female and male too!) need to join in our effort. Here's what you will get: a beautiful Judie Peters card that has a hedgehog with a pink ribbon, a pink blanket for your hedgehog so they can show their support, a pink Breast Cancer Awareness bracelet for you, and maybe another little surprise. You can get all of this for \$7.00 per card including shipping. I will write what ever message you would like in the card. If you would like to send a card to a friend, or family member who doesn't have a Hedgehog



PHOTO AND ARTWORK: JUDIE PETERS

I will do that too. This is a wonderful way to show you care, to remind someone to do a monthly exam, have a mammogram, or to show them how much you love them.

Get ready hedgies and hedgie people I want to make this the best fund-raiser ever. You will be helping two wonderful causes. I know you Manly Hedgie Boys are not into pink, but please reconsider for this effort. It takes a real man to wear pink!

We will only be taking money orders, checks, and cash through the mail. Paypal costs are too much for small amounts. If you e-mail me with what you want in the card, and who it's to go to, when you send payment I'll have it all ready to send out.

Please think about helping two wonderful causes this month. I know everyone knows someone who has or has had breast cancer. My Grandmother was a survivor.

Hedgie Hugs,
Tonya
animals4u@jelllico.net

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Circle of Light

Judie Peters, Bluffton, SC

Several times a year we honor departed hedgies with a Circle of Light ceremony – Circle ceremonies are coordinated by Carol Fish Kregear. During the ceremony, each participant lights a candle to remember and reflect upon the hedgies being honored; candles are lit simultaneously nationwide and often worldwide.

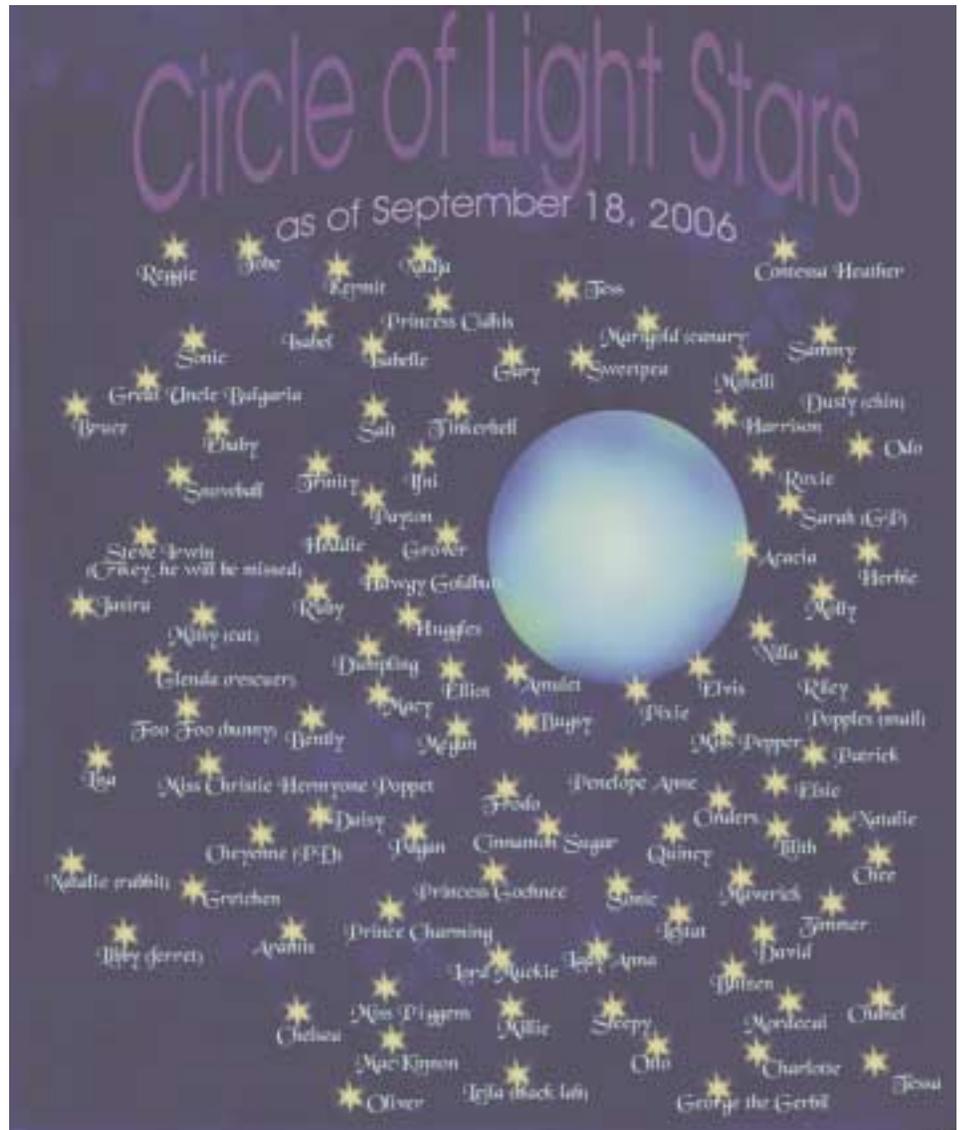
Additionally, at the beginning of each year I create a Circle of Light “Night Sky” art piece. Every time a Circle is conducted, a star is placed in the sky for each hedgie. Sadly, by year’s end the sky is brimming full of stars.

Listed below are the hedgies and other beloved animal companions who have crossed since March 15, 2006.

HEDGIE

GUARDIAN

Acacia Sarah S
 Bently Judy B)
 Chelsea Sarah O
 Daisy Brenda S
 David, Daisy, Ebony, Mary Mary, and Quincy Dawn W
 Elliot Judith
 Elsie Tonya
 George the Gerbil Tonya & Rick
 Hawgy Goldbutt Vicki
 Leila, beloved Black Lab ... Dave & Joy
 MacKinnon Deborah & Kenneth
 Megan Naomi
 Millie Laura & Michelle
 Miss Piggens, Lord Muckie, Prince Charming, Princess Goochnee, and 2 newborns Bonnie & Merle
 Molly Cindy D
 Natalie Tonya
 ‘Nilla Laurel & Wayne
 Oliver Susan M
 Otto Lin
 Patrick Amy & Ana
 Pixie, Pagen, Tinkerbelle, Tessa, Chee, and Lestat Nancy
 Quincy Linda & Gary & DeAnn
 Sleepy Jenn D
 Sonic Kathy S



Suhail, Anais and Boo Kitty Gioia
 Sweetpea, Dusty (chinchilla), Sarah (guinea pig), Legolas (hamster), and Miss Daisy(guinea pig) ... Linda & Gary
 Odo Billy & Darlene
 Sammy Judy
 Minelli Rachel
 Payton Linda & Jim
 Cheyenne (prairie dog), Gretchen, Trinity, Harrison, Kermit, and Tess ... Pat S
 Miss Christie Hermylene Poppet... Laura D
 Nadja Vicki
 Huggles Cyndy
 Willa Susan, John, Cheryl & Audrey
 Aramis, Libby (ferret), and Natalie (rabbit) Tonya & Rick
 Artie Laura D
 Popples and Gary (snail) ... Brenadette
 Princess Cidhis Susan M
 Bruce and Reggie Cindy D
 Marigold (canary) Jess & Nancy D's daughter

Macy Brenda & Connie
 Mitsy (cat) Cyndy's brother Scott
 Bugsy Judie P
 Foo Foo (bunny) Elizabeth
 Glenda(rescue person) .. friends Sheila & Murfi
 Sonic ... Kathy Strunk and Sarah Slack
 Nadja Vicki
 Heddie Kristen Z
 Isabelle Michelle & Laura L
 Isabel Susan M
 Salt CoraLynn
 Great Uncle Bulgaria Jane
 Contessa Heather Donna
 Tobe Pam Funderburg & family
 eBaby Brenda & Standing Bear
 Lisa Bekah
 Snowball Beth
 Steve Irwin “Crocodile Hunter”
 (CRIKEY! He will be missed!)
 Jasira Tiffany
 Ifni and Herbie Gioia

A tribute to Steve Irwin, the world's original Wildlife Warrior



PHOTO: WWW.CROCODILEHUNTER.COM

An interesting day at the Rainbow Bridge

A tribute to Steve Irwin by drharper on Livejournal

[Editor's Note: The wildlife preservation community lost one of its most visible champions in the form of Steve Irwin on September 4, 2006. The following tribute was forwarded to many of the group lists, and is reprinted with the thought that, regardless if the Hedgehog Welfare Society knew him personally, we live on one solitary planet, and will be impacted by this loss, just as we were blessed by his tireless efforts on behalf of the wildlife we share this earth with.]

The Rainbow Bridge is a place of both peace and anticipation as departed pets await their beloved owners.

There are plenty of things to keep them contented while they wait: trees you can't get stuck in, endless meadows, splashing streams, thickets perfect to hide in for pouncing games.

But one day the residents noticed some rather unusual newcomers arrive.

The koalas and the kangaroos slipped in rather quietly, but then came the bearded dragons, the skinks and the goan-nas. The influx of snakes startled an entire family of cats up a tree. Pythons, cobras, tiger snakes, brown snakes and even fierce snakes. There were so many at one point, it seemed the ground itself was alive with writhing.

A burly wombat shouldered his way through the crowd and plopped down in a shady spot, barely missing a Jack Russell terrier who yapped indignantly as he abandoned his position.

And then the crocodiles showed up.

Finally, a Great Dane managed to get up enough nerve to approach one of the reptilian giants.

"Um.... excuse me," he said hesitantly. "But why are you all here?"

The croc dropped her jaw and laughed. "Same as you,

mate," she said. "Waitin' for someone who loved us."

The dogs, cats, gerbils and other "typical pets" looked at each other in confusion, then at the plethora of weird, ugly and downright deadly creatures assembled.

Who on Earth could possibly love some of those faces?

"I see him!" shouted a green mamba from his vantage point in one of the trees. A cacophony of squeeks, hisses, bellows and roars erupted as the mob surged forward toward a lone human walking across the field toward the bridge. The other animals managed to catch a glimpse of him before he was overwhelmed by the crowd.

"CRIKEY!" he shouted joyously right before he was bowled over by the wombat.

"Well I'll be," said a Persian as she tidied up her fur. "It's that Aussie my human liked to watch on TV. Had to be the craziest human on the whole planet."

"Oh, please," remarked an echidna as he hurried by. "Is it really that crazy to passionately love something God made?"



The Literary Hedgehog



PHOTO: LINDA WOODRING

Linda Woodring
Naperville, IL

I was so excited when I went to the mailbox a few days ago, and my pre-ordered copy of Jan Brett's book, *Hedgie Blasts Off* was there waiting for me.

It's the story of Hedgie who works on the clean-up crew at the Star Lab space center. His boss is The Professor who's in charge of all of space.

One day when Hedgie came into work, The Professor told him that there was a problem. On the planet of Mikkop, there was a huge crater that erupted sparkles which kept all the flowers alive and beautiful, and for some reason it had almost completely stopped sending out sparkles. Now since Mikkop was a very popular alien tourist spot because of the sparkles and beautiful flowers, this was a very big problem.

The Professor and all of the other scientists (various types of dogs) at the lab got together and designed a robot probe (that looked very much like an

aluminum hedgie) to go to Mikkop and gather information from the crater. A press conference was called (all the reporters are birds), but when The Professor went to show the robot, it was gone... something obviously had gone very wrong. Since Hedgie was the only

one that would fit in the rocket, he was summoned to go to Mikkop to see what was wrong with the crater.

Well, I don't want to give away the ending of the story, but of course, Hedgie saved the day and is now an official astronaut which was his lifelong dream.

For those of you who aren't familiar with Jan Brett, she considers herself an illustrator... not an author. She writes stories to go along with her illustrations, and in true Jan Brett form, the illustrations in this book are wonderful. She fills each page corner to corner with drawings in all her books, and this is no exception.

As a side note, I had the opportunity to meet Jan Brett a few years ago at a book signing she did at Brookfield Zoo. She's a wonderful lady. I commented on how lifelike her hedgehog drawings are. I was very surprised and pleased to find out that she has had several hedgehogs herself. She told me that even if the book (she only does one a year) isn't about hedgehogs, there will be one somewhere in the book. At that time she was promoting a book about trolls. Inside the front cover were clouds... sure enough... one was shaped like a hedgehog.

So if you have any Jan Brett books, check them out... I bet you'll find a hedgehog. 🐿️



PHOTO: WWW.JANBRETT.COM

Author – and devoted hedgie-lover! – Jan Brett poses with three of her devoted fans.

Hedgehog Safety

This sign – a warning for the possibility of hedgehogs crossing the road – was found in Lulea, an old town in northern Sweden. The sign is provided by a Swedish Nature Protection Society. They encourage others to organize such signs if there are many hedgehogs in their surroundings and you worry that they will be hit by cars. It could work especially in residential areas, where the cars should not drive too fast and have a chance to stop. 🍷



Quills and Comfort

HEALING CANDLE CEREMONY

The Healing Candle Ceremony is a part of the Quills & Comfort program that was started several years ago by Naomi Wikane and her hedge, Hobie. Hobie (and some other hedges) communicated to animal communicators that the lighting of candles was like a big campfire, so the Healing Candle Ceremony was born.

We have them approximately every 4-6 weeks or if someone specifically requests that we have one at a given time. We post a list of names and illnesses of those needing our thoughts (not always just hedgehogs) on both the hedgehogwelfare and pog-chit-chat Yahoo message boards. Everyone across the country and our members in other countries light a candle at the same moment and sit quietly and think of those needing our healing thoughts. Hedges also like to participate, sometimes just staring at the flickering of the light but knowing they're at a campfire with all the other hedges holding paws and thinking of those in need.

We hope you'll join us at the next ceremony. If you would like to have someone added to the list for an upcoming Circle, please post it to one of the message boards or e-mail me privately at hedgiemom@comcast.net and I'll add them. 🍷

– Linda Woodring

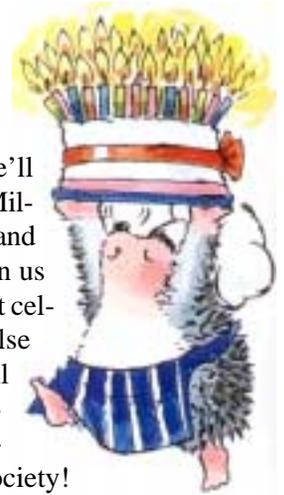
COMFORT CARDS

The Comfort Card Program has been going on for two years with over 230 cards sent to date. A Comfort Card is sent to a Hedgehog Welfare Member who has just lost a hedgehog. If you have any questions on the program you can e-mail me at animals4u@jellico.net 🍷

– Tonya Thomas

Guess who's turning 5!

The Hedgehog Welfare Society will be having its 5th anniversary this year, so we want to celebrate in a way similar to the Circle of Light and Healing Candle ceremonies. We'll be having a short get-together at the Milwaukee hedgehog show to celebrate, and we would like other members to join us in get-togethers in their areas – or just celebrate with your hedges if no one else lives near you. This is an event for all members of the hedgehog community to celebrate the five year anniversary of the Hedgehog Welfare Society!



We encourage all community members to organize a hedges gathering in their neck of the woods over the weekend of October 14. In Milwaukee, we'll be having a Phileas Hogg Look-a-Like contest, so break out your yellow raincoats! If you can't make it to Milwaukee, we will have a "cyber-version" of the Phileas Look-a-Like contest as well. Just do your best impersonation of Phileas, and send photos to: info@hedgehogwelfare.org

We hope there will be many "parallel parties" and Phil contests to help celebrate the first five years of the Hedgehog Welfare Society! 🍷

For more info, contact Cindy DeLaRosa (cinrosa@aol.com) or Linda Woodring (hedgiemom@comcast.net).

"Rescue Me"

Calendars are here!



PHOTO: SHEILA DEMPSEY

Herbie Kerlin suggests you get your calendar before they're gone.

The 2007 Hedgehog Welfare Society Calendar, "Rescue Me" will be on sale through Ruby's Shop on the internet at www.hedgehogwelfare.org in the month of November. It will be the same price as last year, \$20, and features great photos of adorable rescued hedgehogs and a brief story about each. Plan on getting yours for home or office (why not both!?). 🍷

Hedgehog protests force McDonalds redesign

Fast food just became hedgehog-friendly. Hedgehogs finally humbled burger giant McDonald's after years of campaigning, forcing the company to redesign its killer McFlurry ice-cream containers.

Hedgehog campaigners have won their battle against the fast-food giant McDonald's to protect the mammals from the dangers of McFlurry cartons.

For four years they have been campaigning for the ice cream containers to be redesigned to help protect the spiky woodland creatures.

Hedgehogs have been tempted into discarded tubs by the smell of the dessert, only to become trapped and ending up dying of starvation in untold numbers.

There have been several incidences in the Lothians since 2002, which have prompted a national campaign led by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) and backed by the Scottish SPCA.

In 2002, McDonald's agreed to look into redesigning the McFlurry cup after ten hedgehogs needed treatment at the SSPCA's Middlebank Wildlife Centre in Dunfermline.

Now they have come up with a new lid for their cartons which will have a hole big enough to get ice cream out of, but too small for a hedgehog to crawl through.

The new lids are set to be rolled out at fast food outlets across Europe. This means many hedgehog lives will be saved.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) warned about the problem in a recent newsletter. "In the hot weather we have been having, more ice cream is sold, and hedgehogs are desperate for food as the ground is hard and natural food is scarce," it said.

"Unfortunately we also get reports of hedgehogs found



PHOTO: EDINBURGH NEWS

Hedgehogs have been tempted into McFlurry cartons and died, but the hole in the new lid, above, is too small for them.

dead with heads stuck in McFlurry containers, and we can only guess the amount that are never found and die a slow death in a secluded spot."

Today, Fay Vass, spokeswoman for BHPS, said: "Apparently McDonald's are delivering the lids into their restaurants this week, so they should be in use by September.

"It's been a very long campaign, we've been pushing for five years, which is far too long, but we're very glad that the changes seem to be happening." A spokeswoman for McDonald's said: "McDonald's has undertaken significant research and testing to develop new packaging for our McFlurry dessert that addresses this issue.

"The smaller aperture of the lid has been designed to prevent hedgehogs from entering the McFlurry container in the unfortunate incidence that a lid is littered and is then accessible to wildlife.

"New lids were delivered into all UK restaurants as of Monday, August 21. Our restaurants and packaging will continue to display anti-littering messaging to encourage our customers to dispose of their litter responsibly, and we conduct daily litter patrols whereby we collect not only McDonald's packaging but also any other litter that has been carelessly discarded."

The move has been welcomed by the SSPCA.

A spokeswoman said: "In the last few months, members of the public have discovered a couple of hedgehogs trapped in McFlurry lids, but have been talked through how to release them.

"We do have lots of animals that are affected by litter - ring-pulls are the worst. We frequently have to treat animals who have been eating discarded paper and plastic bags. The BHPS are the hedgehog experts, so if McDonald's are responding to their concerns and doing something about it, we're really pleased."



(AP PHOTO/BRITISH HEDGEHOG PRESERVATION SOCIETY, HO)

In this undated photo released by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, a hedgehog eats left over ice cream from a discarded cup.

Milwaukee Rendezvous Hedgehog Show

As of today, there are 42 people coming, ranging in ages from age 3 (Simon) to age 93 (Aunt Mabel). We've got folks coming from Iowa, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Connecticut, Maryland, Colorado, Illinois and Minnesota. It looks like we'll have close to 50 hedgies in attendance also.

We've planned a nice get acquainted dinner for Friday night. During this time our vendor area will be open (our vendors are Pins and Needles, Hedgehog Welfare Society, Dawn Wrobel, and Milwaukee Superpogs. After dinner Ms. Dawn Wrobel will give a talk titled "What Else Can I Do?" covering animal communication, massage, sound therapy, color therapy and other practices to complement veterinary care of us hedgies.

Mr. Floyd Aprill will talk on the importance of ultrasound for us girlies. Then we'll have the Hedge Pin-Bowling event, which is a fund raiser for three

different hedgie groups here in the US. Oh, and we shouldn't forget that Phileas II will be in attendance and all of us pogs will have an opportunity to get our pictures taken with him and his new motorcycle (shhh, it's a secret, he doesn't know he's getting one yet!).

Saturday morning will find us at the cities' horticultural domes, where we will hold a conformation show, and after a lunch break for our parents, we'll be showing off our skills in our exercise balls in a sporting event. Later that afternoon, we'll reconvene at our hotel and finish our sporting events and have our costume competition.

Saturday evening is the big banquet, the rainbow bridge ceremony (so graciously planned and all the materials designed and sent to us by Judie Peters!), a talk by Dr. Donnasue Graesser on the Hedgehog Welfare Society, the Phileas II Look Alike Contest (which is being held to celebrate Hedgehog Welfare's 5th birthday you know!), and an auction to benefit two hedgie groups (one here in the US and one in Scotland).

Sunday morning we finish out our weekend with a second conformation show, and a ceremony honoring all the hedgie Grand Champions.

Whew, we can hardly believe that our show is almost here. We look forward to seeing all our hedgie friends, both old and new, here in Milwaukee on October 13, 14, 15th at the Milwaukee Hedgehog Rendezvous Show. 🍷

XOXO,

Miss Molly Dolly Snickerdoodles Sassy Pants Show Queen Weaver
Miss Greta Babycakes Cranky Pants Show Princess Weaver

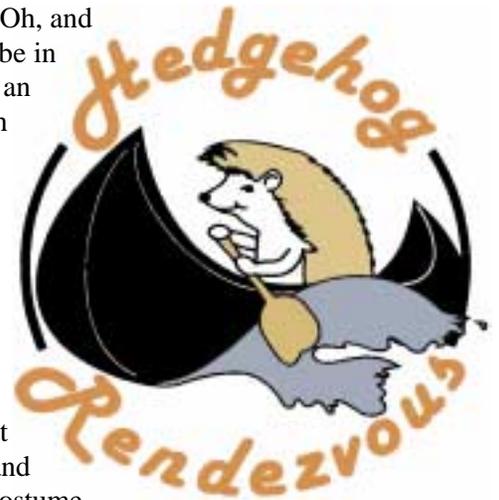
Welcome New Rescue Contacts

Rescue Committee Co-chairs Julie Meyers-Rocco and Sheila Dempsey would like to recognize the following new Rescue Contacts:

Julie Pierce, Attleboro, MA
Kathy Colburn, Oxford, AL
Jane Karr, Rochester Hills, MI
Kris Pozder, Great Falls, MT
Bonnie Campbell, Morris AL
Jenny Tse, Fairbanks, AK
Lisa Lemieux, Chicopee, MA

Thanks to all of you for opening your hearts and homes to needy hedgehogs in your area.

If you are interested in becoming a rescue contact simply contact Sheila Dempsey at SexyTxy@comcast.net.



She's looking for you! Ms Molly Dolly Snickerdoodle Sassy Pants Show Queen Weaver has really gone 'above and beyond the call of duty' in preparation for the Rendezvous.