



# The Hedgehog Welfare Society

TO PROTECT THE WELL-BEING OF PE HEDGEHOGS THROUGH RESCUE, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR THEM. NEWSLETTER #26, JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

## SPARKLES NAOMI'S STORY As told to Cyndy Bennett

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

### *HWS Contacts / Committees*

**Chief Volunteer Officer**  
Linda Woodring  
hedgiemom@comcast.net

**Vice Chief Volunteer Officer**  
Jennifer Plombon  
advohws@aol.com

**Advocacy—Pet-store/USDA Liaisons**  
Jennifer Plombon, Stephanie Hyne  
advohws@aol.com

**Rescue Coordination**  
Sheila Dempsey, Cyndy Bennett  
rescue@hedgehogwelfare.org

**Health Research and Education**  
Gioia Kerlin, Julie Hintz  
Health@hedgehogwelfare.org

**Rescue Care Packages**  
Jennifer Plombon  
advohws@aol.com

**Quills and Comfort**  
Judie Peters, Carol Fish Kregear,  
Jennifer Plombon  
advohws@aol.com

**Public Relations**  
Cindy DeLaRosa, Tonya Thomas  
publicrelations@hedgehogwelfare.org

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

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

**Newsletter Editor / Assistant Editor**  
Jennifer Sobon, Donnasue Graesser  
newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org

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

**Membership**  
Kerri LeMotte  
onceuponabluemoon@hotmail.com



Sparkles Naomi

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Sparkles Naomi Bennett. I am the Mommy to Baxter Woodring and Princess Chloe Bennett. I was asked if I would write about babies having babies.

I was born on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2006. I don't remember much of my baby life except that I was living with my brother. We got taken to a Pet Store at about 2 ½ months of age. The man said that I was probably pregnant. I was sure no one would want me.

*Continues on page 2...*

### *In this issue*

Sparkles Naomi .....	page 1
Lucy Laughs.....	5
Finding a Hedgehog-Savvy Veterinarian.....	6
Will the real Phileas, Please stand up.....	7
HWS Officer and Committee reports.....	8
Simon Says/ Partytime / Birthday Cake Recipe.....	9
2006 Election Results .....	10
The Literary Hedgehog.....	11

## SPARKLES NAOMI ...

(...Continued from page 1)

Then the Pet Store man told some guy about me. The next thing I knew that guy came and rescued me on August 7<sup>th</sup>. He told the Pet Shop Manager that I needed a safe home, I should not be living with a boy and if I was pregnant at my young age it was not good. My new Daddy took me to meet my new Mommy. Daddy said I look just like Huggles. Mommy looked at me and said, "no she doesn't all I can see is a white butt."

I was certain that if I had babies they would not want me. I got to my new home and the next thing I knew I was leaving again. I was sad. I thought for sure I was going to have to go away. The Mommy brought me to a place she said was their vet's office.

Dr. C saw me and Mommy told him that there was a strong possibility I was pregnant. He was so gentle with me and talked to me. He told me I was very pretty and very lucky that my Daddy came and got me. Dr. C said that my new parents were very good at taking care of and loving their hedgies.

Dr. C found I had ear mites and started treatment to make them go away. He also asked Mommy a bunch of questions about me but she could not tell him much. Dr. C told Mommy to expect to find babies any day. My Mommy said "I hope she is not pregnant."

On the ride home I thought I am going to have babies and my Mommy said she hopes I don't. I worried what would happen when I had them. Would my babies and I have to go live somewhere else? When we got back home Mommy and Daddy were talking. They setup a condo on the other side of the room for me.

I gained weight steadily everyday. On August 17<sup>th</sup>, I weighed 458 grams. A weight gain of 70 grams in 10 days. I got back rubs from my Mommy which felt so good I went to sleep every time. She handled me and talked to me so gently. I was not used to this at all but I loved it.

On August 18<sup>th</sup> I woke up my Mommy by screaming for help. She came running in to her study to check on us girls. (I had two sisters that I had not met yet because I was still in quarantine). Mommy looked ready to pass out when she saw blood smeared all over in my condo. She took me out so gently and I could tell she was ready to cry. I felt cold and Mommy hurried to warm me up. She also saw that my back left foot was bleeding; so she was trying to stop the bleeding and check out my condo to see if there were babies. My Mommy cleaned up my condo in between caring for me. She called the vet as soon as the

office opened and brought me in right away.

Our vet thought for sure I had miscarried and had me in the back room for 1 ½ hours. I was certain my Mommy had left me there. The vet told Mommy what to look for in the stuff she cleaned up. She was to look for "mucus slugs". I got my toe fixed up and some sub-q fluids. My weight was down 28 grams from the day before. My Mommy did not find any mucus slugs and called the vet to tell him that.

On August 19<sup>th</sup> I did not want to eat and I lost more weight I weighed 426 grams. My Mommy gave me some sub-q fluids and syringe fed me.

By August 20<sup>th</sup> I weighed 430 grams but I was still not eating or drinking on my own. I had some *Whiska Turkey & Giblets* for the first time. I ate a little of that. I went to sleep and when I woke up I had green stools and had foamy green stuff coming from my mouth. My Mommy thought I ate my poop and was anointing with it.

On August 21<sup>st</sup> I weighed 424 grams and I was still not feeling well at all. I still was not eating or drinking on my own. My Mommy cried whenever she came to see me. She thought for sure I was going to die. I felt like I was going to die. I just lay there not wanting to move. I looked up at my Mommy, asking her to help me.

My Mommy got in touch with the wonderful people at *Breeders Helping Breeders*. At the advice of an experienced Breeder, she put my wheel back in my condo. That night I used my wheel a little and ate and drank on my own. I was sleeping a lot. My weight was up to 452 grams. Mommy checked it twice. Then she thought, okay, you did not go potty yet so that is probably why it is up so much.

On August 22<sup>nd</sup> I weighed 478 grams. My Mommy handled me so very gently and gave me a back rub and talked to me. She told me that she was going away for a few days but Daddy would be here to take care of us girls. She also told me she had made a list of phone numbers in case something happened when the vet's office was not open.

On August 23<sup>rd</sup> I was screaming and screaming for help. My Mommy did not come right away like before and my two sisters were going crazy in their condos. I kept screaming for my Mommy to help me. When Mommy pulled into the driveway from work early that morning she heard me screaming for help. She ran as fast as she could to get to me. My condo was trashed and my wheel was dumped over and I was still screaming. My two sisters wanted Mommy also. Mommy put them in their critter balls and they disappeared like magic. Mommy

*Continues on page 3...*

## SPARKLES NAOMI ...

(...Continued from page 2)

opened the condo and took out the wheel. She did not see any blood. She then ever so gently lifted me out while I was still screaming. She looked me over after laying me on a fleece blankie, and then looked in the condo for signs of babies. There were no signs of babies, so she started to check me out again. I kept on screaming, and Mommy thought I had broken something. Then she noticed a bulge coming from my vulva area. I was having my first baby and it felt like it was stuck. My Mommy moved me a little a couple times then my first baby finally came out. Mommy said it was huge. She put me and my baby into the nesting box and called Breeders until she got in touch with someone. They calmed my Mommy down and told her what to do. During the day other Breeders called to give Mommy advice. She wrote everything down, because the next day Mommy was traveling out of state and Daddy would have to take care of me.

On August 24<sup>th</sup> Mommy stopped in real quick to check on us girls before leaving on her trip. She told us she would call Daddy later to see how everything was going. That night Daddy found no poops or pee in my condo. Then a real bad storm hit our area. He kept checking on us girls. He was worried about how he was going to get me and my babies to shelter without disturbing our nest. He did not sleep at all that night.

On August 25<sup>th</sup> I came out to eat and drink but still I did not potty. Daddy was concerned so he posted to *Breeders Helping Breeders*. The wonderful people on that list said this was normal and to expect to see huge poops soon. He said he was relieved when he heard little huffs and squeaks coming from the nesting box. He asked me how many babies I had in there but I did not tell him.

August 26<sup>th</sup> in the evening I came out, pottied, ate and drank then went back into the nesting box. I heard my daddy say "Oh my gosh those poops are huge!"

August 27<sup>th</sup> my Mommy came home and talked to me, Princess and Baxter and told us she was back. She said I was being a wonderful Mommy at my young age.

Everything was going well with me and my babies. At about three weeks of age I let Mommy and Daddy see my little girl. They said they were so proud of me and that I had just the cutest baby! I let them take pictures of us together.

September 10<sup>th</sup> I started having some loose stools. Mommy was told this can happen to nursing Moms. Mommy kept monitoring my stools.



September 21<sup>st</sup> we had the first sign that something was terribly wrong. I had liquid stools. Mommy spooned some of it into a container and brought it into the vet's office. I had 3+ giardia. My vet was concerned because I was nursing. He said if he ever saw a giardia reading this high it was a real long time ago. I was started on oral *Flagyl* twice a day.

Mommy asked if it was safe to go into the nesting box to get me because I was not coming out any more. She was told it should be safe but she really did not have a choice. If I did not get treated, my babies and I would all die. She got brave and took me out saying I looked real pale and sick. She gave me my medicine, wrapped me in a fleece blanket and settled me in the opposite corner of the nesting box so I could calm down.

When my Mommy came home from work on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, she came in to check on us girls. She started to clean Cuddles and Snuggles condos when disaster hit! I was so sick that I started to attack my babies. I flipped my little girl out of the nest box so hard that she went limp. Mommy hurried to close up the other two condos and open my condo. By this time I was out attacking my little girl again. My little boy head butted me and stood in between me and my little girl. I then went after him. Mommy reached in and grabbed my two babies one in each hand. My little boy was still trying to get me and I was still trying to get him. Mommy was blocking me in my condo with her body. Then she bumped me with her hip and I fell backward. There was just enough time for her to slam the door shut with her foot. I did not know why all this was happening. I felt like I was dying.

*Continues on page 4...*

## SPARKLES NAOMI ...

(...Continued from page 3)

Mommy thought for sure my little girl was dead. She could not get her to move. Mommy called the vet's office and brought us all in right away. The staff had a room ready and Dr. J was right there waiting for us. After what seemed like forever, he got my little girl to respond. He checked out the babies and told Mommy he did not know if the little girl would live. Mommy swallowed hard and said, "We will give it our best shot". She asked about me and my chances of surviving. Dr. J said "we are still working on her." Mommy was in one room with the staff trying to feed my babies with a syringe while I was in the back with the vet team.

Dr. J came into the room Mommy was in and told her I was critically sick. I needed to be kept warm, quiet and separated from my babies. I would have to have an injection everyday for 5 days and sub-q fluids as needed. My babies could stay together for warmth and company. Dr. J said my little boy had the best chance of surviving.

When we got home Mommy told Daddy everything and he jumped right in to help. My babies were fed every two hours around the clock except for one period when neither Daddy nor Mommy was home. After they were done



feeding my babies then it was my turn. Mommy and Daddy got very little sleep during this time. They did this faithfully for several days until the babies could eat on their own. I was told my babies' names that day. My little girl's name is Princess and my little boy's name is Baxter.

September 25<sup>th</sup> Mommy came home and saw tufts of fur in the babies' condo. She thought something had gotten in there with them. She checked out both babies. Princess was fine but when she looked at Baxter his tummy was covered with blood! Mommy washed him off and saw that he was missing fur and his little boy part was oozing blood. He was taken to the vet right away. He got a shot to help with swelling so he could pee and was put on oral medicine to prevent infection. Mommy would have to put ointment in that area to prevent the skin from drying out and causing him to scratch everything open.

When Mommy came home with Baxter, Daddy was feeding Princess. When Mommy set Baxter down, he ran over and bit his sister's quills and pulled them. Now they had to be separated. After all this, Baxter did not want to be in the same room with Princess. They think that Princess may have mistaken Baxter's boy part for my nipple. Ouch!

September 29<sup>th</sup> I was at the vet because I was not eating or drinking on my own.

From September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup> I went back to the vet. They tried to draw blood but they only got one drop. My stool was negative for giardia. Mommy and the vet discussed different treatment plans but neither felt comfortable with the side effects.

I got to go to the Milwaukee Show with the rest of my family. Mommy said if something bad was going to happen, at least I would be with them.

October 26<sup>th</sup> I went back to the vet and my oral and physical exams were good. They finally got enough blood for lab work. My labs came back within normal limits but my red packed blood cells were barely within normal limits. My mini profile showed all my organs were functioning within normal limits. I weighed 298 grams that day.

November 6<sup>th</sup> I was eating with Mommy's help and slowly starting to gain weight. I was starting to maintain my weight at 314 grams.

Princess began losing her baby teeth. Mommy found some and put them away for a keepsake.

December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> I tore up my puppy pad liners. I stopped going potty except a few very tiny, hard, mouse-size poops.

*Continues on page 5...*

# SPARKLES NAOMI ...

(...Continued from page 4)

On December 7<sup>th</sup> I was rushed into the vet and had barium x-rays done. The x-rays showed that my small bowels were folded back on each other. Dr. J told my Mommy "I've never lost a hedgie to bowel obstruction and Sparkles will not be my first." There was a rock hard, long, thin lump in my rectal/uterine area.

December 8<sup>th</sup> I started to vomit and spent all day at the vet's. Dr. J was there and had my Mommy's permission to do surgery if needed. Dr. J said I was not strong enough for surgery and that it would be the last resort. He said, "If we go in and do surgery we my lose her." Dr C took over when Dr J had to leave. They kept in constant contact with Mommy all day. Finally Mommy got the call that I could come home. They had been able to straightened things out without doing surgery and I had a bowel move-

ment. I was being put on some medicine to help get my bowels moving normally.

Now it is January 21, 2007 and I feel much better. I eat, drink and potty on my own. I am so glad my Daddy, Mommy and my vets did not give up on me. I saw the total of my vet bills and the bills for my kids. Together they came to \$1,796.49! Mommy said they figured I was only 7 weeks old when I became pregnant. She told me I would never have to go through that again.

I want to thank Auntie Linda and Uncle Jim Woodring for taking in Baxter and giving him a forever, loving home. I know difficulties can happen in any pregnancy but please make sure you know what you are doing before you breed. Don't breed your hedgies when they are too young. Thanks to all the wonderful people on *Breeders Helping Breeders* for their support and help. I am so lucky to have family and friends that care deeply for all hedgies.

Love,  
Sparkles Naomi

**Looking for the perfect gift?**  
**Check out the great selection at Ruby's Store.**  
**[www.hedgehogwelfare.org](http://www.hedgehogwelfare.org)**  
**All proceeds go to research, rescue and education of**  
**our quilly friends.**



I'd like to introduce you to Lucy Laughs. Each issue will include either a comic, puzzle or other fun little tid-bit for you to enjoy. If you have something you would like to see in Lucy Laughs, you can e-mail the editor with your ideas.  
 ~Editor  
[newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org](mailto:newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org)

## Lucy Laughs

SCRICKETSIOPETUCMI  
 RWCITOXEITUBESOEYS  
 EFHAYIVNNHYERGAXET  
 PAVEWQUILLSPDLLITU  
 PNRJERPRSAEYWABEAW  
 EKIBBLEAFOIOEDIAELA  
 POCPESTOCIRPALNSOX  
 DBTICXEYGMCDNORCW  
 NTXENLBOSTANDARDOO  
 AMSCANBSMFRNKPSEHR  
 TJOESRAGOHEGDEHLCM  
 LKSECOTMLEKALFWONS  
 AFBLNHOOACYJESMHE  
 STEFIBSKENGAPMAHCR

- |           |           |                 |        |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------|
| hedgehog  | rescues   | apricot         | visor  |
| mealworms | standard  | cinnamon        | tubes  |
| waxworms  | snowflake | grey            | baths  |
| crickets  | albino    | champagne       | wheel  |
| fleece    | pinto     | chocolate       | exotic |
| quills    | kibble    | salt and pepper | cute   |

# Finding a Hedgehog-Savvy Veterinarian

Laura Dunklee

(Disclaimer: We do not vouch for any of the veterinary care provided by any of the vets you may find as a result of this article.)

One of the challenges of being a hedgehog caretaker is finding a veterinarian who is experienced in working with small exotics; or, failing that, finding a veterinarian who is willing to educate themselves in the health issues that affect our quilled charges.

## Where to Start

So you have a hedgehog, or are about to get one, and you know that as a responsible hedgehog caretaker you need to have a veterinarian all lined-up and ready to go. But where will you find a healthcare provider for your hedgegie? Here are some starting points:

## Your Current Veterinarian

You may already have a veterinarian who cares for the health needs of your other critters and with whom you can work comfortably. Ask your current veterinarian if he or she treats hedgehogs or if he or she would be interested in doing so. Some vets like working with unusual animals and feel comfortable taking on new species.

However, others prefer to have a more limited clientele. If your vet is not comfortable caring for hedgehogs, then ask if they can provide a recommendation for another veterinarian for your hedgegie.

If you strike out with your regular vet, don't hesitate to ask the front office staff if they know of any vets who work with hedgehogs. The veterinary community is like any other specialized group and chances are that the office staff has spoken with other vet's offices. They might have some suggestions for you.

## On-Line Resources

There are currently several well-maintained, regularly updated websites that have listings for vets who will treat hedgehogs. Check-out the HWS list at (<http://www.hedgehogwelfare.org>). Another hedgehog-specific vet list available at *Hedgehog Central* (<http://www.hedgehogcentral.com>).

You might also try the website for the *Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians* (<http://www.aemv.org/>) which has a link for Vet Listings on the menu bar on the home page.

~~ advertisement ~~

## Red Hat Society



On Thursday, June 8, 2006, the idea for the Hedgehog Red Hat Society began formulating in the minds of three breeders, two rescuers, and three hedgegie slaves at the base of Pikes Peak in Manitou Springs, Colorado. These nine hedgehog enthusiasts decided to recognize special hedgehog ladies who have reached the grand age of four years old or older. After several meetings and hours of crafting, the Hedgehog Red Hat Society was officially launched on October 10, 2006.

By joining this elite club, your hedgehog will receive:

Decorated Red Hat	Beautiful Thick Red Hat Lap Pad
Decorated TP Tube	Laminated Membership ID Card
Red Hat Poem	Membership Certificate
Welcome Card	Photo Page in <i>The Red Hat Album</i>

Each member will receive a special gift and card on their succeeding birthdays. The committee will also be sending out a monthly newsletter. Once a hedgegie girl joins and receives her packet, take a picture of the grand lady in her Red Hat finery and submit it to the committee. That picture along with all the stats will then be placed in a *The Red Hat Photo Album*. The album will be taken and displayed at all hedgehog functions that a committee member attends.

Come check out the Red Quill Shop. There you will find other nice items to purchase that follow the red hat theme. Candles, pencil holders, bags and photo frames are just some of the things you will find there.

# Will the Real Phileas, Please Stand Up!

Donnasue Graesser

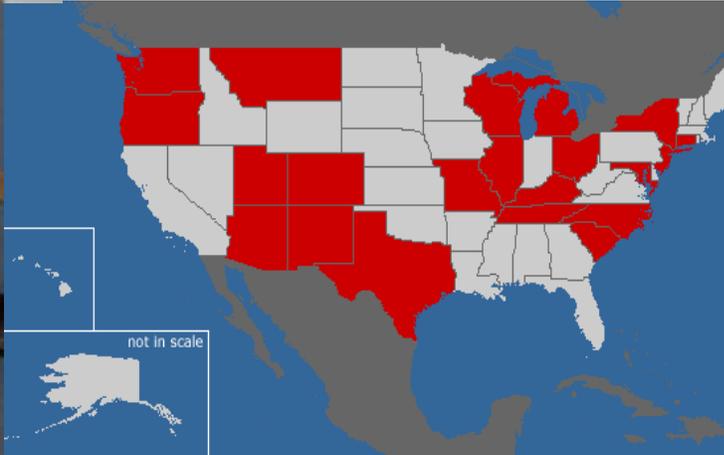


## Milwaukee, Wisconsin

They say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Phileas Hogg and Sweetie Pie must have been very flattered during the "Phileas Hogg Look Alike" contest at the Milwaukee Hedgehog Rendezvous this past October. Hedge people donned their best yellow raincoats, red hats, and pink-poodle attire. Cindy DeLaRosa and Simon Corraera took home the prize for their uncanny resemblance to Phileas and Sweetie Pie.

Phileas decided he had enough of the yellow raincoats and red hats, and is planning on a complete makeover for the Milwaukee Show. Phileas "the chameleon" Hogg tried on some new looks including the "Wisconsin Cheesehead" look, the "Harley Hogg" look, and the "Marquette scholar" look.

Phileas has visited 21 states and 3 continents. To follow the complete Phabulous Adventures of Phileas Hogg, check out his online travel blog at: <http://www.phileashogg2.blogspot.com/>



## **Hedgehog Welfare Society Officer and Committee Reports 2006 Quarter 3 (July-September)**

### **Vice Chief Volunteer Officer, Linda Woodring**

Continued doing the Healing Candle ceremonies. Started working with Carol Fish Kregear on the contents of an information package to send out to vets. Reposted information about the hedgeie sitting project, but there doesn't seem to be much positive response.

### **Chief Organizing Officer, Vicki McLean: No Report**

### **Chief Information Officer, Carol Fish Kregear: 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**

During this quarter the HWS Rescue Care Packages Committee shipped or delivered **12** 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, hat sales, and personal donations.

### **Fundraising and Ruby's Rescue Shop – Donnasue Graesser, Manager**

Our major fundraiser this quarter was an ebay auction for the set of holiday ornaments from the ornament exchange. The auction was very successful! Ruby's shop had a good quarter, and ended up the year with a small, but significant, profit.

### **Health and Education Committee – Gioia Kerlin, Co-chair**

During this quarter the H&E Committee funded four hundred dollars in veterinary bills for rescued hedgehogs. Members of the Committee also attended several educational events including a "Critter Connection" day at the Newington Petco in Connecticut, the Empire State Animal Protection Forum in New York, and the Milwaukee Rendezvous Hedgehog Show. Members who attended the Hedgehog Rendezvous presented an educational seminar titled "Happy, Healthy Hedgehogs: How you and your hedgehog can participate in hedgehog health research" and a brief history and overview of the HWS, its research projects and its goals.

### **Membership Committee, Kerri LeMotte: No Report**

### **Newsletter Committee: No Report**

### **Public Relations - Tonya Thomas, Co-chair**

During this quarter, we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the HWS. The celebration included passing out "anniversary" magnets at the Milwaukee Show, a Phileas Hogg Look-a-Like contest, and a table at the Milwaukee Hedgehog Show. We also participated in several other events, including the Critter Connection Small Animal rescue day, and the Empire State Animal Protection Forum. The PR committee did a table in Tennessee and was a great success. Look for up coming fundraisers for the HWS!

### **Quills and Comfort: No Report**

### **Rescue Committee, Sheila Dempsey: No Report**

### **Petfinder, Stephanie Hyne: 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](mailto: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

Simon Correra, Windham, Connecticut

These are a special treat that my mom and I like to make for Hedgehog Day. They are super delicious!! We got this recipe from our friend, Samara.

**YOU MUST HAVE SUPERVISION from mom, dad, or another adult for the cooking part of the recipe.** But, kids will love to create the hedgies from peanut butter, dip them into the chocolate "quills," and the very best part – adding the peanut ears!



### Peanut Butter Truffle Hedgehogs

2/3 cup (150 ml) condensed milk

1 cup peanut butter chips

60 peanuts

sprinkles and chocolate for decorating

In a saucepan, heat condensed milk over medium-low heat until hot, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat. Whisk in peanut butter chips until smooth. Transfer to bowl. Place plastic wrap on surface of dough; refrigerate until cool, about 1 hour.

Split 30 of the peanuts into halves; set aside for ears. Roll heaping teaspoonfuls of the dough into balls; push 1 whole peanut into the centre of each.. Press dough around peanut to form hedgehog shape. Push 2 peanut halves in for ears. Place on wax paper lined sheet and cover with plastic wrap, refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour.

Melt chocolate in saucepan or microwave. Decorate the hedgehogs with the melted chocolate and sprinkles and voila!

### Hey, all you hedgies...are you ready to party???

Starting with the March/April issue, we'll be posting all the hedgie birthdays so you and all your friends can celebrate. And in order to do it up right, we're giving you Laura D's wonderful salmon fruit birthday cake recipe so your mom can make one for your celebration. Until next time...

*Partytime!*

### Hedgie Birthday Cake

Whip one egg until frothy and pour about 1/2 into a very small microwave safe dish.

Add a small amount of flaked, broiled (no seasoning) salmon fruit.

Cover with plastic wrap & microwave until set (it'll puff up and then collapse back on itself).

When cooled, use a sharp knife to run around the edge of the bowl to loosen the "cake".

Frost with baby food and drizzle with baby food sweet potatoes. Garnish with ground kibble and add freeze-dried mealies as candles.



## 2006 Election Results!

The Hedgehog Welfare Society is an organization of individuals, each possessing unique talents, strengths, and expertise. We, and our hedgehogs, enjoy the benefits of learning from each other and collaboration amongst the group. Our election process is a very important opportunity for every HWS member to participate in our society of hedgehog caretakers and advocates.

Nominations were solicited and election ballots were sent electronically to active members of the Hedgehog Welfare Society. Although we only received one nomination per available position, the members of the HWS voted overwhelmingly to approve the election of the following board members:

Chief Volunteer Officer, Linda Woodring  
Chief Organizing Officer, Vicki McLean

Advocacy Committee Co-chair, Jennifer Plombon  
Care Packages Committee Chair, Jennifer Plombon  
Health & Education Committee Co-chair, Julie Hintz  
Newsletter Editor, Jennifer Sobon

Public Relations Co-chair, Tonya Thomas

Vice Chief Volunteer Officer, Jennifer Plombon  
Chief Financial Officer, Donnasue Graesser

Advocacy Committee Co-chair, Stephanie Hyne  
Health & Education Committee Co-chair, Gioia Kerlin  
Membership Chair, Kerri LeMotte  
Newsletter Assistant Editor, Donnasue Graesser

Public Relations Co-chair, Cindy DeLaRosa

Rescue Committee Co-chair, Cindy Bennett

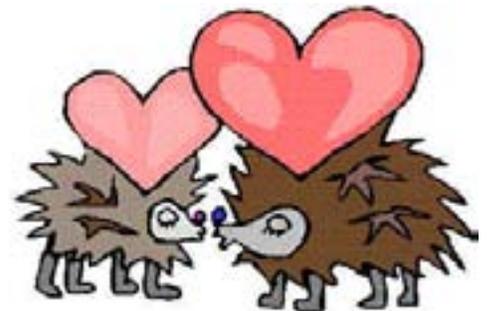
## Wrap Your Hedgie in Valentine's Day Love

~~ advertisement ~~



The multi-talented and very creative Cindy DeLaRosa is offering the perfect Valentine's Day gift for your sweetie, hedgie, or hedgie-mom. All proceeds will benefit hedgehog rescue, research and education.

Cupid Cindy is now taking orders for custom designed hedgie-sized bath towels. There are four graphics to choose from: a solid heart, three stacked hearts, an outline of a heart, and the hedgie that's on the towel available from Ruby's Rescue Shop (<http://www.hedgehogwelfare.org>) Contact Cindy for help in choosing graphics, wording, and fonts to design a one-of-a-kind special towel for your special Valentine. You can get in touch with cupid Cindy at [cindrosa@aol.com](mailto:cindrosa@aol.com)



# The Literary Hedgehog

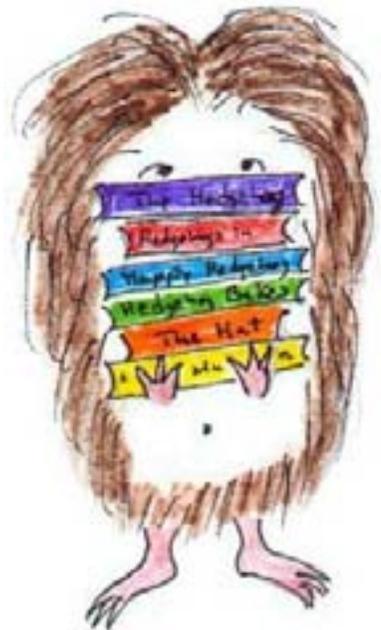
Naomi Wikane

I've recently acquired the book *IN NATURE'S NAME: AN ANTHOLOGY OF WOMEN'S WRITING AND ILLUSTRATION, 1780-1930*. Ed. By Barbara T. Gates. It includes the text of *Hedgehogs*, an unpublished manuscript by Beatrix Potter which is in the Victorian and Albert Museum Library in London. Beatrix Potter is the author of the *Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle*. She kept wild hedgehogs as pets along with other wild creatures and studied them carefully. The date of this writing is not given but I'm guessing circa 1905. That is when she wrote the book and had Tiggywinkle. The following quotation from Miss. Potter's manuscript reveals her beliefs about hibernation:

*The generally received idea that hibernation, like the freezing of water, depends directly upon a given low temperature is not borne out by intimate acquaintance with the habits of hedgehogs, wild or tame. Their footprints may be seen in the snow and there is nothing mysterious in the fact.*

*The (hibernating trance) cataleptic state is entirely under the animal's own control, and only in a secondary degree dependent on the weather. My tame hedgehog could rouse herself at half an hour's notice at any time, even during a severe frost; and conversely she could 'go off' at will on a merely wet day in August, or upon the hearth-rug in front of a hot fire.*

*I have watched the somewhat ghastly process on several occasions. The first time I saw it I administered brandy, being under the impression that the animal was dying. The trick is done by swallowing the breath, like Stevenson's 'Secunda Das' in The Master of Ballantrae. The hedgehog composes itself comfortably, usually after a large meal and an evening of extra liveliness. It closes its eyes and holds its breath, occasionally it catches a breath in spite of itself with a sobbing gasp. The process looks difficult and highly uncomfortable; and the animal is very cross if interrupted. Gradually the involuntary gasps come at longer intervals, the extremities grow cold and the nose becomes quite dry. In less than an hour the cataleptic trance is complete. When the hedgehog wants to return to the world the process is reversed, the breathing which has been slow and faint during the trance is quickened tremendously. I think I have counted 120 respirations to the minute. The first visible result of this vigorous consumption of air is a wetness of the hitherto dry nose. The heat reaches the paws last. The waking up is a much slower process than the going off, and the animal is often painfully weak and nervous for several hours.*



As I researched hibernation in the books in my personal library by Herter(1963), Burton(1969), and Reeve( 1994) I found lots of detailed studies and material about fat, body temperature, heart rate, breathing and metabolism for example. But nowhere did I find any description of the process like Miss Potter witnessed.

**Watch for up-coming auctions to benefit Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome research! The more you bid, the more we find out about the cause and treatment of this dreaded disease.**