



The Hedgehog Welfare Society

Newsletter #54 July / August 2011

To protect the well-being of pet hedgehogs through rescue, research and education of the people who care for them.

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Exploring a clay pot

Fifth Graders Petition to Legalize Hedgies in PA

By Margaret Mvhr

It all began when the fifth graders at Cleveland Elementary School in Allentown, Pennsylvania, considered the idea of getting a pet for their classroom. When they decided a hedgehog would be a great addition to their class, their teacher, Rebecca Bodnar, began researching pet hedgehogs.

When she learned that it is illegal to possess a hedgehog in Pennsylvania, Mrs. Bodnar turned the search for a pet into an exercise in civics. We the People: Project Citizen is a program administered by the Center for Civic Education which promotes responsible participation in local and state government. It is funded by the U.S. Congress through the U.S. Department of Education. Students learn about government by selecting a public policy problem, researching it as a group and developing a portfolio to recommend change based on government practices. The 21 students in Mrs.

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We surveyed **253 people** and
out of the people
16 teachers,
29 parents, and
208 students
signed the petition to legalize
hedgehogs in Pennsylvania

This poster was part of the fifth grade's presentation to the Pennsylvania legislature. Used with permission.

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Bodnar's fifth grade class decided to lobby the State of Pennsylvania to legalize hedgehogs and allow them to be classroom pets!

They developed a five step plan for their project:

- Step 1:** Contact local representatives, senators, the mayor, the governor and the Lehigh Valley Zoo to see if we can get support.
- Step 2:** Get petitions signed to legalize hedgehogs in PA.
- Step 3:** Talk to the local community to have the problem known.
- Step 4:** Hope that someone hears us that has the power to present the problem in Harrisburg.
- Step 5:** Have a cute, adorable, loving, hypoallergenic hedgehog as a class pet in the near future.

They began researching hedgehogs and preparing a lengthy presentation. They created a petition and gathered 253 signatures. Then they sent a letter to Ed Pawlowski, Mayor of Allentown, as well as letters to the Lehigh Valley Zoo, the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and Tom Corbett, Governor of Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Bodnar sent an email about the project to Bill White, a columnist for the Allentown newspaper, The Morning Call. She asked him if anyone could write an article to support her class in their fight for hedgehogs. She even invited him to meet the class!

First Mr. White did some Internet research on hedgehogs:

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Turns out there's lots of material on the Internet, including a petition with 1,370 signatures, a story about Pennsylvania's Hedgehog Underground Railroad, some hair-raising tales about hedgehog confiscation and a Hedgehog Central site that reports, "Suffice it to say, owning a hedgehog in Pennsylvania under the draconian rule of PGC is extremely dangerous for both owner and hedgehog." There's even a Facebook page for The Cruel Injustice of Hedgehog Genocide in PA (editor's note: As of this writing, this page is no longer available on Facebook).¹

Then Mr. White met the fifth grade!

I visited Cleveland Elementary last week and was treated to a terrific presentation by 21 students. Their display included letters, facts, arguments, cartoons, photos and all kinds of other information. I knew they were cute little animals with quills, but I also learned that they eat Japanese beetles and other insects, are hypoallergenic, gentle, low maintenance and immune to poisonous snake bites.

These kids not only produced all kinds of convincing

arguments, but threw in the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. "The Declaration of Independence says we have the right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness," they explained. "We believe hedgehogs will bring us happiness."²

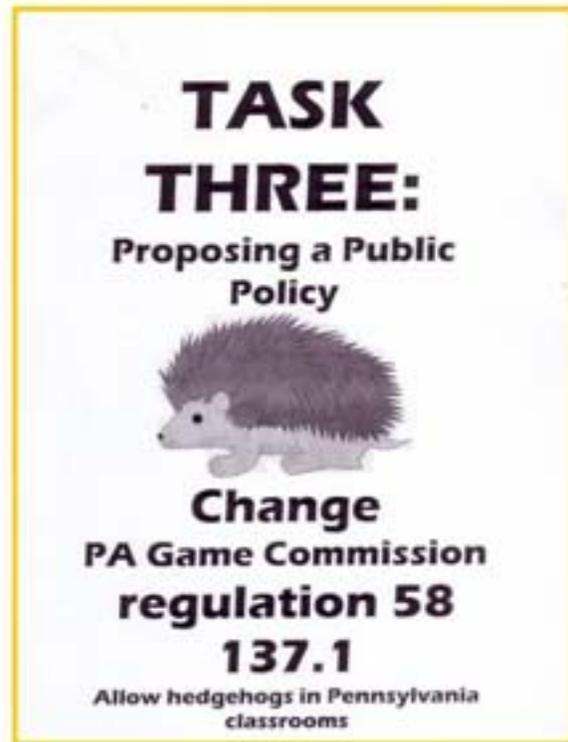
Mr. White not only wrote a column on the fifth grade's efforts to legalize hedgehogs, he also tracked their progress on his blog!

At about this time, I emailed Mrs. Bodnar asking if I could feature her class in the July/August issue of the Hedgehog Welfare Society Newsletter. She responded immediately and emailed more than 50 pages of student produced documents supporting the cause.

Eventually the students received support from Jennifer L. Mann, Democratic Caucus Secretary for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, children's book author and illustrator Jan Brett, and Richard Molchany, President and CEO of the Lehigh Valley Zoo. Standing Bear, who learned of their efforts through Bill White's column, declared the students honorary members of the International Hedgehog Association.

On May 25, Mrs. Bodnar's fifth grade presented their project at the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge as part of the state competition. This was a good warm up for their June seventh visit to Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania State Capital, where the students lobbied for the legalization of hedgehogs!

On June sixth, I received the following excited email from Rebecca Bodnar:



This poster was part of the fifth grade's presentation to the Pennsylvania Legislature. Used with permission.

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We JUST received a letter in the mail from Justin Simmons, he says in April he received our letter asking to legalize hedgehogs....."I am pleased to write now to inform you that the House Bill 1398, recently passed the House Game and Fish Commission, changed which animals will and will not be allowed to be kept as a pet in PA. One animal that will be allowed to be kept as a pet if this bill passes is the hedgehog!!"

Stay tuned for updates on this exciting project in future issues of the HWS Newsletter!

¹ As quoted by: White, Bill. "Kids target Pa. ban on hedgehogs." Town Square. The Morning Call , 23 May 2011. Web. 29 May 2011. <<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/white/mc-bill-white-pennsylvania-hedgehog-20110523,0,373676.column>>.

² op. cit.



Photo by Michael Sierra. Used with permission.

Fruit Salad Anyone!

It's easier than you might think to carve a melon into a hedgehog. Just cut away about three quarters of the top half of the melon, scoop out the inside and chop it into bite size pieces. Adding toothpicks enhances the quill effect but is not necessary. Use the cut away piece of melon rind to cut out a nose and feet for the hedgehog. These can be attached with toothpicks.

Blueberries were used for the tip of this hedgehog's nose and her eyes. Unfortunately, I used frozen blueberries and, as they thawed, a purple tear rolled down my melon hedgegie's cheek and fell to the platter below !

Severe Weather Safety for You and Your Pets

By Linda Woodring



<http://etc.usf.edu/clipart/>

With the number of deadly tornadoes that occurred across the U.S. this spring, it seems like a good time to consider not only your safety but that of your pets if you are in an area where there are severe storms. Unlike hurricanes, where there is a certain amount of time to prepare for what's ahead, tornadoes usually give you very little warning, sometimes only minutes. Not only do you have to think about your human family should severe weather occur, you also have to think about what will happen to your pets.

First, let's talk about putting a plan into effect if severe weather moves into your area. I can't stress enough the importance of investing in a NOAA weather radio. Your city tornado sirens are NOT designed to wake you up during the night. They are designed to warn people who are outdoors during severe weather. Unless you are very close to the siren, you may not even hear it if you are indoors with the air conditioner running and the TV or radio on. A weather radio is very inexpensive and can be programmed not only for the types of warnings you want to hear (severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, marine alerts, amber alerts, etc), but can also for specific counties. You should program it for not only your county, but also the surrounding counties which are where most storms will originate. If there is severe weather in the area, local TV and radio stations will also give you up to the minute information.

When a tornado "watch" is issued, it means that the weather is favorable for producing tornadoes. When a "warning" is issued, rotation has been spotted and it is time to take cover immediately. You should always go to the lowest area of your house. If you have a basement, stay near a wall away from windows. If you have something sturdy to get under such as a built-in workbench or cabinets, that would be the place to go. If you don't have a basement, go to the lowest level of the house, preferably in an inside room such as a bathroom or closet. If possible take something sturdy to cover your head in case there is flying debris.

You must think about what to do with your pets if there should be severe weather. In the case of hedgehogs, a question to ask is, "Where do you keep their travel carriers?" Storing them somewhere out of sight will not be helpful. I always have my carriers in the same room as the hedgies. I keep clean blankets in the carriers. As soon as a tornado "watch" issued, I take our boys, put them in their carriers, and set them right by the door going into the basement so I can grab them and go if the "watch" changes to a "warning." This would be the thing to do with any small pets including cats who might be tempted to hide during a storm. If you have a dog, have a leash handy. Even if your dogs are well behaved, they may panic during a storm and run. You want to have them under your control.

It's also a good idea to keep a small bag with some supplies near your storm area. This could include enough food for a couple days for your pets, dishes for their water and food, some wipes, a flashlight, a battery operated radio, a whistle to blow if you should become trapped in debris and maybe a small first aid kit. Also, be sure to keep your cell phone with you if you see storms approaching.

Some of this may seem like common sense, especially to those of us who live in areas where there are a lot of tornadoes, but it never hurts to review what you already know. Most communities also offer severe weather seminars which are worth attending. Just remember...if there's a "warning", don't stop to look out the window or take pictures. Head for cover!



The Story of Wee Harold

Ross Heywood lives on the South Island of New Zealand. He makes handmade jewelry which he sells at the local arts and crafts market and online. He and his partner, Toyoko, live on sixteen acres near Queenstown. They share their property with fourteen hens, two roosters, and two cats.

Heywood's enthusiasm for hedgehogs began in late 2009 when he found three baby hedgehogs underneath a table outside his home. At first he left them alone. But when he checked on them the following day he discovered that two were dead. Since he suspected that they might have been killed by his chooks (chickens), he took in the surviving baby hedgehog who appeared to be approximately one week old.

For the next few weeks, wee Harold, as he came to be known, was cared for by Heywood. At two weeks, Harold's eyes opened and he had his first post-rescue outing. Soon he met Heywood's two cats, Eme and Tojo, who did not bother Harold at all. They even shared their cat food with him!

Harold quickly developed into a very loveable pet. He was often photographed and was even taken to visit the market at Wanaka. There he entertained some kids on holiday from New Caledonia and was also photographed by an American girl who planned to post his photo on her Face Book page.

After six weeks of loving care, Harold was released into the wild.

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Two weeks later he turned up at the front door like he had never left. He often came to visit for a treat of cat food and he would sleep on my knee. He loved being tickled under the chin. He gave us so much pleasure.

Harold's visits became a regular event. March first, 2010, Heywood included this entry in his blog:

He now visits nearly every night. If I go down to the forest, where he comes out at about 9 pm, when he sees me he runs up to me and follows me back home where he gets some treats like apricot and cat food. He will sit on my knee for a sleep. And he loves being tickled under the chin. Love him.

When the time for winter hibernation arrived, Heywood assumed he would not see Harold again. But on October 26, 2010 he was able to report:

after six months of hibernating over winter he is back. Could not believe it. I did not think he would be back. He still remembers me and comes up to me when he sees me and he will come inside for a treat and sleep on my knee.

Ross Heywood has created Harold The Hedgehog My Wee Boy, a lovely slide show of photographs, which may be viewed on Flickr. You can access by it by using the search term [Harold the Hedgehog](#) on Flickr or by going to this URL:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/rossheywood/sets/72157625173516875/>

A calendar featuring photographs of Harold may be ordered through Lulu.

<http://www.lulu.com/product/calendar/harold-the-hedgehog-2011/12789082>

Haywood photographs are available on Red Bubble:

<http://www.redbubble.com/people/rossheywood>

You can also view Ross Haywood's jewelry at his shop on Etsy:

http://www.etsy.com/shop/RossHeywood?ref=pr_shop_more

Other items including coffee mugs bearing Harold's photograph are available through Zazzle:

<http://www.zazzle.com/rossheywood>

Sources:

Heywood, Ross. "Harold the Hedgehog." Ross's Space. WordPress.com, 8 Feb. 2010. Web. 22 June 2011. <<http://rossheywood.wordpress.com/2010/02/08/harold-the-hedgehog/>>.

Heywood, Ross. "Harold." Ross's Space. WordPress.com, 1 Mar. 2010. Web. 22 June 2011. <<http://rossheywood.wordpress.com/2010/03/>>.

Heywood, Ross. "Harold is Back." Ross's Space. WordPress.com, 26 Oct. 2010. Web. 22 June 2011. <<http://rossheywood.wordpress.com/2010/10/>>.



Peyton Woodring celebrates the Fourth of July in style



Baxter Woodring meets Camo Hedgie

Thoughts from the CVO

By Deb Weaver

I recently read an article in our newspaper about how people don't really get to take vacations anymore because of "easy access." New technology makes it too easy for their employers to contact them!

A few weeks ago I was sitting in a restaurant and watched two adults as they sat in a booth with 2 children, both adults had phones hooked in their ears and conducted multiple casual phone conversations. Throughout the entire dinner they never talked to each other, or to their children for that matter.

I work at a university. On break one day this past semester, in the stall of the ladies room, I heard a student talking on her phone saying "oh, nothing really, I'm just in the bathroom. . ." I've got friends that I've had for 50 and 40 years respectively and I'm not sure they'd care to know that particular fact at any given time!

With all the "instant connection" technology that floods our society now, when are people taking time for quiet reflection? When is the time to wrestle with your conscience over an important matter? When is the time to think about your life? When is the time to remember the past and plan for the future? When is the time to dream? When is the time to hear your own voice?

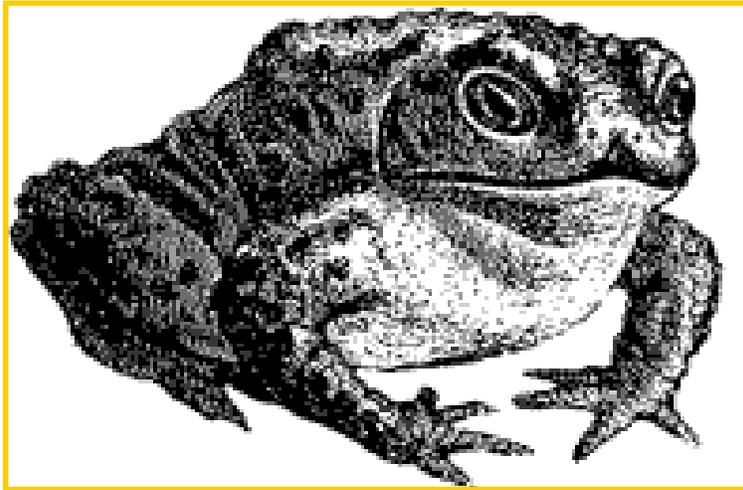
And, if you can't hear your own voice, who's voice are you following in life?



Headset from clker.com

HEDGEHOG TRIVIA

Toad Venom Enhances Hedgehog Froth



Toad courtesy of Clipart ETC <http://etc.usf.edu/clipart>

Edmund D. Brodie, Jr. is a biologist who researches the evolution and efficacy of amphibian anti-predator mechanisms. In 1977, Dr. Brodie reported that:

Toxic secretions which evolved in prey organisms such as toads (*Bufo*) as chemical anti-predator mechanisms are used by hedgehogs (*Insectivora Erinaceidae*) to enhance their own mechanical anti-predator adaptations—the spines, modified hairs, of the back. The secretions are taken into the mouth and licked on to the spines.¹

An article published in *Science News* on September 24, 1977, described the curious hedgehog practice of self-anointing (frothing at the mouth and smearing the froth on the spines) following contact with substances such as tobacco, soap, and toad skin. This innate behavior is fully developed before young hedgehogs leave the nest.

Dr. Brodie conducted a thorough study of this behavior. He discovered that feeding hedgehogs toads, toad glands, or even fresh or dried toad skins containing high concentrations of skin toxins always produced self-anointing behavior. But when the hedgehogs were fed mice, bullfrogs and skinned toads, they never self-anointed!

Several graduate students were recruited to round out Brodie's investigation. When he jabbed their arms using hedgehog spines coated with hedgehog saliva, it seldom caused reddening of the skin and never caused burning or pain beyond what one might expect to feel from a needle puncture. But when arms were jabbed with hedgehog spines which had been freshly anointed with toad skin secretions the results were dramatically different. Spines anointed with toad secretions always produced red splotches and intense localized burning!

Professor Brodie is currently the Department Head, and College of Science Executive Director of Program Development at Utah State University.

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SOURCES:

¹ Brodie, Edmund D., Jr. "Hedgehogs use toad venom in their own defense." . Nature 268 (Aug. 18, 1977): 627-628. Print.

Brodie, Edmund D., Jr. "Hedgehog Forth Adds Sting to the Jab." Science News 112.13 (September 24,1977): n. pag. Print.



Toads courtesy of Clipart ETC <http://etc.usf.edu/clipart>

WRITERS WANTED

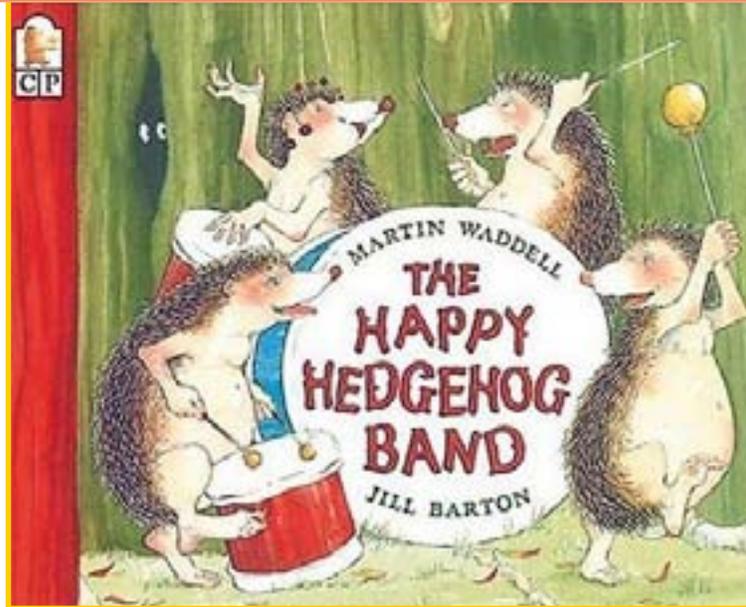


Would you like to write for the Newsletter? We are always Looking for stories, poems, craft Projects, recipes, puzzles, and Articles to include here.

Send your submissions or article Proposals to:
newsletter@hedgehogwellfare.org



A new mother feeds her family. Photograph by Rebekah Luty. Used with permission.



The Literary Hedgehog

The Happy Hedgehog Band

Martin Waddell (who also writes under the pen name Catherine Sefton) is an Irish storyteller and author of picture books for the very young. He is perhaps best known for his book *Big Bear, Little Bear* as well as for the series *Little Dracula*.

His 1991 publication *The Happy Hedgehog Band*, illustrated by Jill Barton, is an energetic story featuring four pot-bellied, slightly raunchy-looking hedgehogs. The first hedgehog, Harry, lives deep in the midst of Dickon Woods. Harry is quite fond of noise—the louder the better—so one day he makes himself a big drum. When he bangs on it, it says “tum-tum-te-tum.”

When Helen Hedgehog, who likes to wear cherries on her quills, hears “tum-tum-te-tum,” she is inspired to build her own drum. She carries it into the midst of Dickon Woods and joins Harry. Soon two other hedgehogs, Norbert and Billy, show up with drums of their own.

Each drum has its own distinct voice:

Tum-tum-te-tum
 Diddle-diddle-dum
 Ratta-tat-tat
 and
 BOOM

That last one belongs to Billy.

Soon the entire woods are humming, tumming and drumming. Gradually all the other animals residing in the

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woods find their way to the area where the hedgehog band is happily playing.

“STOP!” cry the other animals.

The startled hedgehogs look up in wonder. Is it possible that the other animals don't like drums?

“We want to play too!” say the animals.

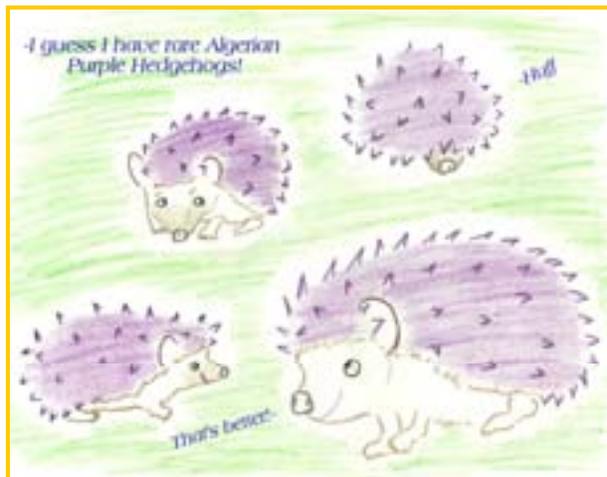
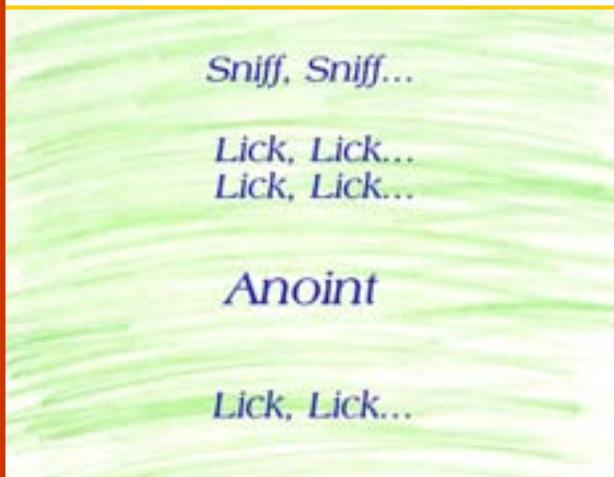
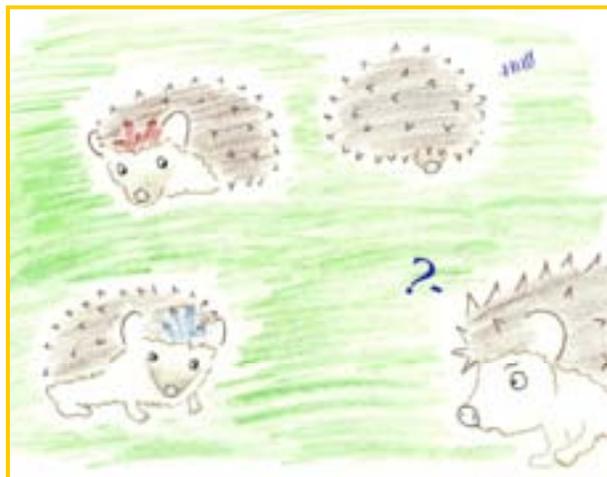
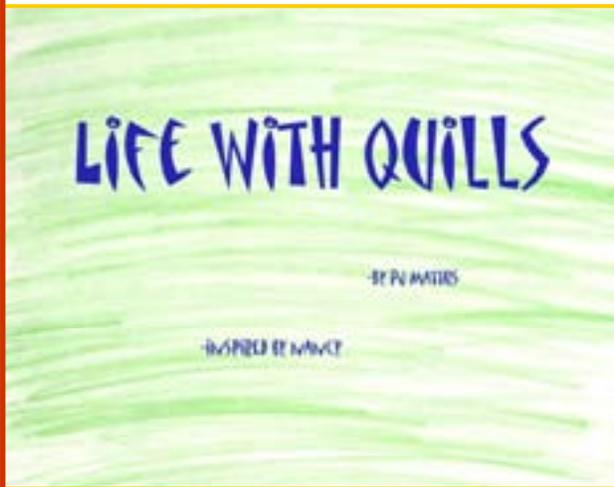
Since they have no drums, and apparently lack the skills to build their own, Harry Hedgehog (the noise expert) suggests that each animal make the sound he or she does best. Soon the animals are happily humming, hooting, buzzing, whistling, clapping, clicking, and popping while the hedgehogs carry on with their drums.

It's a simple story but one which has great child appeal. It is quite fun to read it aloud to an enthusiastic group of preschoolers and it could be a great addition to the program if your hedgehog is planning to visit a school or library.

The Happy Hedgehog Band. By Martin Waddell. Illustrated by Jill Barton.
Candlewick Press, 1994. 978-1564022721



Pog and Pansies by MRM. Used with permission



This comic by P.J. Mattus was inspired by a true story she heard from Nancy Denny. Would you like a copy? If you send a small donation to P.J. at pjmattus@att.net, she will forward your donation to HWS and send a print copy of this comic to you.



Illustration by Frances Katie Johns
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July / August Hedgie Birthdays



July

NO JULY
BIRTHDAYS !!!!!

<http://lyricdog.eu/v/free%20happy%20birthday%20di%20part>

August

August	8	Cocoa Marie Bennett
August	8	Daisy Mae Bennett
August	8	Cholla Thomas
August	8	Pinon Thomas
August	15	Gladys Denny