



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 #10, JUNE 2004

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Annemarie Lucas and Aimee Hassler

Jersey Girls & Animal Cops

DONNASUE GRAESSER

SOMERSET, NJ – “Progress through Unity” is the motto of the Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey (AWFNJ). The mission statement of the Federation is “to unite all New Jersey animal protection organizations, to exchange ideas and information, and to work collectively to elevate the standard of care and level of knowledge related to animal welfare in the state of New Jersey.”

To further these goals, each spring the AWFNJ brings together animal welfare, advocacy, and protection organizations that serve the state of New Jersey and surrounding areas during its annual convention. This year, for the second time, HWS board members Aimee Hassler and Donnasue Graesser were able to be a part of this inspiring assembly of top-notch animal welfare advocates.

The atmosphere of the conference is energetic and empowering. Several of the major animal welfare/shelter groups are based in New York City (for example, the ASPCA and Petfinder.com), which is in close proximity to the location of the conference. High-level representatives from these groups circulated and chatted with the

attendees. It was fabulous to get to know these animal ‘heroes’ on a personal one-on-one basis. You can see in the photo that Aimee (our Petfinder coordinator) was able to meet Kim Saunders, one of the Petfinder.com leaders that she had previously only conversed with via e-mail. She was also able to discuss

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JERSEY GIRLS...

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“web geeky stuff” with the Petfinder.com technical staff. One of the highlights of the two-day event was meeting Annemarie Lucas, ASPCA Supervisory Special Investigator, Humane Law Enforcement. Ms. Lucas is featured on the television program *Animal Precinct* on the Animal Planet Channel. Both Kim and Annemarie offered great praise to the Hedgehog Welfare Society for fulfilling a unique need amongst animal welfare agencies. **Check out the lovely note that Annemarie wrote to ALL of us in the Hedgehog Welfare Society!**

The conference also attracted seminar speakers from most national animal advocacy organizations. The featured speakers included Bert Troughton, who is an icon in the animal welfare field and Director of the Imagine Humane program of the ASPCA. A two-part workshop focusing on Animals and the Law was presented by Nancy Perry, the Director of Government Affairs for the Humane Society of the United States. Other speakers included the President of the ASPCA, Ed Sayers, as well as the President/Founder of Petfinder.com, Betsy Saul.

Topics of the workshops offered included cruelty investigations, adoption policies, shelter publicity, fundraising, and animal behavior, as well as more specific topics such as combating neighborhood dog fights



Aimee mixes it up with the staff of Petfinder.com

and trap/neuter/release programs for feral cats. I would love to see an educational workshop at next year's conference covering the specific rescue problems and needs of exotic animals.

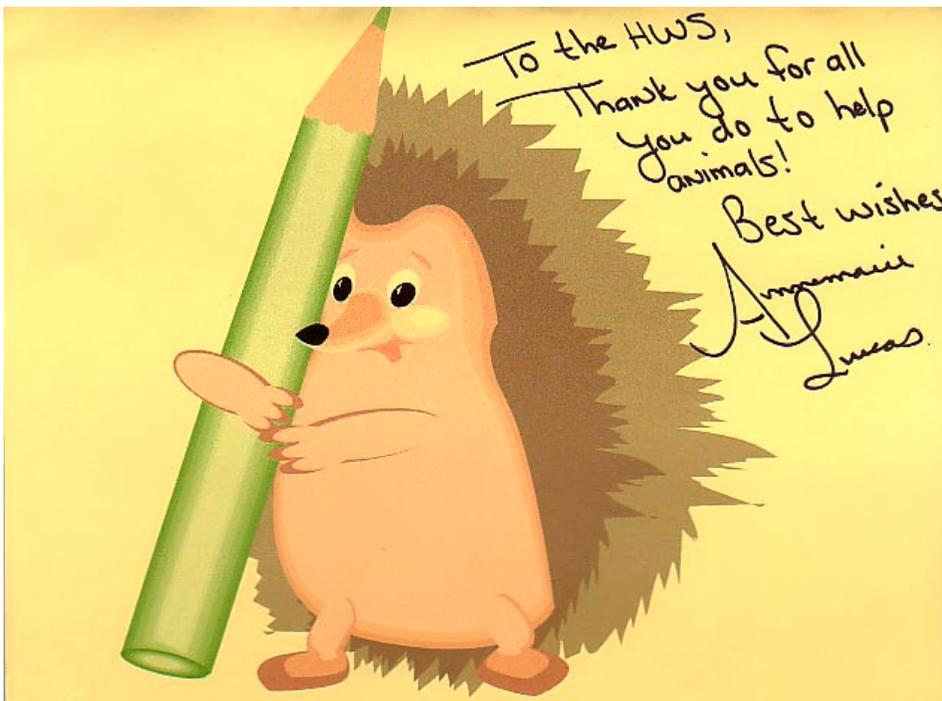
Aimee and I spent a great deal of time networking at the HWS booth. The HWS was the hit of the exhibit hall! There were over 500 attendees at the conference, and I would venture to say that most of them stopped by our table, including veterinarians, shelter employees, animal control officers, and humane society staff members.



OK, so maybe it was our candy-o-rama bowl that attracted them to our table – we did have the best candy bowl in the exhibit hall! Regardless of whether the visitors stopped by our table because of the cute stuffed hedgehogs (thanks Linda Edwards), to fulfill a chocolate craving, or simply to meet the cute blonde sitting by the table, they walked away with a bit more knowledge about hedgehogs, a newsletter, and a business card. We were able to teach many animal shelter professionals about some of the special needs of hedgehogs. More importantly, we offered them the resources of the HWS should a hedgehog ever be brought into one of their shelters. I have no doubt that we will be getting calls from more New Jersey shelters in the future.

I would strongly encourage anyone who lives in the NJ area to attend this conference next March. It is such a rare opportunity to mingle in a room with hundreds of people who make animal protection a priority in their lives. To top it all off, the conference includes incredibly tasty vegan meals. The meals are well worth the price of attendance.

The AWFNJ acts as a unifying voice for the animal protection community in New Jersey and surrounding areas. If you are a NJ resident, perhaps you would like to add your own voice as an advocate for animals in the state. According to the AWFNJ web site, membership is open to “Anyone interested in improving the quality of life for animals.” For more information, phone the AWFNJ at 856-740-1344, email at info@awfnj.org or join online at <http://www.awfnj.org>. 



The efforts of HWS members do not go unnoticed nor unappreciated ...

In Memoriam: Sarah Duncan

Sarah Duncan, daughter of Lisa and Tim, sister of Jon and Robert, and aunt of Kylie, recently passed away. She was 20 years old. Sarah's family is active in the HWS. Lisa has taken in and cared for many needy animals, with Sarah's loving assistance. We miss Sarah, and offer our deepest condolences to her family. We know she was warmly welcomed by the many loving animal spirits who preceded her.

Sarah's parents shared, "She loved life, animals and old people."

Deb Kirksey and Tonya Thomas, members of the hedgehog community, are personal friends of the Duncan family. They express their fond memories of Sarah, as they honor and celebrate Sarah's life.

Deb remembers Sarah's inner strength and outward spunk: "Sarah was a remarkable girl. Just like the hedgies, she hardly ever showed any signs of weakness. She was very sick these past few years and everyone that I talked to including her pastor always said that no matter how bad she felt, or how much pain she was in, she had a smile on her face, never complained and always said that she was feeling fine. Most everyone that went to the hospital to "cheer her up," ended up getting cheered up themselves instead. Those were the words of her pastor! ... The only time that I have met her she seemed sweet and fragile, but full of spunk. Her nurses said that she would check herself in at the hospital when she couldn't handle it any more at home and would tease them that she was back again. They said that she was a wonderful patient and pleasure to be around. Like so many of our hedgies she showed strength up until the very end. A remarkable daughter from remarkable parents who have contributed greatly to the hedgie community. God Speed Sweet Sarah."



Tonya pays tribute to the entire Duncan family: "Sarah was one of the sweetest people you would ever meet. She greeted everyone with a smile and a hug. Lisa has been the best friend a person could have. As I got to know her and her

family better I saw what a wonderful and dedicated mother Lisa was. She never left Sarah's side when she was ill. Lisa is not only dedicated to her two-legged children, but her four-legged children as well. They have 3 hedgehogs, 1 dog, 1 cat, and a turtle that are truly loved by the whole family.



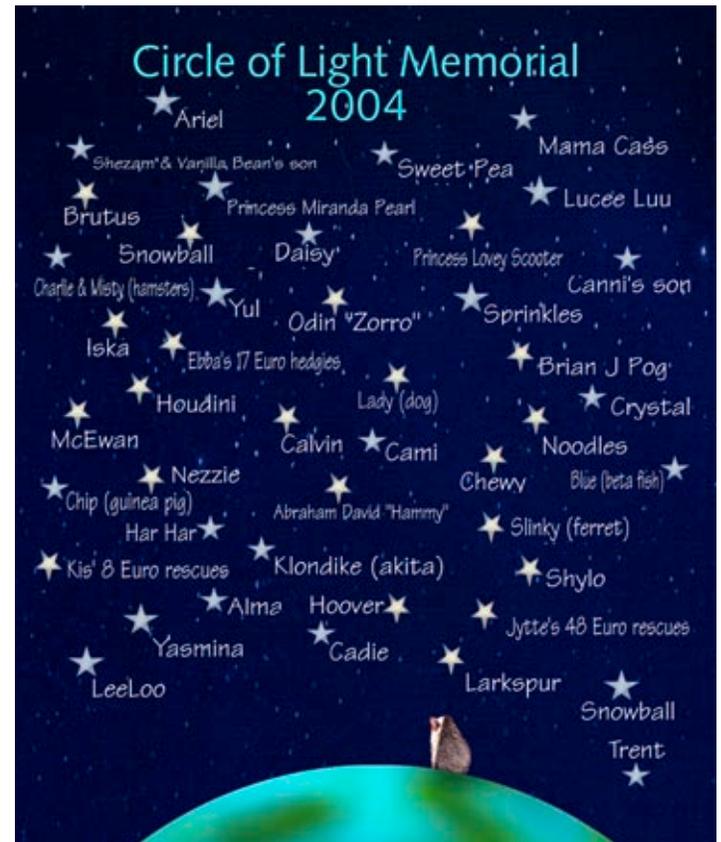
Sarah and Kylie

One of baby Kylie's first words was "hedgehog." My life has been blessed to know all of the Duncan family. Love, Hugs, and Prayers, Tonya" Tonya also shares her favorite poem in memory of Sarah.

A Safe Refuge

Other refuge have I none
Hangs my helpless soul on thee
Leave, Oh leave me not alone!
Still support and comfort me

Hide me O my Saviour, hide
Till the storm of life is past
Safe into the haven guide
Oh, receive my soul at last.



Quills & Comfort Update

JUDIE PETERS

BLUFFTON, SC – There have been two Circle of Light Ceremonies since our last newsletter. The names and dates are listed below, and the names have been placed in our lovely starry sky.

March 7, 2004

Sweet Pea (guardian Donnasue)
Alma (guardian Julie)
Klondike (Akita) (guardians Lauri & Dave)
Mama Cass (guardian Yolanda)
Cami (guardians Dana & Dom)
Chip (guinea pig) & Blue (Beta fish)
(guardians Tonya & Rick)
Charlie & Misty (hamster) (guardian Jen W)
Cadie (guardian Michelle)
Crystal (guardians Linda & Gary)
Ariel (guardian Veronica & Jeff's friend)

April 25, 2004

Noodles (guardians Jeanne, Merle, Bonnie)
Hoover (guardians Jim & Linda)
Brutus (guardians Erin & Erik)
Trudy (opossum)
Odin "Zorro" (guardian Kathleen)
Chewy (guardians Kimberly & Sondra)
Snowball (guardians Laurel, Wayne & Aunt Mabel)
Abraham David "Hammy" (guardian Dawn W)
Brian J Pog (guardian Debbie)
Vanilla Bean (guardians Veronica & Jeff)
Larkspur (guardians Melanie & Dave)

Iska (guardians Teresa & Cliff)
Houdini (guardian Pat)
Princess Lovey Scooter (guardians Jeanne,
Bonnie, Merle)

Shylo (guardian Merle)
Calvin (guardians Becky & Payton)
McEwan (guardian Jacque)
Slinky (ferret) (guardian Tanya)
Nezzie (guardian Susan M)
17 European hedgehogs at Ebba's rescue
8 European hedgehogs at Kis's rescue
48 European hedgehogs at Jytte's rescue🐾

Checking with the Vet Staff: Blueing Shampoo for Hedgehogs?

(Editor's note: Recently, there was a discussion on some of the Internet lists about using "blueing shampoo" for enhancing the "whiteness" of hedgehog quills. We asked Kim Scea, who is our resident expert on animal grooming and dyes, to provide some more information about these shampoos. Kim is also a former veterinary technician for exotic animals. She offers some general advice about shampoos in general, and tells us to use caution when using bleaching products on our animals.)

KIM SCEA

TRENTON, ONTARIO – Please note: I have been unable to ascertain if there has ever been a study done on hedgehogs (primarily African Pygmy hedgehogs), shampoo/cleansers and the results/side effects.

Shampoo/conditioner companies (for humans or animals) are not required by law to provide a list of ingredients on the product label. If you go to the store and look at the shampoos on the shelves, you will find many with no ingredients listed at all. Or, as you will see below, only a partial, but not detailed, list of ingredients is provided.

Some examples of ingredient lists on blueing shampoos are:

Bright Magic brand

Based on the ingredient list on the container (*only partial, this is a very common non-detailed list of ingredients for most blueing shampoos. I checked out 4 – all very basically the same*)

- ◆ Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (see discussion on SLS below)
- ◆ Kriegrosine Blue (blueing ingredient)
- ◆ Basic Violet 3 (blueing ingredient)
- ◆ Fragrance in a mild shampoo base (*no specification of what basic shampoo is used*)

White Lightening brand

- ◆ deionized water
- ◆ octyl dodecyl myristate
- ◆ humectant glycerin
- ◆ sodium laureth sulfate
- ◆ cocamidopropyl betaine
- ◆ cocamidopropyl amine oxide
- ◆ methylchlorisothiazolinone and methylisothiazolinone
- ◆ PEG-150, fragrance



USING WHITENING SHAMPOOS

"Blueing Shampoos" are actually whitening shampoos. When blueing shampoo products have been used for a while, and used repeatedly on the same pet, they may cause dryness of the coat and skin. Frequent bathing of a dog, cat, or hedgehog with a blueing shampoo can turn their coat into a dry mess over time (not immediately). The manufacturers warn not to leave the shampoo on a colored coat, because of its bleaching ability.

When I look at the ingredients listed on the label of one brand of blueing shampoo, it looks like a gentle product. It contains octyldodecyl myristate, a compound of myristic acid. It is an emollient ester, more of a conditioning reagent than a bleach or harsh cleanser. Because there are no obvious bleaching ingredients listed, frankly my conclusion is that there is something in there that is not listed with the other ingredients.

This happens more than you might think with pet products, because there are no regulations dictating that manufacturers list all of the ingredients. Any disclosure is totally voluntary, and skipping over "proprietary ingredients" is very common. For example, 'PEG 150' is a clue that there is more in the bottle than meets the eye, because PEG is usually attached to something else, not found by itself.

HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

One chemical that has been used as a

bleach is hydrogen peroxide. Hydrogen peroxide is not recommended to be used on pets. It works by drawing all the oxygen off the tissue (or hair strand). Stripping of oxygen dries up the hair strand, and all the layers of the hair strand are now exposed, with no protective layer over them. The stripped hair strand is like flat paint on a wall, as opposed to semi-gloss or full gloss paint. The "gloss" offers a layer of protection for the object under it. Dirt becomes embedded into flat paint, as it has no glossy layer of protection. Apply this concept to the hair strands themselves. The layers of each hair strand treated with hydrogen peroxide are now exposed and without protection. Therefore, each contact with "dirt" enables the dirt to cling to these layers. It becomes harder to remove as it is embedded in all the cracks and crannies. No amount of cleaning is going to get rid of the dirt – there will always be some left behind. To try and constantly use peroxide with each cleaning you are just stripping and drying out the hair and quills more and more and more.

SODIUM LAURYL SULFATE

There has been a great deal of misinformation about sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS) circulated on the Internet. SLS is used primarily as a detergent cleansing agent, and it is not toxic or dangerous. However, in concentrations of 2%-5%, SLS can cause allergic or sensitizing reactions in many people. It is sometimes used as a standard in scientific studies to establish the irritant or sensitizing properties of other ingredients.

Although SLS may be a skin irritant, Internet rumors that SLS has been linked to cancer have been investigated, and shown to be false. According to Health Canada, in a press release of Feb. 12, 1999 (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/) "A letter has been circulating the Internet that claims there is a link between cancer and sodium laureth (or lauryl) sulfate (SLS), an ingredient used in [cosmetics]. Health Canada has looked into the matter and has found no scientific evidence to suggest that SLS causes cancer. It has a history of safe use in Canada. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that this e-mail warning is a hoax." Health Canada considers SLS safe for use in cosmetics.

Furthermore, according to the American Cancer Society's web site (www.cancer.org)

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CHECKING WITH VET STAFF...

(...Continued from page 4)

“Contrary to popular rumors on the Internet, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (SLS) and Sodium Laureth Sulfate (SLES) do not cause cancer. E-mails have been flying through cyberspace claiming SLS [and SLES] causes cancer ... and is proven to cause cancer... [Yet] A search of recognized medical journals yielded no published articles relating this substance to cancer in humans.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

What do I do to bathe my hedgehog? I use a regular shampoo – with no perfumes or dyes that I can ascertain (as labels are not always available or 100% complete). I use a human newborn baby hairbrush for gentle scrubbing. Sometimes soaking is required (poopy quills, anointing stains, etc.). After a very thorough rinsing, I follow up with a Vitamin E rinse. The Vitamin E offers nutrients for the quills and skin in a way that is not suffocating to the tissues. Vitamin E works for the hair, quills and skin equally. Conditioners can be used – but these are primarily for the hair and can build up on the skin – and there is no research about quills.

For further and more technical information on this topic and/or each shampoo ingredient – please e-mail Kim privately at: kph@kos.net

SOURCES

- 1) *European Journal of Dermatology* (September-October 2001) pp. 416–419.
- 2) *American Journal of Contact Dermatitis* (March 2001) pp. 28–32.
- 3) *Skin Pharmacology and Applied Skin Physiology* (September-October 2000) pp. 246–257. 🐾

Prickles Story

Hedgehogs and Friends

TONYA THOMAS

JELLICO, TN – We had fallen in love with hedgehogs many years ago. We had also devoted ourselves to rescuing different animals from shelters. We put the word out to everyone that if a hedgehog should ever need rescuing, we would love to take the hedgie in and give him/her a forever home.

After many years of waiting, one evening last August I got a phone call from a woman who I had worked with for many years doing rescue work. A hedgehog that had been surrendered by his owner had come into her shelter. The story is one we have all heard before: The owner had bought the hedgehog for her 7-year-old son, and the son would not take care of him. When we were asked if we would like to give him a home, of course we said, “YES!” A week later, we were welcoming Prickles into our home.

The woman from the shelter who had taken Prickles in had also been in contact with hedgehog rescuers in North Carolina and Knoxville, TN. She asked if I would like the contact information for these other hedgehog rescuers. I had read books about hedgehogs over the years but still wanted to learn as much as possible. Of course I e-mailed these women in North Carolina (Deborah Kirksey) and Knoxville (Lisa Duncan). Both Deborah and Lisa told me about the Hedgehog Welfare Society, and I joined that day! Lisa introduced me to the online group, and I could not believe the warm welcomes everyone gave to Prickles and me!

Two weeks later we received a care package from Jennifer Plombon with all kinds of things for Prickles to get us on our way. I could not believe that a group who didn't



Tonya and Prickles

even know us at all would send such a fabulous package to help us out.

Lisa Duncan and I met for the first time about two weeks after Prickles came to live with us. The first thing she did was to give me a hug and hand me a crystal hedgehog that she had bought for me. Deborah Kirksey was great in helping me to switch Prickles to a good food, which was not easy for him or for me.

Each and every one of you is the best! I could never thank all of you enough for all you have done for us. Prickles has brought such a joy to our lives that we never knew before. But, never in my wildest dreams did I know what wonderful, loving, life-long human friends a hedgehog named Prickles would bring to me. I now know the power that hedgehogs have in bringing people together. From the day Prickles came here we knew our home would always have hedgehogs and our hearts would always have the company of friends like all of you. All of you did so much more for me than to help me learn about hedgehogs. I don't consider all of you my friends...

... I consider you MY FAMILY! 🐾

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING NEWSLETTER COPIES

This was printed in the March 2004 newsletter and here is a reminder: The HWS is a charitable organization, and there is no fee to join. The free benefits are many and include an online newsletter, which is now going to be published bimonthly. The newsletter is free for anyone to download and read or print. We do offer a hardcopy service, which has been mailing paper copies of the newsletter to HWS members by request. Unfortunately, with an increasing number of members requesting paper copies, and a large and well-packed newsletter, the cost of printing and mailing them out has become high. We have decided the funds that we currently allocate to cover newsletter mailings could be more useful in helping with veterinary bills and other rescue services.

Starting AFTER this June 2004 issue (this mailing will be free) the HWS will charge a small fee to print and mail newsletters to members who request them.

This fee will cover only the cost of printing, envelopes, and postage; it is not a fund-raiser. Please see the enclosed insert for subscription and payment information.

Thank you, The HWS Board

HEDGIES IN HISTORY:

The Garden

JAMES KREGGEAR

PORTLAND, OR – I have read somewhere that *IN THE BEGINNING*, it delighted God to no end when Adam and Eve gave names to all His creatures. For the most part they did a good job. Monkey sounds just right for monkeys, elephant couldn't be a more perfect name for elephants, platypus is pure genius, but... hedgehog does not sound anything like the odd little creature it is.

Had they grown tired of the game? A little lazy, perhaps? No, we can't blame Adam and Eve for the minor mistake of naming hedgehogs "hedgehogs", if indeed they did. Because as everyone knows, hedgies hide so well that poor A&E didn't stand a chance. God only knows when they did find one, but when they eventually did, here's what I think happened.

I picture Adam and Eve lolling around paradise; the smell of cinnamon, orange, and other sweet and spicy fragrances in the air. (*Of course a hint of garlic was forever wafting through, since God's Italian, and big on pasta. I have proof, but that's for another time*). So anyway, there they were just being happy and paradisiacal when they spotted a movement rustling under some fallen leaves. Being curious beings, they investigated. Gently, timidly, they cleared away the leaves and got huffed and popped at for the first time in history.

Now, at this point in history, in THE GARDEN, tigers didn't actually growl ferociously; they purred. Polar bears could be ridden piggy back. But hedgies being hedgies, they huffed and popped from the get-go, there's not a doubt in my mind.

Jumping back, A&E were startled and intrigued at the same time. They needed to know more. Carefully looking back at the creature, Adam was astounded. He couldn't believe his eyes. The creature now had pointy hair, and it had rolled itself up into a ball – a very spiky ball! Adam thought this might be the coolest thing he had ever seen. Eve was only mildly impressed. There were a few cacti plants in the Garden she enjoyed tending, and this was similar, but it moved and made sounds, huffing and popping. Interesting but...

Then, Eve picked it up, or tried to pick it



Poco in The Garden.

(Artwork ©Judie Peters)

up – and her fingertips caught just a bit of the softness of the little creature's round belly. Immediately smitten, Eve felt deep within her that there was love to be found somewhere with this creature, that she wanted more than anything for there to be trust between the two of them... and she had a plan.

Each day, using thick leaves to pick up the prickly, huffy entity, she laid it on her chest while she napped. (*Of course Adam and Eve napped, they weren't so young that they couldn't enjoy a good nap; it was, after all – Paradise.*) It took some time, but trust eventually built between Eve and the hedgehog, leading up to a time when the hedgegie would lie with its little limbs extended, and soft, fuzzy belly warm against Eve's skin, its face (and those delightful ears) completely exposed. Their time together became precious.

Adam, the first man, was jealous for the first time in their relationship, actually for the first time in history; he displayed the usual passive-aggressive behavior until Eve sat him down and gently but firmly told him to chill out. Amazingly, he paid attention and got a grip.

His turnaround was due to the fact that he found another hedgegie, and it was a boy

hedgegie. This creature ran around for the sake of running around, bumped into things a lot and then ran around some more. He really enjoyed a piece of corn or a little banana once in a while – *all creatures were vegetarian at this time in history* – and the only time he acted particularly peculiar was when he was around Eve's hedgegie. Then, he coo-sang to her, trying to get her affection. Adam picked up on this behavior – *as men have throughout history* – and it paid off. Babies were born. We're here, right?

Baby hedgies were born, too, and born ugly-adorable if that makes any sense, and I'm sure it does to those of us who have ever seen baby hedgies.

And it has been this way ever since.

The name thing? I am convinced that Adam and Eve definitely did not come up with the name hedgehog. They were more creative than that. It was one of their kids' ideas, I'm sure. The dim one.

Personally, I think the original name for those first hedgehogs was something like Lulu, or maybe Poco, or quite possibly, Bean. Now, those are names.

Next time:

Hedgehogs in History – Napoleon, hedgehogs, and escargot

Columbus discovers love at the Wennerberg Household



They say owners look like their pets

RICHARD WENNERBERG

COMOX VALLEY, BRITISH COLUMBIA – Even as a child I'd been fascinated by hedgehogs though my knowledge of them was limited to say the least. Thankfully I met Aimee Hassler through an online game and we quickly became good friends, often chatting over AOL Instant Messenger. She regaled me with stories of her spiny little friends throughout the years, the cutest of course being Tuckermyr. One day I suggested that perhaps I should look into getting a prickly pear of my own and Aimee suggested I adopt one rather than purchase from a breeder or pet store. I'd actually never thought of it before, but with her help I learned much about the care of hedgehogs and how to try and locate one. As if by fate, after only a few days of searching for a hedgehog one showed up at a shelter in my area on Petfinder.com. His name was Columbus. Columbus was a pet store hedgehog who was subjected to an improper diet and had massive and unhealthy weight loss. He also endured an attack from a rat that had escaped its cage and chewed off several quills on Columbus' head. He was given to the shelter when he would not stop losing weight.

I spoke a couple of times to the owner of the rescue shelter where Columbus was coming from and we

set up a meeting time for me to take home my new buddy. I quickly ran around town in a frenzy buying toys and the like to make his new home as comfortable as I could. My loving girlfriend and I dedicated an entire day to the trip, which included an hour and a half drive to the ferry terminal in Departure Bay, and a two hour ferry ride to reach the meeting point at Horseshoe Bay. Columbus was very nervous at our first meeting and remained in what I now call "Ain't nobody here but us cacti" (in a ball, quills everywhere) form for the entire trip back home. We covered him with a blanket and stowed him away on the ferry for the trip back home.

When we finally got him home we tried to get acquainted with the new member of our little family, and he was shockingly friendly for a hedgehog that had been through so much. We found a tiny spot on his back that he liked scratched. After only a few days Columbus



Columbus peeks out to see who's visiting was friendly enough to lay his quills down for us to pet him. As time went on we became even better friends, and we learned many things about Columbus. For instance, he loves to dig but dislikes using his critter ball or wheel. We even found a tiny pine tree in the backyard that he seems to like to do his 'business' under. He loves to romp through the grass on our nice, warm, sunny days here in British Columbia, and always gives me a little huff when it's time to go back inside.

Since Columbus was welcomed into our home he's come a long way from his days at the pet store. He's gone from 240 grams when we first got him to over 350 grams in the span of a couple months. His quills have grown back and you can't even notice anymore where he was attacked. His favorite treats are ZooMed's Can O' Crickets, hard boiled eggs, and freeze dried mealworms.

Columbus and I would like to thank the Hedgehog Welfare Society for their care package and for all of the help they've given to us. Columbus loves his sleeping bag and his pouch of lavender. We would also like to thank Creature Comforts Animal Shelter where Columbus was adopted from. We look forward to many more good times and adventures, and wish good luck to any other hedgehog rescuers out there.



Rock N Roll Hedgehogs

COME PLAY IN DETROIT!

SEPT. 17-19 2004

Join us for a fun-filled weekend:

- 2 IHA conformation shows
- IHOG
- large vendor area
- personalized hedgehog portraits
- informational speakers
- Rainbow Bridge memorial wall
- Remembrance Rocks

www.rocknrollhedgehogs.org





Nell: "Vroom, vroom! Did someone say 'Road Trip'?!?"

Road Trips with Hedgehogs

SUSAN GOETCHEUS

ARLINGTON, MA – In my almost four years of living with hedgehogs, I have taken them on many short and long car trips. With a little planning and some judicious packing, our journeys were smooth and unremarkable, except for the unavoidable poop cleanup and bedding change at some point during the trip. Hey, these are hedgehogs we're dealing with – inconvenient poop is expected.

Here are some things to think about before you take your next road trip with your hedgehogs:

Before your trip, take your hedge to the veterinarian for a checkup and health certificate. The health certificate is not required, but we like to have one if we're crossing state lines. For air travel, a health certificate may be required.

If you're paranoid like me, you'll want to have contact information for veterinarians along your route and at your destination. The HWS web page has a link to a list of veterinarians who treat hedgehogs.

Always put your hedgehogs in escape-proof bins and put seatbelts around the bins. The safest place for your hedgehog is in a bin in the back seat of your car; front-seat airbags could injure or kill your hedgehog. Carrying your hedgehog anywhere except

in a secured bin is unsafe both for you and the hedge. If the hedgehog gets loose, she could run under your feet and cause you to have an accident. If your car doors fly open in a crash, a loose hedgehog or an unsecured bin could be thrown out of the car.

On the travel bin, attach a card with important info about the hedgehog. For example, Nell's information includes our names and

address, phone numbers, an emergency contact number, and a statement that she needs to be kept between 70 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit and needs access to food and water.

If you can't fit your hedgehog's living quarters into your car, you have a few alternatives:

- Take along a large piece of vellux and put it in the bathtub where you're staying. (Put your hedgehog back in her travel bin if you need to use the bathtub yourself, unless she really needs a bath. And don't forget to dry the sides and bottom of the tub when you're done!)

- Pack one or two wire corrals and a thick plastic tablecloth. This isn't the best solution if your hedgehog is an escape artist. We use this option for Nell, who hasn't yet tried to escape (maybe because Baby Cheryl is waiting outside).

- When you get to your destination, visit a local discount store and buy a plastic storage bin.

If your hedgehog is prone to travel sickness, you may not be able to do anything to prevent it if you're going on a long trip. If it's a short trip, you could withhold food during the ride.

Try to give your hedgehog some run-around time before you leave, and encourage her to empty her bladder and bowels. We always do this with Nell, but she always has plenty left to deposit in her travel bag and blanket. Sigh.

(Continues on page 9...)



Miss Skeezi really knows the meaning of "traveling in style"!

ROAD TRIP...

(...Continued from page 8)

If possible, time your trip so that your hedgehog will sleep through it. Active hedgies tend to start scrabbling around their travel bins when their usual activity time approaches, and the noise is not only guilt-inducing, but also rather distracting to the driver.

I do speak from personal experience with this one – if Nell isn't on the floor tubing by 7 pm, she makes her displeasure known. Nell has been urging us to get her a setup like Knarla Pog's: a 24"x24" collapsible cage that fits in the back seat and has enough room for a wheel. Knarla's mom Heather says that the open end of the wheel (if it's a bucket wheel) should face the back of the car so that if "you have to brake suddenly, pog is gently pressed against back of wheel and not flung out into the cage." With any kind of wheel, the wheel should be oriented so that the running path is perpendicular to the direction of the car. Again, according to Heather, when you make a turn, "the wheel naturally swings a little to either side and pog has no problems."

Be aware of the heat distribution in the car. In the cold season, make sure that the heat reaches the travel bin; if necessary, add a supplementary heat source in the bin. In the warm months, be careful that the air conditioning doesn't chill your hedgies.

Nell says, "My mom and dad make sure to change the fade and balance on the radio so that no music comes out of the speaker next to my travel bin. I appreciate having a quiet place to snooze."



Nell also approves of train trips...



A smart traveler always knows where the emergency exits are in any vehicle.

Flying with your Hedgehog

JENNIFER PLOMBON

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – This article will summarize the major airlines' current regulations for in-cabin flights with your hedgehog. Cargo and/or baggage animal flights will not be covered, for several reasons:

> The majority of airlines promise only to keep cargo and baggage areas at temperature ranges between 50 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit; this is not warm enough for African

Hedgehogs to maintain their health.

> Pet guardians have no access to animals in cargo or baggage until the airplane is on the ground and unloading has commenced. Furthermore, on flights with connections, there is no access to animals between flights. Thus, in cases of delay due to bad weather, airplane maintenance problems, missed connections or other problems,

(Continues on page 10...)

Susan's list of recommended equipment for the car:

A travel bin that is escape-proof and can be seatbelted securely

A roll of paper towels to clean up poop and pee

A trash bag for the poopy paper towels

(I always forget this and we end up with a floor full of used paper towels.)

An easily accessible extra set of bags/blankies

A heat source for the travel bin, plus a backup heat source in case of emergency (We use a SnuggleSafe heat disk and have disposable handwarmers for backup.)

Nell's list of things you should remember to pack:

A sufficient supply of water; the same kind your hedgies drink at home (So our little tummies won't get upset. Bottled water is also fine.)

Supplies for a hedgie bath, especially if you're going to a show (Mom snuck this one in. Huff huff huff.)

Essential medical supplies (Not nice to think about.)

Food, treats, toys, things that your hedgehog can't live without (Crickies, mealies, tubes.)

Your own stuff. (It must fit in the remaining six cubic inches in the car. We have a station wagon, so Mom, Dad, and Cheryl have maybe one cubic foot after they put all of my things in.)



FLYING...

(...Continued from page 9)

your pet could be without food, water, proper temperatures, or any human contact or care for very long periods of time, putting them at great risk.

> Regulations regarding cargo and baggage animal flights are in a state of flux; a rule proposed in 2002 by the Federal Aviation Administration and ordered by Congress requires airlines to inspect such cargo more closely. Airlines are required to submit detailed monthly reports to the Transportation Department on any incident that leads to loss, injury or death of a pet or an animal to be sold as a pet. Concerns over releasing these reports figures has led many airlines to strictly limit times, dates, distances, number of connecting flights, and types of animals carried.

If you wish to fly with your hedgehog in the cabin with you, you must meet the following requirements:

> You must be on the same flight as your pet. All airlines limit the number of pets allowed in the cabin on a given flight, all charge a fee, and all require that you reserve a place in advance.

Summary of hedgehog acceptance, regulations & costs by major airlines:

Air Canada: Hedgehogs are allowed in the cabin. The cost is \$50US/\$65 Canadian each way.

Alaska/Horizon: Will not fly hedgehogs in the cabin.

America West: Will not fly hedgehogs in the cabin.

American/American Eagle: Will not fly hedgehogs in the cabin.

Continental: Will not fly hedgehogs in the cabin.

Delta: Hedgehogs are allowed in the cabin. The cost is \$75.00 each way.

Frontier: Pets are not allowed in the passenger cabin.

Hooters: Pets are not allowed in the passenger cabin.

JetBlue: Will not fly hedgehogs in the cabin.

Mesa: Hedgehogs allowed in the cabin, according to one company representative. However, her exact words were "I don't see why we wouldn't allow a hedgehog if it's in the proper carrier," so I would definitely ask and reserve in advance. The cost is \$50 each way.

Midwest: Pets are not allowed in the passenger cabin.

Northwest/KLM: Will not fly hedgehogs in the cabin.

Pan Am: Will not fly hedgehogs in the cabin.

Southeast: Will not fly hedgehogs in the cabin

Southwest: Does not accept live animals in the aircraft cabin or cargo compartment other than fully trained service animals accompanying a person with a disability or being delivered to a person with a disability.

Sun Country: Pets are not allowed in the passenger cabin.

United: Will not fly hedgehogs in the cabin.

US Airways: Will not fly hedgehogs in the cabin.

Before you fly with your hedgehog, always call the airline first and clarify their pet policy. I would also suggest that you visit their web site for further info and a detailed description of their pet policies. An excellent web site to visit, which gives individual web sites and phone numbers for hundreds of airlines, is <http://www.geocities.com/Thavery2000/>

> All airlines that allow in-cabin pets require a carrier no larger than 23" x 13" x 9". The carrier must display a label stating "Live Animal" in letters at least 1" high, and a label with your name, address, phone number, and any other contact information. A hard carrier is preferred; soft-sided carriers may be used if they have a water repellent finish and mesh inserts for air circulation. The carrier is considered to be one piece of carry-on luggage.

> Your pet must be at least 8 weeks of age or weaned at least 5 days.

> You must have a current (within 10-30 days) veterinary certificate of good health and any immunizations required (note: hedgehogs do NOT require a rabies vaccination.)

> You may not remove your pet from the carrier at any time during the flight. Your pet must be able to stand, turn around, and lie down within the carrier.

> The airline will not accept any liability for your pet's health or well-being while flying or as a result of flying.

Special note at check-in: You must stop at the flight check-in area to pay for your pet's flight. They should ask to see the veterinary certificate, and they will attach a label to the carrier showing that your pet

has been checked in and the fee paid. You must take your pet out of the carrier at the security inspection area, and send the carrier through x-ray. Do NOT send your pet through x-ray; the radiation dose received is not guaranteed to be safe. You will carry your pet in your hands through the metal detecting gates, and then must return her or him to the carrier promptly.

Special note to avoid disturbing your pet: I have taped a photo of Skeeze on top of her carrier; when people want to know what a hedgehog looks like, they can look at the photo and I never need to open the carrier, and she stays safe and secure under her hat.

Special note regarding smuggling: It may be tempting to tuck a hedgehog into your shirt and board the airplane, avoiding the need for a carrier, health certificate, fee, or reservation. PLEASE do not do this. Without exception, the airline personnel I spoke with stated that if you are caught, a fine would be imposed, at the very least.

Depending on the "Threat Level" in place, the current status of any zoonoses (animal-carried diseases) in the news, or the specific place in which you are caught (in-cabin vs. at the gate by Security) your pet may be seized and not returned to you, you may be banned from the flight, and you may face much stronger legal actions. It is definitely not worth the risk to your innocent pet!

Special note regarding dishonest booking: Reserving a flight for yourself and your hedgehog on an airline that does not accept hedgehogs in the cabin is also risky. While you may squeak by the gate and Security, you may also be caught by an employee who knows the difference between a cat, dog, or bird (the most commonly accepted pets) and a hedgehog. At the height of the Monkey Pox event, I was pulled out of the boarding line by Security personnel and told to wait while they personally verified with a Delta gate agent that a hedgehog was allowed on board. I had in my possession a receipt for payment that stated "hedgehog," since Delta is one of the few airlines that accepts hedgehogs. I hate to think what might have happened had I been dishonest, or had Delta not accepted hedgehogs.

Always carry some of your hedgehog's favorite food and water from home. To avoid air sickness, I recommend not feeding your pet until her or his usual evening feeding time, or until after you have finished the flight. 

Holiday Inns:**Staying in Hotels With Your Hedgehogs**

DONNASUE GRAESSER, IN COLLABORATION WITH TRAVELING HEDGEHOGS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

WILLINGTON, CT – When Pinky, Bianca, Gray Cat and I embarked on a road trip from Connecticut to California (and back again) in 2000, we had our first opportunity to stay in hotels together. Since then, Pinky, Sweet Pea, and Hazel have trekked to many hedgehog shows, and dormed in many hotel rooms from flophouses to four stars.

However, there are many other adventurers in the group, who have traveled across the country with cars, vans, and carry-ons full of hedgehogs. When I asked on the hedgehog e-mail lists for advice about staying in hotels with hogs, there was a plethora of replies from frequent lodgers. I have tried to gather, organize and summarize the collective wisdom of the group into a thorough guide to creating a “home away from home” for your hedgehogs.

CONTRIBUTORS

I would first like to thank all the contributors (hogs and humans) who provided tips and advice: Cindy DeLaRosa, Jacque Dick, Jan Ernst, Susan Goetcheus, Heather Johnson, Gioia Kerlin, Jean McClure, Frannie North, Jennifer Plombon, Pat Storm, Deb Weaver, and Dawn Wrobel. My apologies if I left anyone out.

These ladies have all put a lot of thought and effort into preparing their hedgies for hotel stays. I can just imagine their journeys and

the posh-pog-pads they constructed in hotel rooms. Gioia told us of a journey to Albuquerque with her EIGHT hedgehogs, along with Su, Sherry, Fran, Kerri, and Darnell, and all their hedgies. She wrote, “Oh my...what a lot of hedgehogs and silly women!”

Jacque told us of her excursions with her critters: “Miss Mattie Maxine & then Miss Juniebug were frequent guests at Whiskey Pete’s in Nevada. It took twice as long to unload the car since they had more luggage than my hubby and I. Due to Mattie’s health problems she always traveled out of town with us, every couple of months. She even attended a couple of wine tastings and was always welcomed enthusiastically. After Mattie passed, Juniebug traveled with us, and we broadened her horizons by taking her to all those places and Arizona too. Junie was an excellent traveler, never once was she carsick, and she loved to run around and play peek-a-boo on the king sized beds. The van now feels so empty.”

PLANNING AHEAD

If you are traveling to a hedgehog show, of course the organizers have already confirmed that hedgehogs are allowed in the rooms. If you and your hedgehog are traveling solo, be certain to check with the hotel first and find out if pets are allowed in the rooms. Do not try to sneak your hedgies into hotels/motels that do not accept pets. You may get stuck with a hefty fee on your credit card if your hedgies are discovered. Worse yet, you might be asked to leave and forced to find

another hotel in the middle of your vacation.

There are plenty of hotels that *will* accept your hedgies with open arms. To help choose a hotel, Dawn recommends the web-site: www.pettravel.com. This site has listings of pet-friendly hotels and even advice about how to rent a car when you are traveling with a pet. The *Pets Welcome* book that is reviewed in this month’s *Literary Hedgehog* column on page 13 also provides excellent guidance and listings of pet-friendly hotels. In addition, it can never hurt to ask. If you are not sure whether your hotel will be hedgie-friendly, just call. When you explain that a hedgehog is a small pet that stays in a cage, without the fear of carpet damage, they may be willing to accommodate your hedgehog(s).

GOLDEN RULES

Almost every contributor mentioned to make good use of the “Do Not Disturb” sign in hotels. If possible, make your own beds, ask for clean towels only, and avoid having the cleaning staff entering your room when you are not there. The reasons behind this recommendation are several-fold including:

1. To prevent possible escape while the housekeeping staff leaves the door open.
2. To prevent vacuuming close to the hedgie enclosure, which could frighten the hedgies.
3. A curious housekeeper could pick up a hedgie and drop him/her. Or, get bitten by the hedgie.

Along with that advice, it was recommended to introduce your hedgehogs to the hotel staff, both the desk staff and the cleaning crew. This will help to avoid confusion if one of them does encounter your hedgehog, and mistakes it for some sort of “spiny rat” that necessitates a call to the exterminator. Besides, it is fun to have them all “ooh and ahh” over your hedgehog.

And, Frannie reminds us to be sure to tip the staff generously. Keep in mind, they are helping us to look out for the well being of our beloved hedgehogs.

ENCLOSURES

No matter what **your** accommodations are, your hedgies should always stay in five star luxury!

Personally, I have always traveled with hedgies by car or van, and with a maximum

Welcome New Rescuers!

It is my pleasure to introduce the newest member of the Hedgehog Welfare Society Rescue Contact List, Tonya Thomas from Jellico, Tennessee! Tonya is no stranger to rescue work (she assists in Schnauzer rescue as well) and has already made a great impression on the hedgehog community. Her wonderful heart, awesome motivation, and compassion for all types of animals are great additions to the HWS rescue team. Tonya has written about her first hedgehog rescue experience in this issue of the newsletter. Read all about how Prickles came

into her life on page 5.

Please everyone, join me in extending a warm welcome to Tonya!

The HWS Rescue Committee is committed to helping needy hedgehogs find good homes and warm hearts. As always, my most heart-felt thanks are sent to all the members of the Rescue Contact List. You are all inspirations!

Sincerely,

Yolanda McLean

Co-Chair and Rescue Coordinator
Hedgehog Welfare Society Rescue Committee

(Continues on page 12...)

HOTELS...

(...Continued from page 11)

of only three hedgehogs. Therefore, I have been able to bring my hedgehogs' cages along, and they are truly in their own "homes" away from home.

We realize that is not always feasible, especially if you are traveling with many hedgehogs or by plane. You need to travel with an enclosure that will fit in your luggage. ESPECIALLY if you are going to a hedgehog show, and need extra room in your luggage to carry home all the loot you will buy.

The enclosures that I have seen most frequently used in hotel rooms at shows are the folded corrals. They will fit in your suitcase. You can use "zip-ties" to make them secure. They can be placed over a cheap plastic tablecloth (CHEAP = that you can throw away if it gets too messy). You can also place fleece or vellux over the tablecloth to make it extra-snuggly. Cindy reminds us that one tablecloth can accommodate many corrals. The corrals can also easily accommodate all the comforts of home: wheels, heating pads, snuggle-discs, pigloos, hats, food/water bowls, etc. However, these wire corrals are absolutely out of the question for frequent escapers.

In recent years, I have seen more and more of the pup-tent-like enclosures being used. The hedgegie can be "zipped in" to prevent escape. The tents also fold up flat. The larger ones can accommodate a wheel, and Sherry Songhurst can create a custom liner that will fit your tent perfectly. The tents are sold by Ain't No Creek Ranch. Pat suggested to even put a plastic table cloth under the tents, just in case there are any accidents.

It is simply not possible to travel "light" with hedgehogs, but a suggestion for traveling "lighter" is to put the hedgegies in the bathtub as temporary living quarters. Be sure to also keep the door to the bathroom closed. If you choose the bathtub as an enclosure, please make sure to line it with LOTS of fluffy blankets. The tub can be a cold, hard place.

Baby playpens or Pack-N-Plays that fold up have also been suggested, but these will take up more space than a corral or tent, and are not recommended for climbers. My Pinky or Julie's Punky would be out of that playpen pronto.

Pat also included an important **DON'T**: "We had the unfortunate situation at the

Niagara show when someone used one of the dresser drawers to house their hedgehogs. This is a definite NO-NO!" Can you imagine the next guest in the room putting their clean underwear in that drawer? Yuck!

Sterilite bins (with proper ventilation) can also be used as temporary housing for short stays in hotel rooms, provided they are roomy enough. As a general rule of thumb, the enclosure should be escape-proof, and spacious enough to house all the comforts of home: pigloos, hats, heating pads, heat disks, wheels, litter boxes, food and water.

FOOD AND WATER

The general advice for water is to bring your own, either bottled or from home. Water quality can vary enormously in different locations, and water that contains "strange" things can upset little hedgegie tummies. Heather Johnson brings a Brita-type filtered sports bottle to filter Knarla's water while they are on the road.

If your food requires heating or cooling, there are several options. You can look for a hotel with a refrigerator and/or microwave. The suites at the Suncoast Show had full kitchens. You can keep items cool in the hotel ice-bucket, or you can bring a small cooler along. Jacque even transports a mini-microwave with her when she travels. The microwave can be used to warm food, or to warm snuggle-safe discs.

If your hedgegies eat live bugs, it might be easier to switch to freeze-dried when you are traveling. Especially if flying. It might be a challenge to explain the creepie-crawlies if your bag gets chosen for a search (as mine *always* does).

CLEANING UP: WHAT GOES IN, MUST COME OUT

The most difficult challenge of hotel stays seems to be cleaning wheels. Someone mentioned the back-breaking chore of leaning over a bathtub scrubbing multiple wheels every day.

Frannie suggested a *quick* (about 2 seconds) spray with Pam cooking spray to "loosen up" the stuck on poop before cleaning. Many people accomplish "on the go" wheel-cleaning with wipes such as those made by Lysol or Clorox, or even baby wipes.

Cindy brings along a round dishpan to soak wheels in, and uses a toothbrush for scrubbing. Jennifer takes Skeezix's wheel in the shower with her to soak (Very practical if you are traveling with only one or two wheels, I will try this on my next journey with Pinky).

The ever practical Deb added, "One thing I do is to pack along extra plastic bags for depositing pog poop and litter." *Very* good advice! Those hotel rooms never have enough trash-space.

Pat has asked to borrow the vacuum cleaner from the maids as they went down the hall to do a "pre-clean" before leaving the room.

Cindy dumps all the hedgegie gear into a garbage bag, and gets to cleaning it thoroughly when she gets home.

Of course, the general rule of thumb here is: **CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR HEDGIES!** We do not want to ever give any hotel staff a reason to refuse to let hedgegies stay in their hotel. We want to show them that hedgegies are the perfect guests.

TEMPERATURE CONTROL

Another consideration to take into account is the crazy temperature regulation in some hotel rooms. I am sure we can all recall the hotel room that was sweltering in the middle of February. Or, freezing on one side of the room and a sauna on the other side. Gioia recommends to put the hedgehogs in the place in the room with the most moderate temperature, away from the heater. The bed sometimes may be the most tolerable temperature-zone.

Be sure to bring along a heating device (heat packs, heating pad, snuggle-safe disc). Jennifer adds, "If you routinely use a heating pad, bring an extension cord with at least two outlets on it! Hotels are notorious for having very few outlets in very awkward places."

MISCELLANEOUS EXCELLENT ADVICE

Cindy DeLaRosa: "Big, gallon-sized freezer bags are great for carrying everyone's stuff and keeping it all together while traveling. I use one bag for each hedgegie with bowls, toys, and individual creature comforts inside. My kids don't travel light."

More from Cindy: "Oh, and make sure you don't bring a rowdy bunch of hedgegies. We had neighbors complain in Colorado that our hedgegies made too much noise, really!"

Susan Goetcheus: "If you don't usually share a room with your hedgegies, make sure you bring earplugs to drown out the sound of squeaky wheels and crunching kibble!"

Cindy offers an alternative to ear plugs: "Don't plan on getting much sleep."

Gioia Kerlin: "Take a hog to dine in the restaurant! It gives the other guests something to do."

Skeezix: "No fair stealing the cool vellux blankets from the bed." 

The Literary Hedgehog

Hedgehogs Welcome

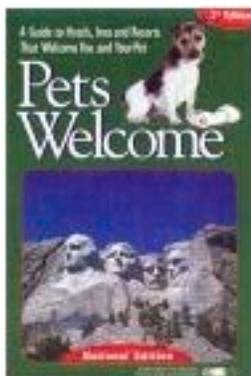
DONNASUE GRAESSER

WILLINGTON, CT – This month, in keeping with our theme of traveling with your hedgehogs, our book review will focus on travel as well. I am a big fan of the book *Pets Welcome: The Best Guide to Hotels, Motels, Inns & Resorts that Welcome You and Your Pet*. The authors of the book are Nadine Guarrera and Hugo N. Gerstl, and it is published by Four Paws Press (ISBN 097100890-6). There are actually several books in this series that feature different regions of the country, but the one that I have found most useful is the National Edition. The second revised edition (published in 2001) is the most popular travel guide of its kind in the United States, and according to Amazon.com “the only one endorsed by the Humane Society of the United States.” I apologize to our Canadian and European readers; the book only features accommodations in the United States.

The goal of the *Pets Welcome* guide is “to make it possible for you to travel with your pet and to provide a meaningful, happy experience for each of you.” The authors provide a listing of over 1000 accommodations across the United States that allow pets to stay with you in their guest rooms. However, this book goes far beyond just a “listing” of pet-friendly hotels/motels. The authors and editors have done a great deal of superb research on each establishment, and they offer additional information such as hotel descriptions, room rates, nearby attractions, pet deposits, and pet policies. The authors also consider hotel amenities, for both humans and animals. Some of the pet perks mentioned are (in order from the most common to the more extraordinary):

- Veterinarian lists that are maintained by the hotels
- Exercise areas specifically for pets
- Nearby parks
- Dog runs
- Bowls and mats
- Toys
- Pet sitting services
- Welcome treats for pets and/or pet room service menus (Wonder if they have any mealies in stock?)

Each of the lodgings listed is also rated



from two paws to five paws. A rating of two paws indicates “a clean, comfortable establishment with better than average amenities for humans and pets.” A rating of five paws indicates “a truly one-of-a-kind, world class lodging that is almost a vacation destination in itself.” Of course, three and four paws lie somewhere in between. Whether you and your hedgegie are the type who need to stay in the lap of luxury, or if you can make do with just a bed, shower, and a place for a wheel... *Pets Welcome* can help you



find accommodations to suit your needs and the needs of your hedgehog.

The second revised edition includes some improvements over the first edition. The number of listings has been expanded. However, the dimensions of the book have been reduced to “a very cartable 5 x 8 inch format.” The book is 608 pages, but it is printed on lightweight paper, so it doesn’t feel like carting around a college textbook. In addition to having more listings, about 1/3 of the establishments offer discounts to *Pets Welcome* readers, with an average savings of 10%. The price of the book is us\$19.95, but used copies can be purchased at Amazon.com, sometimes at prices as low as \$1.

Pets Welcome is an excellent guide to help find accommodations for you and your pets, hedgehogs and otherwise. There are many great web sites providing similar information. However, I found this book invaluable during a cross-country meandering road trip with my hedgehogs, my cat, and my future husband. We had no idea how far we might be able to drive each day or how long we might spend at a pit stop. When we knew we were going to be staying in a hotel on a particular night, we used the book to help plan our driving destination for that day. I was never disappointed in any of the recommended hotels.

In addition to providing information about hotels, motels, and inns, the book also provides tips and guidelines for traveling with pets in general. Although the tips are useful, I must boast that the travel suggestions provided in this newsletter are much more comprehensive. And, of course, more specifically suited to traveling with hedgehogs. So, grab a copy of this book and of this newsletter and hit the road... 🐾

Whose Tat is That?

The owner of this tattoo may be clear, if you were at Go Hog Wild in the millennium year. It was told at that show in Illinois that the hedgegie pictured is a boy.

The model photo was of a two-some. The boy on the top and a girl on the bottom. When the photo was tattoo-translated. The girl was removed to make it G-rated.

If you would like to play *Whose Tat is That?*, write to donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu. We will feature a new tattoo in every newsletter. Points will accumulate quarterly and the winner announced in December, 2004. Special prizes will be awarded.



5 points for submitting a picture of your tattoo to be featured.

4 points for being the first to correctly identify the person with the ink.

2 points for everyone else correctly identifying the person with the ink.

Last month’s tattoo belonged to Heather Blank (5 points)

Only correct guess: Paul VanOosterhout (4 points) 🐾

Finding a pet sitter for your hedgehogs

Editor's note: Sometimes, bringing our hedgehogs along on a trip is just not possible. If we must leave our hedgehogs at home, finding a responsible, caring pet sitter is a necessity. Hedgehogs MUST be looked in on at least once a day. Do NOT leave your hedgehogs to fend for themselves for a weekend, or even for a day. Water bottles can leak out, water dishes can be tipped over, strings can wrap around little legs and cause permanent damage within 24 hours, wheel injuries can occur. By hiring a pet sitter to visit your hedgehog(s) EVERY day, you can be sure that your hedgies are safe and well cared for.

Amy Stackhouse is the owner of Amy's Sit-n-Stay, a professional pet sitting business, as well as a member of the All Canadian Pet Services Network, and a long-time member of our hedgehog community. She offers superb advice for finding the right pet sitter for your special pet.

AMY STACKHOUSE

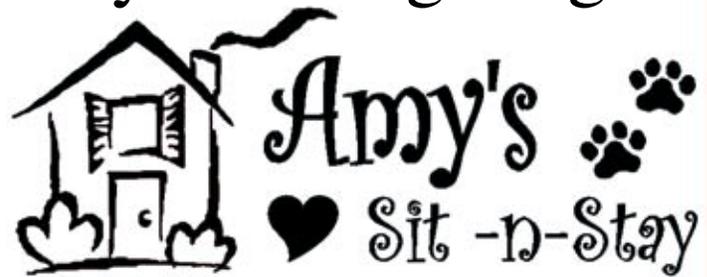
ST. CATHERINE'S, ONTARIO – For many people with pets, finding time to get away is complicated by the need to find care for their special friends. Whether you have a one hedgehog or many, a professional pet sitter can often be a good choice.

Hiring a professional pet sitter has several advantages over asking a friend or neighbor to care for your pets, or taking your pets out of the home. One of the best features of using a pet sitter is the fact that your pets remain in their own environment where all the sights, smells and sounds are familiar. Your pets will be following their normal routine and eating their own food, and you don't need to worry about them being exposed to diseases and parasites that are common in kennels and boarding houses. In addition, your home will look "lived in" because most pet sitters will bring in your mail, alternate lights and curtains, and water your plants. You don't need to worry about imposing on anyone and you can be assured that your pets will receive love and attention from a professional while you are away.

There are many ways to find a professional pet sitter in your area. Try looking in the phone book or searching online. You may also be able to find a pet sitter by going through a professional organization such as Pet Sitters International, the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters, or the All Canadian Pet Services Network. After you have found pet sitters in your area, you will need to find one that you feel comfortable with. Don't be afraid to ask questions! Pet sitters are accustomed to interview questions because they know you are entrusting them with your home and your precious pets.

Here are a few questions you should ask before choosing a pet sitter:

- * Is your business licensed, insured and bonded? Are all employees and independent contractors covered?
- * Do you provide references?
- * What experience do you have caring for hedgehogs? Are you willing to learn?
- * In the event of illness or emergency, do you have a back-up plan?
- * Do you provide a contract that includes definite fees?
- * Are you able to arrange a consultation interview so I can see



how you interact with my pet?

- * What will you do in case my pet needs medical care?

If the pet sitter does not have experience with hedgehogs, see if they are willing to learn. You will want to give them a brief run down on what the job will require. Time yourself doing the tasks you will expect them to do to give them an idea of the length of time it will take them. In addition, you can offer to send them links to educational web sites so they can do some "homework" before they visit your home.

After you have met with your pet sitter you will likely be required to sign paperwork and go over what duties you would like them to perform. You will also give them a tour of your home so they are familiar with the layout. Be sure to show your pet sitter the location of light switches if they will be in your home at night. You will want to show them where you keep all the items they will need for their visits, such as food, supplies and cleaning products. If you have more than one pet, or if you have detailed instructions, you may want to type out the information for your pet sitter before they arrive.

You will need to clearly outline your pets' routines and habits. Many hedgehog owners have more than one hedgehog, so it is a good idea to label enclosures so the pet sitter knows which hedgehog is in which enclosure. Be sure to indicate quantity of foods as well as treats. Do not change your pet's diet less than three weeks before you leave, so your pet sitter will not have to deal with upset tummies. Give your pet sitter details on how the enclosure (including wheel) is to be cleaned- how often, with which cleaning products, where to put the waste, etc.

Most pet sitters will require that you sign a veterinary release form. It is important for your pet sitter to know where to take your hedgehog in the case of an emergency that occurs during business hours, as well as "after-hours." If you cannot be reached while you are away, it is a good idea to give at least one other contact number for your pet sitter. You can also give them contact information for another hedgehog owner who would be willing to give advice to your pet sitter if they have a question while you are gone.

And some last-minute tips:

- * Do not move items the pet sitter will need to perform his/her job or they might not know where to find them.
- * Be sure that there is more than enough food or other items your pet will need before leaving.
- * Thoroughly check your home for household dangers so your pet will be safe in your absence.
- * Don't forget to lock the doors and leave an outside light on.

(Continues on page 15...)

July 2004 – European Hedgehog Awareness Month!

Are you aware:

- European hedgehogs and African hedgehogs are two entirely different species?
- Hedgehogs in Europe live outside in people's yards like squirrels and raccoons?
- What a hedgehog looks like after an encounter with an electric garden tool?
- Hedgehogs are slated to be killed on an island in Scotland?
- It is not legal to own hedgehogs in some European countries?

European Awareness month is a time for members of the HWS to learn more about European hedgehogs, while participating in programs to help these hedgehogs and their caretakers.

How can you get involved?

- Help care for a European hedgehog by joining the HWS sponsorship program.



- Get to know hedgehog caretakers from Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, and United Kingdom
- Read the special "European" edition of the newsletter in July.
- Help assemble care packages to be sent to European rescue & rehabilitation groups.
- Bid on some unique "not found in the USA" hedgehogabilia items during our special auctions and raffles. Get cool stuff while supporting hedgehog care in Europe.
- For more information on European Awareness month activities, please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hedgehogwelfare/> or contact donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu



PET SITTING...

(...Continued from page 14)

- * Set your thermostat at a temperature that will be comfortable for your pets.
- * Account for ALL of your pets before you leave. You wouldn't want to lock anyone in a closet.
- * Inform neighbors who may be looking out for your home that a pet sitter will be making visits to care for your pets.
- * If you have a security alarm system, notify the company that a pet sitter will be coming to your home and give them the pertinent name and phone numbers.

It may seem like a lot of work to hire a professional pet sitter, but your spiky friends deserve the best quality care. A professional pet care provider can be your hedgehog's best friend while you are away, and you have peace of mind that your pets are being loved and cared for.

For more information you can visit:

Pet Sitters International

www.petsit.com

Nat'l Assoc. of Professional Pet Sitters

www.petsitters.org

All Canadian Pet Services Network

www.acpsn.com

Amy's Sit-n-Stay

www.amys-sit-n-stay.com



Just a couple of the many items available in the upcoming special auctions.

Hedgies race to success in 2004 Wheel-a-Thon

HEATHER JOHNSON

CHARLESTON, SC – All that wheeling paid off! The 2004 Hedgehog Welfare Society Wheel-a-Thon raised nearly \$2,600 for the rescue and educational efforts of the HWS. Through this fun event, participants raised funds to sponsor their hedgehog's night of wheeling on Hedgehog Day, February 2, 2004. They also had the opportunity to receive prizes from a variety of sponsors.

Interesting Wheel-a-Thon facts for this year:

- Our three Wisconsin Wheelers raised by far the most funds of any state, with a whopping 16.4% of the total. Thanks to Kay Malmquist, Liza Richlin, and Elizabeth Olson for representing their state so well!
- Wheelers received more than \$500.00 in prizes for their hard work, not including t-shirts and certificates.
- The average amount raised by the Wheelers was an amazing \$68.11.

The Wheel-a-Thon increases awareness of the need for hedgehogs to have plenty of opportunity for exercise, allows participants to share their passion for their pets, and raises funds for the HWS. Plus, it's a lot of fun. Thanks to each and every one of our Wheelers for their enthusiasm for supporting the Hedgehog Welfare Society! 🐾



Larkspur demonstrates the perfect form for a workout.

2004 Wheel-A-Thon Participants

\$200.00 and over

Kay Malmquist

\$150.00 -199.99

Becky Timms
Liza Richlin
Steph Hyne
Brenda Sandoval

\$100.00 -149.99

Linda Woodring
Donnasue Graesser
Rheline Fiset
Julia Rohs
Karla Callaghan

\$75.00 -99.99

Carol Kregear
Laura Wetterau
Bridget Straszheim

\$50.00 -74.99

Gina Anderson
Elana Adler
Jane Kuta
Barb Jacobson
Heather Blank
Melanie Buschmeyer
Kimberly Harman
Heather Johnson
Elizabeth Olson
Laurel Sedgwick
Kelly Sosik-Hamor
Delores Strickland
Lindsay Taylor

\$25.00 -49.99

Naomi Wikane
Aimee Hassler
Jennifer Plombon

\$24.99 and under

Kessie Rinderknecht
Sherry Songhurst
Tonya Thomas
Jennifer Simon
Kerri LeMotte
Linda Edwards
Janet Ernst
Kristen White

Thanks to our 2004 Wheel-a-Thon Sponsors!

Aardvark Art Glass
Joan Plombon
Ain't No Creek Ranch
Pins n Needles Hedgehog Furnishings
Hedgies.com
Drs. Foster and Smith
Naomi Wikane



Serendipity rests after a hard night's run.

MilitaryPetsFOSTER Project MilitaryPetsFOSTER Project

KELLY SOSIK-HAMOR

HAVERHILL, MA – Although our opinions on war may differ, one thing I'm sure we can all agree on is that it must be heart breaking to leave behind an animal when called to duty. During the Gulf War, animal shelters were inundated with animals left behind when American servicemen and women went off to fight the war. Unfortunately, many of these animals were ultimately destroyed due to lack of space or inability to find a new home.

Steven Albin began the *MilitaryPets* FOSTER Project shortly after the September 11th tragedy. The program helps to find foster homes for the pets of our troops who are called to duty. Military personnel can rest easy knowing that their pets are safe, happy, and healthy, and will be waiting for them upon their return.

*MilitaryPets*FOSTER Project is a free service that relies on vol-

To fill out an application to become a foster home:

<https://www.netpets.org/netp/fosterhome.php>

For more information:

<http://www.netpets.org/mpfosterpress3.html>

A Conversation with Steve Albin

DONNASUE GRAESSER

WILLINGTON, CT – As a follow-up to this article, I had the opportunity to speak with the founder of the *MilitaryPets*FOSTER Project, Steve Albin, in a phone conversation that lasted two hours! His experience in showing dogs and years of volunteer work with his vast informational web site, NetPets.org, has provided Steve with a lifetime of education. Steve imparted many tidbits of knowledge to me, from the population of Cherry County, Nebraska, to the best phone headset on the market.

Amazingly, Steve runs the entire *MilitaryPets*FOSTER Project by himself. Other than foster families, he has no additional volunteers. He works virtually 24/7, and feels it is his patriotic calling to do so. Sometimes, military personnel are deployed with very little notice. Steve has set up foster homes with as little as three hours leeway.

Steve's placement success rate is about 98%. He does not "train" animals, but makes every effort to place them close their original home. Usually, when he does have trouble placing a pet, it is because the pet is aggressive or he cannot find a foster home that has knowledge about the breed. He makes every effort to place pets in a foster home that is familiar with the specific breed of the pet and the idiosyncrasies of that breed.

Which, brings us to hedgehogs! Steve says that he has never been asked to place a hedgehog in a foster home. But, now that he knows the Hedgehog Welfare Society exists, he will know exactly who to turn to should a military hedgehog need fostering. I would encourage each and every HWS member to go to NetPets.org and sign up to be a foster home for hedgehogs! With the growing popularity of hedgehogs as pets, I'm sure it will just be a matter of time before one is placed through this very worthwhile Project. 🐾

unteer foster homes throughout the country, and is available to all military personnel who must leave their homes to fulfill military obligations. Potential foster families fill out an application, provide references, and provide contact information for their veterinarian. Albin personally screens all applicants for eligibility and matches pets to qualified foster families. 🐾



Keeping Love Waiting
www.NetPets.Org



A QUESTION FOR THE POGS?

Do you have a question you would like to ask the poggs?

FAVORITE RESCUE STORY

Do you have a favorite rescue story you would like to share?

FAVORITE PHOTO(S)

Do you have a favorite photo of your quilly master(s)?

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER WELCOMED!

Please send it/them to us
either electronically at
newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org

or via snail-mail to
HWS Newsletter
c/o Kathleen Knudsen
PO Box 70408, Seattle WA 98127



Silkworms:

The Filet Mignon Of Insects

*Lili – up close and personal with a silkworm***LAURA LEDET**

PUYALLUP, WA – About a year ago, I met a woman selling silkworms. Although I had heard of silkworms, I had never seen one nor given any thought to using them as a food source for my hedgehogs and other insect-eating animals. I decided to give silkies a try and they were a HUGE hit with the hedgehogs at the Ledet household! Now I swear you can hear their little food cups being banged against the bars of their cages in protest if they miss a feeding of silkies! Not only do our hedgies love them, but so do all our reptiles and the sugargliders. We do our best to maintain a constant supply here now.

Silkworms are very soft, making them extremely palatable and easy to digest. In addition, silkworms have a high concentra-

tion of serrapeptase-producing bacteria in their gut. According to one homeopathic physician, they have a higher concentration of this type of bacteria than any other animal. Serrapeptase is believed to gobble up growths such as fibroids and cancerous tumors. With the high incidence of cancers in our quilly friends, it makes good sense to feed silkworms to them.

When silkworms are born, they are extremely small. It takes approximately 35 days from hatching until they are full grown and ready to spin their cocoons. They are fed exclusively on fresh mulberry leaves or powdered commercial mulberry leaves. You can feed them every day for rapid growth or every other day for slower growth. An adult silkworm is almost as long as my first finger, making it a meal unto itself for some finger. Most of our hedgehogs like both the medium and large silkworms. I usually buy medium-sized silkies to feed our large menagerie of animals, but if you have very small reptiles or baby hedgehogs, the smaller size would serve them well.

I do not suggest removing mealworms or crickets from your hedgehog's diet. But variety is the spice of life, so why not give your beloved pets the "Filet Mignon" of the insect world as well? The health benefits of silkies make them a wise addition to your pets' diet. 🐾

If you are interested in trying some silkworms, I suggest Cheri Videen as the supplier.

*Cheri can be contacted at
cherbear123@comcast.net*

Or visit her web site to see silkworms and other insects she has to offer at

www.silkystogo.com

All of Cheri's insects come fully gut loaded for maximum nutritional value.

BONUS:

Cheri offers a 10% discount for all recognized Hedgehog Welfare Society Rescues!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SERRAPEPTASE

You can access informational articles on the following web sites:

<http://www.totalityofbeing.com/ArchivedEnzymesfightCancer.html>

<http://smart-drugs.net/serrapeptase-research.htm>

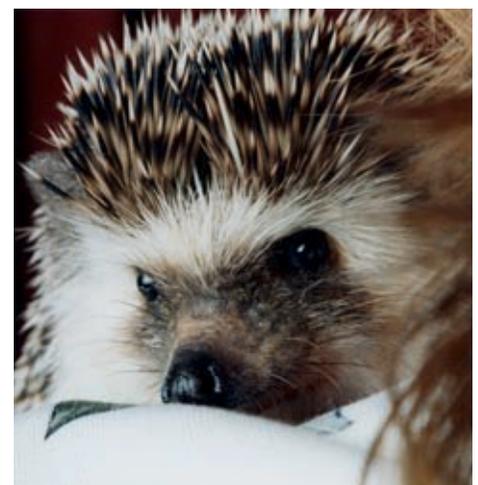
<http://www.energeticnutrition.com/vitalzym/serrapeptase.html>

http://www.instantestore.net/merchant2488/files/Newsletter_issue_1_031003.htm

*Silkworms enjoy a meal of mulberry leaves.*

Other silkworm bonuses

- * One silkworm can be the size of a pin-head cricket or up to the size of 10 large crickets or mealworms.
- * Silkworms are HIGHLY NUTRITIOUS (High content of Calcium, Protein, Iron, Magnesium, Vitamins B1, B2, and B3).
- * Silkworms are SILENT.
- * Silkworms do NOT ESCAPE.
- * Silkworms have a soft exoskeleton for MAXIMUM DIGESTIBILITY.
- * Silkworms sit still when placed in a terrarium or cage and will stick to branches and wait to be eaten.
- * Silkworms are ODORLESS.
- * Silkworms do NOT POSE A THREAT to the health or hygiene of you or your pet as other insects can.
- * Silkworms are welcomed by FINICKY EATERS.

*Hmm, do I get a silkworm for looking cute? Odin now hunts for silkies across the Bridge.*

IHOG at Arlington Heights

March 20, 2004

GABBY & GROVER WEAVER

MILWAUKEE, WI – Gabby: It was quite a day at Arlington. Let me tell you, those dogs are loud! We got to our stage and peeked out at the audience in the bleachers. They were full! And there were lots of kids looking and pointing at us. We all greeted each other and warmed up while Veronica Moyle (who was running the IHOG) got the course organized. We had an interesting group of competitors, including a therapy hedgeie (Ivy) and one that was found in a wood pile five years ago (Heathcliff). After a few directions to the audience, we got started. The 3 meter dash was first and despite not feeling like myself, I came in 7th.

Grover: I slept in my ball.

Gabby: Then on to the shot put, where I took a 4th.

Grover: I slept in my ball.

Gabby: The garden slalom was next. I tied for 6th in this event.

Grover: Mom decided to tap on my ball and yell my name to get me going. I just squeezed my eyes shut tighter and slept in my ball.

Gabby: Finally I was able to get out of that ball, and felt better. I moved over to the hurdle competition. I took a 5th here.

Grover: With my bedroom, I mean ball, taken away, I dashed through one hurdle and then had to sit down and rest.

Gabby: Really, Grover, not a good outing for you that day. The floor exercise was the last event. I managed a 4th place finish here.

Grover: Well, after all the exertion on the hurdles, I had to sit down and rest when I got to the floor ex.

3 Meter Dash:

- 1st - Arlington (Vicki & Gary Jester)
- 2nd - Stitch (Vicki & Gary Jester)
- 3rd - Ivy The Hot Rod Hedgehog (William Pollock)
- 4th - Trillian (Dawn Wrobel)
- 5th - Whisper (Jack Giambrone)
- 6th - Payton (Linda and Jim Woodring)
- 7th - Gabby (Deb Weaver)
- 8th - Sweetie (Dawn Wrobel)
- 9th - Grover (Deb Weaver)

Shot Put:

- 1st - Stitch
- 2nd - Arlington
- 3rd - Sweetie
- 4th - Gabby
- 5th - Payton
- 6th - Ivy
- 7th - Whisper
- 8th - Trillian
- 9th - Grover

Garden Slalom:

- 1st - Trillian



Gabby and Grover – undeniably Two Peas In A Pod!

Gabby: Grover! You placed last in every event.

Grover: No I didn't, one kid did no hurdles, so I beat him. And you and I took 1st in the costume competition with our Two Peas In A Pod costume from the Niagara Falls show. People took lots of pictures of us in that.

Gabby: Listed below are all the rankings. We offer our heartiest congratulations to the overall winners of the day: Gold Metal: Stitch, Silver Medal: Arlington, and Bronze Metal: Trillian. 🐾

- 2nd - Payton
- 3rd - Whisper
- 4th - Arlington
- 5th Tie - Ivy / Stitch
- 6th Tie - Gabby / Sweetie
- 7th - Grover

Hurdles:

- 1st - Stitch
- 2nd - Arlington
- 3rd - Whisper
- 4th - Payton
- 5th - Gabby
- 6th Tie - Heathcliff (Xena & Ileana Beker) / Trillian / Ivy
- 7th - Grover
- 8th - Sweetie

Floor Exercise:

- 1st - Stitch
- 2nd - Arlington
- 3rd - Ivy
- 4th - Gabby
- 5th - Trillian
- 6th Tie - Payton / Sweetie
- 7th Tie - Grover / Whisper



BRENDA SANDOVAL – Manitou Springs, CO
PAT STORM – North Tonawanda, NY

BRENDA'S STORY

By December 23, 2003, my husband Narciso, and I were ready for the holidays to be over and were looking forward to 2004. The year had been filled with family and animal deaths, and in October our house flooded. The flood resulted in our having to live in a hotel for several weeks. Once we returned home, the days were filled with workers and noise as they completed the work. Our furniture had been ruined from the flood and had been hauled away months before. The new furniture had been delivered the previous week but it still didn't fill the void we were both feeling that year.

After taking a three week road trip the previous year through the west visiting and celebrating Christmas with friends and relatives, we had opted to stay home this year. We were feeling alone and pretty much useless as all of our families were out of town except for my mother. We were going to have our little Christmas at our house... just the three of us humans, four hedgehogs and two beta fish.

On the 23rd I had gone to have a much-needed massage and listened to my masseuse lecture me about working too hard and being constantly on the go. I left his office determined to quit pushing myself and ease off getting so involved in so many things. "Yes," I thought, "he is right. I will slow down." But after that thought, I added, "for the next two weeks, anyway."

Upon arriving home around 3:30 pm, I got on the computer and went to my Yahoo mail box to read the mail that had come in during the two hours I had been gone. When the box opened, I saw that 50+ messages had arrived. Wondering what in the world could be generating so much group mail, I quickly scanned the subject lines and gasped. The topic on at least half of the mail was, Hedgehog on e-bay!

I just couldn't believe it. Just weeks earlier I had gotten quite upset when I saw a hedgehog skin for sale on eBay, and now there was a live one for sale?? Before I

started reading these e-mails I went and got our youngest hedgehog, Jackpot!. I wanted to hold one of our kids while I read.

Chris Gibbany had posted the first mail, which stated that there was a live hedgehog for sale for \$200 in Colorado. "Is this legal?" Chris asked. My jaw dropped, my eyes opened wide and I fell back in my chair. I was certain that this was wrong. How could any one in Colorado be doing such a thing? Colorado is full of animal lovers, probably more than in any other state. Before reading on I went to eBay and saw for myself. I saw the photos of an adorable girl being held and wondered how anyone could sell this precious animal in an eBay auction. And, not only was she in Colorado, she was right here in Colorado Springs which is only a mile away!

I carefully clicked on the next mail which was from Jennifer Plombon who emphatically said that this was not legal nor allowed on eBay, and encouraged complaints to be filed. As I continued reading the mails I saw that everyone was posting the complaints they had sent to both the seller and to eBay. After reading a few more mails, I had to act. I slid forward in my chair and began my email to the Hedgehog Welfare Group and offered my help. I also sent a note to the seller inquiring for more information on this adorable looking hedgehog. I didn't speak in anger or complain about how he was selling this pet. I felt that if the lines of communication were opened between he and I, there would be a greater chance of the sale being stopped and he would not sell her to the highest bidder.

Sixteen minutes after I posted Pat Storm posted that she had bid on the hedgehog and mentioned that she would go as high as necessary to make sure this hedgehog did not go to the wrong person. I felt relief and knew at that point that this would all work out, I just didn't know how. Then, eighteen minutes later Susan Morrison said that she and the Colorado Hedgehog Society were working on the situation from Denver. It was then I realized that I would probably be the one to meet the seller face to face, no matter who would end up bringing the hedgehog to a forever home.

The very next mail was from Pat, giving me permission to go in on her behalf and pose as the bidder. Pat and I then had several conversations discussing strategy. I also spoke with Susan several times. We all agreed that somehow and some way this

little hedgehog would not go to anyone who was not associated with the Hedgehog Welfare group. Narciso arrived home about 4:30, and I quickly filled him in on the situation and what was being done to rescue the hedgehog. As emails keep coming in, I would read them to him and we would discuss the situation without coming up with a perfect plan to get this hedgehog from the seller.

At 7:25 pm Pat called again. I will never forget this phone call. Pat asked if I would call the seller. There was a total silence. I didn't know what to say. I was in shock that this was even possible. Little did I know that Pat was able to obtain the seller's name and phone number because she had made a bid. As soon as I had the information verified we disconnected.

I immediately dialed the number and listened to it ring. What if no one answered? What if the number had been disconnected? How would I handle this person if he would not stop the sale? What if the little hedgehog had gone home with someone already? It seemed like forever before the phone was answered.

The female voice was quite pleasant. She was on her way home from work and told me that the hedgehog belonged to her son, Scott, who no longer had time to spend with her as he once did. I also found out that Scott had done the listing with eBay. His mother was unfamiliar with the emails that had been sent but she did say that they would stop the sale in order for me to buy her if he hadn't already found her a new home. She would talk to him when she got home and call me in one hour. I told her I would call back in 75 minutes if I did not hear back from her. And that is exactly what I did.

She was pleased to hear from me and at that point told me that her sister's name was Brenda so she had remembered my name. She told me she had spoken with Scott. The hedgehog was still available. They were coming to Manitou Springs the next day and could drop her off early in the afternoon. Would that work for me? Wow, I thought, this was easier than I had expected.

We talked for a bit and I was told that the pet had been purchased at a pet store, and he called her Hedgehog. I about choked. Poor thing to have such a name. I then spoke with Scott who told me about her personality and that she had only bitten twice when

(Continues on page 21...)

eBABY...

(...Continued from page 20)

he had strong smells on his hands. He sounded like a teenager and was quite pleasant. We reiterated our arrangements for the next day and hung up. Within ten minutes Scott had answered my earlier email and mentioned once again that we would meet the next day.

At that point I got right back on the computer. I wrote the update and asked for help. We just had to find a new name for this girl. Within minutes the ideas started to come in – all kinds of names with meanings – and holiday related names.

The next day I received a call at noon from the mother saying they were on their way. We set an exact time of 1:00 and decided that I would meet them on the main street that runs through town. Of course, I was the first one there and waited anxiously for only about five minutes. Scott stepped out of the car holding a box with Carefresh in the bottom. The lid was attached to the box and somehow he had rigged her water bottle on the lid. He appeared to be about 16, clean cut and very polite.

I immediately took her from the box and found the sweetest little girl. It was then that I noticed her nails were curled around her toes and a couple of the toes were not straight. I also noticed that she dried crusty white stuff on her back shoulder quills and ears. It was obvious that she probably had never had a bath and nail trim. She was a bit huffy so I started talking to her, calling her every sweet name I could think of. For a few moments I was lost in thought, thinking of the perfect new name for her as I called her the sweet names.

The mother jolted me back to the moment when she said, “Her name is Hedgehog.” to which I thought “Not anymore!” Scott had brought along her food (2 boxes of Vita Kraft), a huge bag of Carefresh, a comfort wheel, a critter ball and vitamins. He apologized for the controversy he had caused and told me he had been the one that stopped the sale. I had wanted to know if Scott or eBaby had stopped the auction.

As soon as I arrived home the Vita Kraft went to the wild birds and the Carefresh went into the trash. Narciso met me in the garage and was anxious to see her. We carried everything into the guestroom where she would live for the next 30 days of quar-



eBaby – formerly known as Christmas Eve

antine. We carefully inspected her and decided that even though she was in a new home and probably scared, it was necessary to give her a bath and trim the nails. We also decided to call her Christmas Eve until the new name had been picked.

Christmas Eve surprised me by liking the bath water. From that point on I think she knew she was going to have a better life. She seemed so happy even then. During the bath I noticed that her tummy was hard as a rock. I was hoping that it was from her diet and would soften in time. I trimmed her nails a bit and decided that was enough for one day and put her in the Sterilite. I inspected the water bottle closely and realized that it did not dispense water very well and threw that away also. We prefer not use them anyway. I found her a food and water crock, filled them both and left her be.

I hadn't gone far when I heard a noise that stopped me in my tracks. I went back and there she was in her wheel going like crazy. And it was the middle of the afternoon! To this day, she is the most avid wheeler of our six hedgehogs. I hear her during the night wheeling for hours with ten-second stops to poop off the edge. It is very rare that I find any poop on her wheel – it's on the liner. She still wheels during the day for short periods of time.

I left Christmas Eve alone and went back to the computer to send an email to the Hedgehog Welfare Group. During the past 24 hours I had experienced first hand what a wonderful group I was a part of. I knew everyone was waiting to hear that she was now safe and sound. As I sat to write, I noticed how different I felt about the Christmas holiday now. I felt excited and happy that something had been done to give some-

one a new home. It was if we had found a homeless family and opened our home to them during this special time of the year. “This,” I thought, “is what Christmas is about, too.” The rescue of this special soul was over and the entire hedgehog community had made it happen.

Christmas Day came and all of the hedgehogs in our home plus three others that we were hedgie sitting for Darcie and Doug Carter enjoyed a Christmas meal of turkey, mashed and sweet potatoes, corn and beans. They seemed to know and understood that this had been a very special Christmas. Christmas Eve loved her Christmas meal and ate with enthusiasm. She never did miss the horrible Vita Kraft.

Arrangements had been made to take Christmas Eve to the vet for a checkup the following Monday. As I was pulling into the parking lot with her, all of a sudden I felt she was talking to me. Out of nowhere, she was telling me that she wanted part of her name to be eBaby. I have never had such a strong telepathic hit, and I knew that she was definitely communicating this to me. Her checkup went well and even the skin scraping for mites was negative.

Upon returning home, I emailed to Su Morrison and Pat Storm to tell them what had happened with the name situation. I had asked them to be instrumental in choosing a name with us. We had whittled the list down to three names. Pat had come up with “eBaby” early in the selection process, but it had not been chosen at that point. As soon as they heard what her middle name was to be, it took no time for us to agree on the first name of Anisa (A-nee-sah). Anisa is

(Continues on page 22...)

EBABY...

(...Continued from page 21)

Swahili for pleasure and joy, which is what she brought to so many people when she was rescued. Interestingly enough, she is only Anisa on her IHA Registry. Everyone immediately began calling her eBaby and it stuck. I know she smiles every time someone calls her by that name.

eBaby adapted to us and settled in immediately. It seemed that she was thrilled to be here and never experienced the green poos. In an interview with Terri O'Hara (animal communicator) eBaby told her that she loved the new name. It is important to her to be honored for the way she was found; thus her name would tell her story again and again. She also told Terri that she was peaceful and happy now and this is where she wanted to be. Terri noticed that she had a big smile on her face as she spoke. The only thing that eBaby was sad about was the fact she had not been allowed to meet the other hedgehog family here. Therefore, we all were quite happy when the 30 day quarantine was up. First, because she was able to move upstairs where the rest of the kids are. Secondly, she took her first airplane trip that day. She went to Tampa for the famous Suncoast Hedgehog Show. Most of her aunties (except Aunt Chris and Jennifer P.) were there and anxious to meet and hold this sweet girl. During that weekend, every time someone heard her name, they immediately knew her story and wanted to see and hold her. I know that she adored all the attention she received, even though it is not in her constitution to sit still when being held.

eBaby continues to be a very special hedgehog. Her story has been told many times, but this is the first time it has been printed. She is a sweet girl who huffs when first picked up but quickly comes out of it. She is shy but the most curious hedgegie I've ever seen. She only holds still when she is sleeping or having her back rubbed. She loves her back rubs and will flatten out like a horny toad when receiving her rubs; she loves traveling and sleeping with her half sisters; she loves her morning foot baths and being brushed when she has a bath. As her slave, I know she loves to hear her story told as I feel that smile that Terri saw when she spoke with eBaby.

At O'dark thirty on March 14, 2004 Narciso and I drove three hours to Ft. Collins to have eBaby spayed by Dr. Dressen. After Dr. Dressen's talk on hedgehog uteri at the Denver show, we had taken our other two girls to her for spaying. They both had cysts, endometriosis, and bacterial infections, so we felt that eBaby needed also be spayed since she is two years old. We wanted to eliminate the potential of her having any uterine cancer or problems in the future.

After we returned to Dr. Dressen's office that afternoon, I was holding eBaby and noticed that she was bleeding. We took her back into the surgery area to clean the wound. She was seeping blood from her belly and it was necessary to leave her for the night. After we had left, Dr. Dressen reopened the wound to check the stitches, which were found to be intact. The bleeding stopped later that evening, but it was not clear why she had continued to bleed after the surgery. The rest of that evening was a restless and worrisome one for Narciso and me. We were scared and anxious for morning to come when a call could be made to Ft. Collins to check on our girl.



eBaby

The next morning eBaby was released to come home. Blood tests showed that her red blood cell count was high, but we did not know why that was. She was a bit slow but she was doing well and being her curious self. Two days later, Dr. Dressen called with the results from the pathology test from eBaby's uterus. It was extremely swollen and pale. It showed endometriosis and a highly advanced infection. She is currently on a very high dose of antibiotics for 15 days. Dr. Dressen explained to me that had the surgery not been done, the infection would have continued to grow and possibly invaded the peritoneum, which would have erupted and most likely resulted in death. She also felt that this infection is what caused her blood not to clot after the surgery.

If eBaby had not been for sale that day on eBay, chances are that she would have gone to or stayed with some unknowing, uncaring and uninformed person who would not have had this surgery performed. It is very possible that this sweet little girl would not have lived more than a few more months. We are firm believers that everything happens for a good reason, we just may not know what that reason is at that time. We feel that this event is a perfect example of that belief.

Narciso and I want to thank those of you that helped in the recovery of eBaby. We are also grateful for the help that was sent by prayers, funds and gifts. She continues to be very bright spot in our day and she really does know how special she is.

PAT'S STORY

Ah, the Tale of Sweet eBaby, the poor little waif on eBay needing a home so badly. When I came home that December day, I checked my email to find someone had posted to the yahoogroups that there was a live hedgehog up for auction on eBay. Naturally, I continued reading the digest to see the whole list in an uproar over this poor hedgegie. I then went to eBay to see if the hedgegie auction was still up and could not believe that eBay had not heeded the barrage of messages sent to them, and the seller, to remove the little animal from the auction site. Rather than thinking rationally, I immediately put a bid on the auction, determined that I was not going to be outbid by anyone we did not know. That baby was not going to find herself in another unwanted home. I was sure I could find someone in the Colorado area to go get the hedgegie for me.

(Continues on page 23...)

EBABY...

(...Continued from page 22)

After placing the bid on eBay, I continued reading my mail, cleaned some hedgegie pans, did some watering and feeding, and came back to read more and check the status of the poor little eBaby. Wow, was I almost sorry I made that bid! Apparently many people did not recognize my name as the bidder, and the flaming messages were pouring in my way! More indignant messages were on the lists about some jerk who actually bid on the poor little hedgegie. I immediately went to the list and posted what I had done and why.

In the meantime, I had also gotten messages from Brenda Sandoval and Su Morrison in Colorado, and they were trying to make progress from their end. I assured them we would get the hedgegie off eBay, and hopefully to one of us, but no one was having any luck in contacting the seller. With all the flaming messages he was receiving, I think he was afraid to respond to anyone. Now my mind was finally clearing. A thought finally came to my mind. "Oh yeah, if you bid on something on eBay, you can sometimes get a phone number of the seller." HOORAY. I immediately called Brenda. I told her who the seller was and asked her, "Do you want the phone number of the seller of that hedgehog?" There was no response, dead silence. "Helloooo, are you still there?" The silence was broken, finally, by a "Yes." I gave the number to Brenda, and told her to let the seller know that she had permission of the bidder to pick up the hedgehog. If she needed me to contact the seller to confirm any information, I would be on standby. After Brenda made phone contact with the owner's mother and made arrangements to pick up the little one, she called me back with the good news.

Both of us were so excited that we did it!! I told Brenda how easy it is to get the seller information after you make a bid on eBay. Sooo, the lesson here is: If you spot a live animal on eBay, you can get the seller's contact information by bidding on the animal. Try to get the animal removed from eBay and arrange for placement, while contacting eBay to inform them that there has been an auction for a "prohibited item" posted. You will not be responsible to close the deal on eBay, but it will give you some control over the situation with better infor-



eBaby is a true Diva! Here she is modeling her elegant, silk-trimmed, drawstring Diva Bag. Pamper your Diva with her very own Diva Bag. These luxurious bags can be custom ordered, in various colors, for \$30.00 (includes shipping). A portion of the proceeds will help to offset the costs of veterinary care for eBaby. These bags are a must have for every Diva! To order, please contact Brenda at pilatezz@adelphia.net

mation than just sending the seller a message through eBay. You may have control over where the animal finally finds a home by talking to the seller, which is what happened in this case. The hedgehog was placed in a new home with Brenda, where she will be loved and spoiled.

Brenda called me later when eBaby was settled in. She wanted some name ideas. During our many messages through the whole pending process, I was referring to the little one as the eBaby. So, I threw the name "eBaby" into the mix, along with the ideas from Su and Brenda. After a small voting process, eBaby came up with a very formal name, with eBaby being part of that name. Since then, Brenda has talked with an animal communicator and eBaby said she likes her eBaby name. It gets the word out about the potential for animals to be sold on eBay if someone does not put a stop to it. Hopefully, it will never occur again, but the ever-watchful people on the hedgegie e-mail lists will be sure to let us all know if it does.

Please do remember, though, flaming messages might have just prompted the owner to remove the auction, and we may

never have found out what happened to eBaby. I would suggest a gentle approach in the future, to both seller and buyer (should there be one). Offer support, help, or refer them to a rescue organization for the animal you have found. Let the seller know you are only involved for the benefit of the animal and that you are willing to help to settle the little one in a good, forever home. I am proud to have been a small part of the networking to put eBaby in a good and loving forever home.

I was honored to meet eBaby in Tampa at the Suncoast hedgehog show. She is the sweetest little hedgegie and never deserved to be for sale on eBay for just anyone who fancied getting a hedgehog to buy on a whim. I am so happy that all worked out well for eBaby.

I am also glad that the whole process gave us a better idea how we can all do a small part in networking, no matter how far away we may be from the hedgegie. It takes small steps to start the longest journey and often we must pass the baton to someone else to continue on where we can't. Tummy kisses to sweet eBaby. 🐾

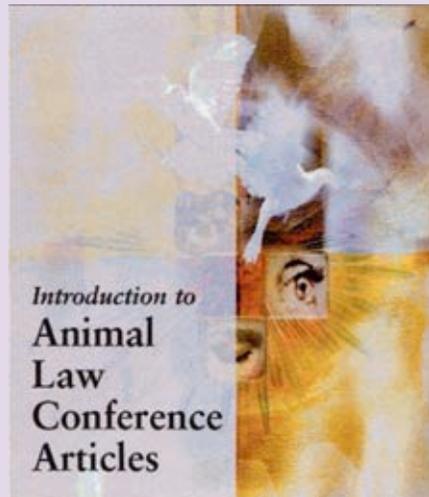


RUBY'S RESCUE SHOP

Open 24 hours a day for your shopping pleasure!

WWW.HEDGEHOGWELFARE.ORG

Second in a series of informational articles offering hedgehog guardians a way to access regulations regarding hedgehog ownership throughout the country.



Three Hedgehog Welfare Society members attended the 11th Annual Animal Law Conference, held at Lewis & Clark Law School, in Portland, OR, on October 25-26, 2003.

There were almost 200 attendees, the majority of whom were law students, and the majority of whom we devoutly hope will incorporate animal law precepts into their law practices. Many speakers were lawyers who are at the forefront of setting and creating animal protection laws and cases. Many other speakers were involved in animal welfare agencies such as the Humane Society of the US, the Paw Project, the Great Ape Project, Pasado's Safe Haven, the National Anti-Vivisection Society, the Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free USA, the New South Wales (Australia) Young Lawyers Animal Rights Committee, ALIVE, and Defenders of Wildlife, as well as a physicians' organization, Americans for Medical Advancement and Europeans for Medical Advancement.

One common thread to the discussions and talks was the difference in animal law and regulation between states and localities. It is often difficult to wade through the regulations specific to local areas, or even to find them. We were given some suggestions on how to search for these regulations and will present the information as we find it, for your edification.

Over the next several months, the HWS Newsletter will contain articles by our three attendees, describing the presentations they attended and the learning experience obtained.

Legal Status of Hedgehogs in the State of Maine



Willa – at home safely outside the borders of Maine.

AIMEE NICOLE HASSLER

THE LAND OF MYR, NJ – Recent seizure of two hedgehogs residing in Maine prompted closer investigation into the laws and regulations of exotic pet ownership in the “Pine Tree” state.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (www.state.me.us/ifw) keeps a list of “unrestricted” fish and wildlife species that they allow to be kept as pets. All other animals, including hedgehogs, are illegal to own without a permit. In addition, they no longer grant permits for hedgehog ownership. Therefore, hedgehogs are effectively considered banned from the state. It has proven somewhat difficult to find anything in writing to that effect, especially online. However, you may contact the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for information by telephone, or to request a transcript of the applicable laws by mail.

The warden service often tries to work with owners of exotic pets before enforcing penalties. That can mean finding homes for the animals in other states. Case in point: the aforementioned seized hedgehogs were reported to have been purchased from a pet store in Massachusetts, and imported into Maine illegally. The original owner was not permitted to own hedgehogs, and the seizure came only after an array of exotic animals were confiscated from the New Sharon home. The confiscation was the result of complaints from concerned neighbors (*to read more see here* www.onlinesentinel.com/news/local/571740.shtml and *here* [\[cal/540008.shtml\]\(http://cal/540008.shtml\)\).](http://www.onlinesentinel.com/news/lo-</p>
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After the seizure of the hedgehogs, the Hedgehog Welfare Society was contacted by a Maine resident who works closely with the Fish and Game. She had rescued hedgehogs in the past, but was informed earlier in the year that her permit to own hedgehogs would not be renewed. Thus unable to take in the hedgehogs herself, she put the warden service in direct contact with the HWS. The Maine officials were more than happy to cooperate with the HWS to find a home outside of the state for these hedgehogs. Euthanasia was never considered as an option, since the hedgehogs were not sick or dying, but they needed to be removed from Maine immediately.

The hedgehogs, an albino female (named Augusta, after the town in Maine from which she was picked up from) and a standard male (named Recee II) currently reside with Kelly Sosik-Hamor. Kelly was one of many volunteers who offered assistance when this situation was presented to the Hedgehog Welfare Society's online rescue community. Unfortunately, in their former home, Augusta and Renee II were not sexed or separated, and Augusta gave birth to five hoglets soon after she was transported out of Maine. The Maine Department of Fisheries and Wildlife is unable to “permanently” release the hedgehogs until legal proceedings against their former owner are complete. Once they are officially released, Augusta will go to her new forever home

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Hedgehog Welfare Society Committee Reports 2004 Quarter 1 ❖ January 1-March 31, 2004

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

JENNIFER PLOMBON AND HEATHER JOHNSON, Co-CHAIRS

The Committee assisted concerned HWS members in contacting the USDA to report poor conditions seen in pet stores. The Committee assisted others in determining the licensing status of pet stores and breeders and ensured that contact information for the USDA remained up-to-date on the HWS web site. In a departure from its usual pet store and breeder concerns, the Committee encouraged a letter writing campaign to assure that compounding pharmacists and veterinarians retain their ability and right to compound needed medications for pets. A new USDA-licensed member, Stephanie Hyne, joined the Committee and is a valuable USDA liaison.

CARE PACKAGES COMMITTEE

JENNIFER PLOMBON AND HEATHER JOHNSON, Co-CHAIRS

In the months of January-March 2004, the HWS Rescue Care Packages Committee has shipped 24 Care Packages, wheels, hats, food samples, and information packets to hedgehog rescuers throughout the United States and Canada. We received donations from hat sales and iGive, which helped with expenses.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DAWN WROBEL, ACTING CHAIR

No report

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

KERRI LEMOTTE, ACTING CHAIR

Kerri LeMotte has been appointed the Acting Chair of the Mem-

bership Committee. Responsibilities include updating and maintaining the membership database and sending new membership packets.

There have been 61 new members to the Hedgehog Welfare Society in January-March 2004, with a total of 403 members. There have been 67 new members to the Hedgehogwelfare Yahoo! Group, with a total of 297 members.

Throughout 2004, the Membership Committee will undertake a project to ensure the membership information in the database is correct. This will include name changes due to marriage or divorce and postal and email address changes. Additionally, a procedure will be created and distributed to HWS Members to inform members how to update their contact information should it change. The procedure will also be stored in the files section of the Hedgehogwelfare Yahoo! Group for future reference.

In order to continue to increase membership, as well as to gain more exposure, the membership committee will continue to work closely with the Public Relations Committee. Presently, HWS membership applications are made available by the Public Relations Committee at all hedgehog shows and other events with HWS presence.

NEWSLETTER

JENNIFER PLOMBON REPORTING FOR KATHLEEN KNUDSEN, EDITOR

A new member, Samara Rabinowitz, joined Kathleen Knudsen on the Newsletter Committee. Samara has experience in editing and publishing, and she and Kathleen have agreed to produce the HWS newsletter in alternate quarters.

The March 2004 newsletter was lengthy (23 pages) and included articles from many members of the hedgehog community, as well as material from peripheral members including veterinarians and a USDA inspector. Numerous compliments were received from readers, regarding the content, professional appearance, and educational, interesting, and entertaining articles.

In this issue, readers were alerted to the fact that, due to the increasing costs of mailing the newsletter, a small fee would be charged for a newsletter subscription. The new subscription fees will be starting after the June 2004 newsletter. Newsletters were mailed to 67 HWS members in the United States, Canada, and Finland.

The current HWS newsletter, as well as back issues, will continue to be available free of charge on the HWS web site.

PETFINDER.COM

AIMEE HASSLER, WEBLASS AND COORDINATOR

The HWS Petfinder.com web site continues to exceed our highest expectations. It receives between approximately 1,320 and 2,418 views per week (averaging approximately 5,000 views per month), and generates approximately 30 e-mail inquiries per week. Seven hedgehogs were listed on Petfinder this quarter; four from individuals who found the web based HWS relinquishment form, and three from an HWS approved rescue station. Four of the seven hedgehogs were placed in experienced, permanent, loving forever homes within one month's time. Petfinder also continues to assist us as an excellent educational, networking, and public relationships outlet.

Our help was also requested in placing two hedgehogs that were seized by the Maine Fish and Game in March. They were being held at a Humane Society Shelter until a home could be found for them out of the state, as hedgehogs are illegal to own as pets in Maine, and permits are no longer being issued for them. We assisted the Fish and

STATE OF MAINE...

(...Continued from page 24)

with Donnasue Graesser, and Recee II will be placed up for adoption.

Even more recently, the Hedgehog Welfare Society was contacted by an individual owner who was no longer able to care for his hedgehog, Wally. A new job situation required increased travel-time and too little hedgeie-time. Coincidentally, Wally was also in Maine, and his owner was unaware of the new restriction on hedgehogs being kept as pets in the state. He was also more than happy to work with the HWS to find Wally a new home outside of Maine. Wally — who was found to actually be a Willa — is now currently residing with Susan and Nell Goetcheus in Massachusetts.

What we know now is that hedgehogs are illegal to own as pets in the following locations: Arizona, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, New York City boroughs (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx, Staten Island), Pennsylvania, and Vermont. Please check with your local state, city, and county ordinances to find out if there are any laws or regulations about owning exotic pets in your town. A permit may be required. If you need assistance with locating your states specific regulations, or you live in an area where hedgehogs are illegal and want to find a safe home for your quilly friend, the HWS is there to help. 

(Continues on page 25...)

QUARTERLY REPORTS...

(...Continued from page 25)

Game in doing so, and the hedgehogs are now currently residing with an HWS approved rescue station in Massachusetts.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

DONNASUE GRAESSER, CHAIR

In January, HWS members attended the SunCoast Hedgehog Show, and hosted a vendor table there. Most of the conference attendees were already HWS members, but we did meet several local community members and informed them of HWS programs and services. In March, members of the PR committee attended the Animal Welfare Federation Conference. Approximately 500 shelter employees, animal control officers, and members of animal welfare organizations attended the 2-day conference, mostly from Northeastern states. We hosted a table at the event and distributed information about hedgehog care, hedgehog rescue, and contact information for the Hedgehog Welfare Society. Many shelter staff-members commented that the HWS would be a valuable resource for them to place hedgehogs they might take in. We felt the conference was an extremely useful networking opportunity.

QUILLS AND COMFORT

JUDIE PETERS, COORDINATOR

The Quills and Comfort web site continues to be in development with an initial focus on the Circle of Light program. A commemorative page for 2002 and 2003 has been completed which lists the Circle dates, memorialized hedgies and their guardians. Several graphics have also been developed specifically to delineate Circle "pages". Almost completed is a "world and night sky" graphic for 2004; Circle names will be added to the 2004 sky, along with a star for each hedgie, on a quarterly basis.

RESCUE COMMITTEE

YOLANDA McLEAN AND LAURA LEDET, CO-CHAIRS

Three new Rescue Contacts were added to the HWS Rescue Contact List between January and March 2004 adding two new states (Tennessee and Wisconsin) to the ever-growing list. Unfortunately, one application was denied.

A Relinquishment Agreement (contract) was created for use by the Rescue Contact List members, which can be found in the Files section of the "hwsrescuecontacts" yahoo group. HWS members who are not part of the Rescue Contact List may also request a copy of the agreement for their use.

RUBY'S RESCUE SHOP

DONNASUE GRAESSER, STORE MANAGER

During this quarter, Ruby's Rescue Shop online store had moderate activity. We also sold Ruby's items at the SunCoast Hedgehog Show and the Animal Welfare Federation conference. The store recruited a new crafter, who is supplying us with quality wooden hedgehog clocks. We also have acquired more unique hedgehog-beaded necklaces, as this item had sold out in the store. Members of the HWS community have donated Christmas ornaments and key chains for sale in the shop. The new items will be added to the online store site in the upcoming months.

WEB SITE MAINTENANCE

AIMEE HASSLER, WEB LASS

Responsibilities include updating and maintaining the websites
HedgehogWelfareSociety.org WobblyHedgehog.org
Pet Finder.com QuillsandComfort.com BostonPog.org

A new web site devoted to Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome, wobblyhedgehog.org, was launched this quarter on February 23rd. A new yet un-launched web site design and layout is underway for hedgehogwelfare.org, with an anticipated launch date taking place sometime within the next quarter. Changes and improvements continue with the development of quillsandcomfort.com.

FINANCIAL REPORT

DONNASUE GRAESSER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The first quarter financial report is available to any HWS member or interested party upon request to donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu. Yearly HWS financial reports are public record and can be found on the Oregon State Department of Justice web site, Charitable Activities Section, Registration # 31631 

The Boston Pog Party

June 26th, 2004 ◇ Arlington, MA

- ◇ International Hedgehog Olympic Gym-Bar-E
- ◇ Seminar by Dr. Susan Harrington, DVM
of the Randolph Animal Hospital
- ◇ Costume Contest
- ◇ Hedgehogabilia Vendors
- ◇ Silent Auction
- ◇ Carnival and Art Show
- ◇ Boston area arranged tour

Two new events this year include a Carnival & Art Show. Special sightseeing around Boston is scheduled for Sunday, June 27th. We hope to see you there!

For more information and to register:

www.bostonpog.org

E-mail: info@bostonpog.org

