



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 #14, JAN/FEB 2005

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Meet the new HWS board members!

We're pleased to introduce our four new board members. Some of the biographical information was taken from the recent "getting to know you" thread on the hedgehogwelfare list, so it may look familiar!



• Linda Fine

Linda is a co-chair of the Health Research and Education committee. She lives in downstate New York in one of the suburbs of NYC. She's currently the manager of a dialysis clinic, but in her 22 years as a nurse, she's done everything from Girl Scout camp nursing to working in a prison. She also served for six years as a volunteer firefighter/EMT and is currently a fire commissioner for her local fire district. Linda was instrumental in the rescue of the 24 New Jersey hedgehogs in fall 2003 and also participates in rescue for other animals. When she's not taking care of her menagerie, she enjoys pursuing the hobbies of people, reading, and travel.

• Tonya Thomas

Tonya is our new Public Relations co-chair. She lives in Tennessee with her husband Rick, and the two of them have been doing animal rescue for 12 years. In addition, Tonya works in animal shelters spaying and neutering dogs and cats, and grooms all the dogs who come into their Schnauzer rescue. Her other hobbies include sending condolence cards to people whose hedgies have crossed the Bridge, rubber stamping, spending time with family, and talking on the phone with friends.

• Stephanie Hyne

Steph is the new co-chair of the Advocacy-Pet-Store/USDA Liaison committee. She is a work-at-home mom with one human five year old named Joey and does mortgage loans occasionally from home in addition to doing her dad's books for his business when time permits. She enjoys animals of all kinds, with cats being a favorite. Steph is a member of or volunteer for the local Humane Society, the IHA, the HBA, the

What are you hoping to accomplish during your tenure on the HWS board?

I want to make a difference in the lives of hedgehogs and the people who love them. I want to help spread the word about our group and the care of these wonderful creatures.

What do you see as the future of the HWS?

I see a big future of us all working together as a family helping the hedgehogs in need.

What are the most important things the HWS has to offer the the hedgehog community?

Support, Information, Care, Compassion, and Love.

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Mutation Chinchilla Breeder's Association; a board member of and rescue contact for the HWS; and a USDA licensed hobby breeder of Chinchillas, Hedgehogs, and Sugar Gliders. Steph and her family also share their home with two cats, two dogs, a RES Turtle named Raph, and various other critters who might need a home.

Steph spends a great deal of time answering e-mails and phone calls and giving lectures on humane pet care, animal abuse, the benefits to adopting shelter pets, proper handling techniques of exotics, responsible breeding, and researching the care of unfamiliar species for people who need help with a new pet. She works with her inspector to educate new breeders and pet stores in her area, handing out care sheets, checking on the state of the animals, offering hands-on help, cage advice, feed advice, etc. She also takes critters to the local long term facility for physically and mentally challenged adults, teens, and children at least twice a week and also to the local nursing home at least twice a week to brighten their spirits.

If she has a free minute (usually in the middle of the night while snuggling a nocturnal species), she likes to work on her web page, learn more about web page design, read, and cross stitch as well as hike, snowmobile, camp, boat, attend Chinchilla and Hedgehog shows, and get to know others who share her love of animals. She also loves to work in her yard in the summer and is often found in the dirt in the flower beds with a hedgegie or five sunning themselves in their wading pool.

• *Gioia Kerlin*

Gioia, a co-chair of the Health Research and Education committee, lives with her ten hedgegies in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she is a Professor of Spanish at the University of Tulsa. Besides hedgegies, her interests include road biking, some mountain biking, movies, making digital videos, cartoons, cooking, learning to sew, her cats, supporting her vet in the manner he has grown accustomed to since she moved to Tulsa...

What are you hoping to accomplish during your tenure on the HWS board?

I want to help gather and disseminate information concerning hedgehog health in ways that will benefit the group and the animals we love. In my work with the HBA (Hedgehog Breeders Alliance) to help educate humans about hedgehog care, I'm creating an instructional DVD that I would also like to make available to the HWS for use in care packages or sale at Ruby's (if my computer cooperates and burns the disks quickly enough).

What do you see as the future of the HWS, and what are the most important things the HWS has to offer to the hedgehog community?

I guess I'd have to say that I feel like we're on track with what we're doing already, and I'd just like to see us continue in the same way. Personally, I think the care packages we send to rescue hedgegies is one of the best things we do because it very directly and positively impacts the lives of the animal and his or her human/s. I foresee us continuing to educate humans about living with hedgehogs, and using our resources to help hedgehogs in need.



From Rescue to Fame!

*Interview with Theodore (Teddy) the hedgehog
by Kimberly Clark*

Interviewer:

"We are here with Theodore (nick name) Teddy, a sweet affectionate Cinnamon hedgehog that almost never rolls up and never pops or huffs. Tell me, how did you become such a star at the Warren County Farmers Fair?"

Teddy:

"It all started when my previous owner put me up for adoption. I was just one year old and had nowhere to go. Then the next thing I knew I was in a car with two kids kissing me and saying I was soo cute. When the car stopped I was placed in the huge two story house with fresh food, ramps, tunnels, bags, toys, huts, and wheels and my favorite buggies. I wanted to give my slave something for all this so I decided to be a good boy and let her potty train me. Now I only go in my litter pan and you know what, she still cleans my cage and stuff every day. I thought I died and went to Heaven! What I didn't know was I did..lol..Heaven In Harmony Hedgehog Rescue, that is."

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Interviewer:

"When did you know something was going to happen?"

Teddy:

"One night my slave Kimberly Clark was busy at the sewing machine. I was so excited I thought was getting a new liner or bag but to my surprise I was fitted with a flower pot and a flower blossom. She told me it was my outfit for the fair. She said if I was a good boy to the judges I might come home with a ribbon or a huge trophy. I was then determined to do so. You see I have seen those blue ribbons in the house from her past hedgies and I wanted one too."

Interviewer:

"What was it like at the fair?"

Teddy:

"I was scared at first! So many animals, peoples and sounds. But before I knew it my little slave Melanie was taking me up to this table full of strangers. Kimberly said it was the judges. Then the judges held me and they were so nice and said such kind words. Next Melanie took me back and snuggled me up in my blanket but I could still hear everyone talking. They said really loud!!! 'The first

place best pet in the small animal division goes to Teddy the Hedgehog. This is the nicest and most awake hedgehog I have ever seen or met!' They continued to say."

Interviewer:

"So that's when you won the trophy?"

Teddy:

"No. I won a pretty blue first place best small pet ribbon."

Interviewer:

"When did you win that big trophy?"

Teddy:

"Soon after that I saw many animals win those pretty blue ribbons. I thought I was done till Kimberly got me dressed and took me out with many many animals all dressed up like me. There were dogs dressed up like babies and cats dressed like slaves and more... The stranger asked for cheers and when they said my name those cheers hurt my ears-it made me fold up a little. Next I saw those judges talking and they said for best dressed in a cactus costume goes to Teddy the hedgehog.

Interviewer:

"How excited were you and your slaves?"

Teddy:

"So much was going on, excited just wasn't the word. I was being held and flashes were going off. My slave Kimberly said it was for the newspaper. And when I got home I saw my trophy was placed right above my cage on a shelf and my ribbon too."

Interviewer:

"Did you ever think you would be a star?"

Teddy:

"No I didn't. This home and everything that comes with it is a dream come true. This was my first trophy and to make it extra special it was my slave's first trophy she had ever won in her life and I am honored to have been able to give it to her."

Interviewer:

"Is there hope for next year?"

Teddy:

"I hope so. Kimberly has already begun designing my costume. But it is hush hush top secret the competition is fierce. I also have to tell my two new brothers Piglet and Poppel from the PA 26 what could happen to them if they are good boys too."

Welcome New Rescuers!

The HWS Rescue Committee is dedicated to helping needy hedgehogs find good homes and warm hearts. Without the continued assistance of the HWS Rescue Contact List members, it would be a daunting task. The people on our Rescue Contact List continuously step up to the plate when it comes to taking in an unwanted hedgehog, being a leg in a hedge-train, rushing a sick animal to the vet, or simply pointing someone who wants to learn about hedgehogs in the right direction. It's truly amazing the number of hours these people dedicate to the well being of our quilled companions.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our two newest rescuers:

**Rachel Wentz,
Orem, Utah**

**Kristen Zorbini
Madison, Wisconsin**

As always, all the members of the Rescue Contact List have my unending respect and my most heart-felt thanks. You are truly a wonderful team!

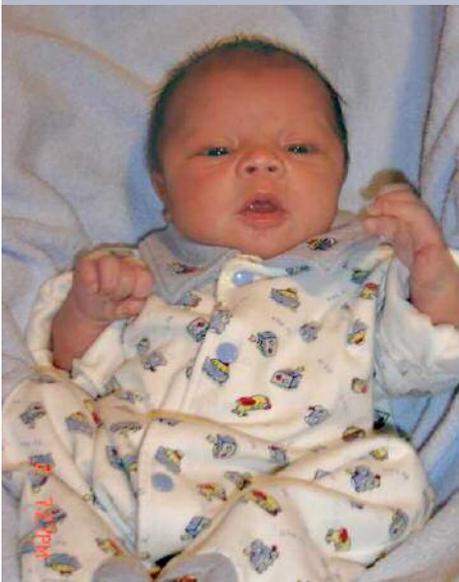
*Yolanda McLean
Co-Chair and Rescue Coordinator
Hedgehog Welfare Society, Rescue
Committee*

Correction

The Nov/Dec 2004 newsletter contained an error in one of the photo captions for the story "The Rock N Roll Hedgehog Show." In the photo on page 3 of the newsletter, the hedgie dressed like a Hostess Snowball is Olivia and her slave is Liz. We apologize to Olivia, Liz, and the article's author, Grover, for the error!

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Shonda Statini and Roger Evangelista on the birth of baby Drake. Drake came into the world at 6.8 pounds and 20 inches long. He was a special holiday gift to Shonda and Roger, born on Christmas Eve.



Animal Law 101

by Kristen Zorbini, Madison, WI

Kristen Zorbini is a first year law student at the University of Wisconsin - Madison and a first year hedgehog lover as well. She is active in the Public Interest Law Foundation as well as the Animal Law organization. She hopes to save the world and someday master Dance Dance Revolution and quilting.

Welcome to the Animal Law Column, a new regular column that will explore the history, limitations and current trends of animal law in the legal system. Much like other areas of law, animal law can be dense and difficult to understand. This column will seek to digest specific policies and issues and present them in terms that are most helpful to the Hedgehog Welfare community. This first article will be a broad overview of our legal system as it pertains to animals. It will briefly touch on many of the legal theories and considerations that affect the current trends in animal law.

Historically, animals have been treated legally as property. The value of an animal was based on its utility for humans and its value on the open market. Animal owners were able to do with their animals/property what they wished, although that was limited to actions that did not have any harmful impact on other humans.

Animals are separated into two broad categories: "wild" and "domestic." Wild animals are those living in nature and not relying on humans for survival. A person can gain property rights of a wild animal only through taming or confinement. If the wild animal passes out of the human's control or possession, no property rights remain.

Domestic animals are those animals that are tamed and kept by humans. These animals are considered property even when not in



Kristen and Sophie

direct possession of the owner. Domestic animals separated from their owners must be returned when possible, and are protected by law as is other personal property.

A subsection of domestic animal law that is currently gaining special legal treatment is companion animal law. Companion animals are commonly considered cats and dogs, including those who perform services for the disabled. This subsection of animals presents particularly challenging problems to our current legal system. Because animals have been considered property, the amount recoverable if they are stolen, injured, or killed has been only the fair market value of the animal. While the fair market value of a watch could compensate for its loss, any pet owner would know that a 60-dollar adoption fee would not compensate for the loss of an animal companion who has been a part of the family for a decade or more. Until recently, however there was no better option for pet owners who suffered losses.

Animals with owners are protected as property, but historically there was no protection for ownerless animals. It was only through the work of environmental

groups and legislators that the Eagle Protection Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and other federal laws were passed to protect wild animals. Even though it seems like common sense to protect species of animals that are in danger of becoming extinct, this was originally a difficult argument to make. Wild animals could legally be exploited and treated however best benefited humanity. The concept of value of such animals existing in a natural environment took a long time to develop in our culture, and even longer to be reflected in our legal system.

It is easy to see how some of the legal problems pet owners currently face have come about. Future articles will examine some of the more complex issues and arguments between traditional legal approaches and modern understandings of the true value of companion and wild animals.

Reference: *Valuing Man's and Woman's Best Friend: The Moral and Legal Status of Companion Animals*, by Rebecca J. Huss, published in the Marquette Law Review (Fall 2002)

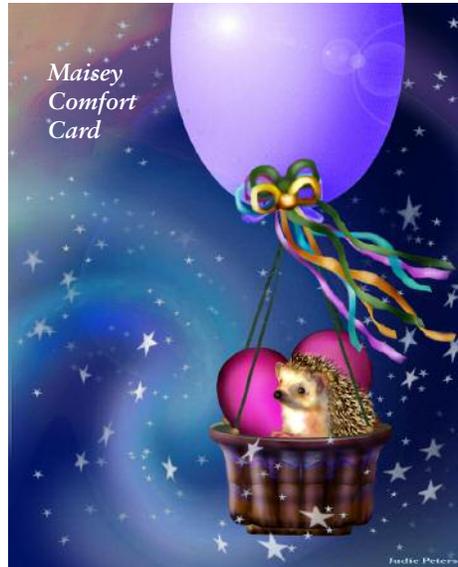
Quills and Comfort, 2004

by Judie Peters, Bluffton, SC

With the New Year unfolding and the weather often dark and dreary, it seems fitting to look back and remember the much loved hedgies who made the journey across the bridge. Sadly, far too many hedgies left our earthly confines. With an outpouring of love and care, the Circle of Light was conducted seven times in 2004. The Circles honored more than 120 hedgies (and a few other companion animals) in the United States, and more than 60 Euro hedgehogs.

Quills and Comfort is an organization within the HWS designed to honor hedgehogs who have crossed, and provide a measure of comfort to their grieving guardians. Quills and Comfort is comprised of three main facets, the Circle of Light, Comfort Cards and the website.

Carol Fish Kregear coordinates the Circle of Light. At the request of hedgie guardians, Carol designates dates and times during which anyone can light a candle to honor



In 2004 the Comfort Card program became a part of Quills and Comfort. The idea of sending condolence cards was developed by Tonya Thomas. Tonya keeps her local post office in business as she faithfully sends cards to the newly bereaved. Tonya's marvelous idea is a labor of love, which brings great comfort to grieving guardians. Since July, Tonya has sent more than 80 cards. Comfort Cards are currently designed by Judie Peters.

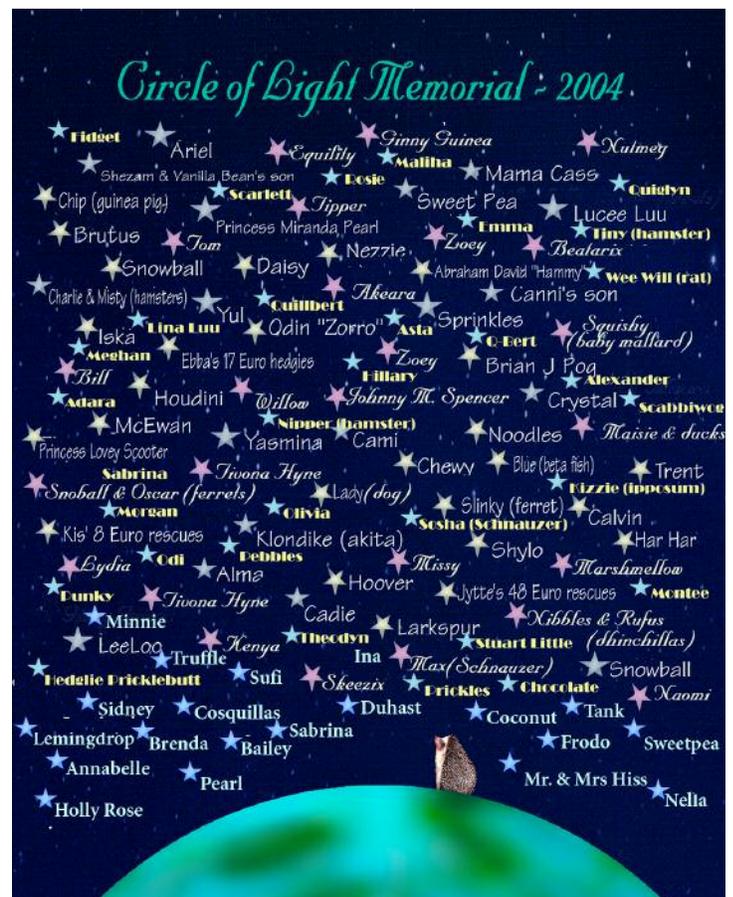
Quills and Comfort also has a website developed and maintained by web-lass Aimee Hassler. In each HWS newsletter, the most recent Circle hedgies are denoted in a picture of a star strewn night sky; each star is named after a hedgie. The website permanently displays the Circle of Light stars and can be found at quillsandcomfort.com.

those who have recently passed. It is a beautiful and comforting thought that many candles worldwide are lit in honor of our quilled companions.

Two Circle of Light Ceremonies have been held since the last newsletter. Those honored and remembered were:

October 3, 2004

Hedwig (guardians Jeannie and Chris)
 Penelope (guardian Tanya)
 Emma (guardian Laura W.)
 Gaelbhan (guardian Susan M.)
 Gabby (guardian Deb W.)
 Mulan (guardian Peggy)
 Asta (guardian Sherry)
 Alexander and Nipper (hamster) (guardians Linda and Gary)
 Rosie (guardian Jacque)
 Wee Willie (rat), Kizzie (opossum), Crow (crow), and Lili (guardians Laura and Michelle)
 Quillbert and Hillary (guardians Teresa and Cliff)
 Quiglyn, Montee, Theodyn, and Stuart Little (guardians Bonnie, Merle, and Jeanne)
 Punky (guardian Julie)
 Lina Luu (guardian Jeanne)
 Emma (guardian Teresa)
 Olivia (guardian Laura W.)
 Sosha (Schnauzer) (guardians Tonya & Rick)
 Scarlett (guardian Vicki)



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Maliha (guardians Deborah & Kenneth)
 Pebbles (guardian Jan)
 Fidget (guardian Judith)
 Tiny (hamster) (guardians Cheri & Dave)
 Adara (guardian Gioia)
 Sabrina (guardian Dawn)
 Scabbiwog (guardian Susan M)
 Morgan and Odi (guardian Veronica)
 Chocolate (guardian Michaelann)
 Prickles (guardian Tonya & Rick)
 Meghan (guardian Pat)
 Hedgie Pricklebutt (guardian Judy B)
 Q-Bert (guardian Janet Bertolino)

November 21, 2004

Sidney (guardian Lisa)
 Tank (guardian Julie)
 Sabrina & Bailey (guardian Dawn W)
 Sweetpea (guardian Suzanne)
 Brenda (guardian Jen W)
 Holly Rose (guardians Jeanne, Bonnie, & Merle)
 Nella (guardian Pat)
 Annabelle (guardian Judith)
 Coconut (guardian Lisa)
 Frodo (guardians Deborah & Kenneth)
 Duhas (guardian Dawn W)
 Minnie (guardian Lenny)
 Truffle (guardian Kim Clark)
 Mr. & Mrs. Hiss (guardians Sandi & Jess)
 Sufi (guardian Vicki)
 Lemingdrop (guardians Sandra and Shawn)
 Ina and her babies (guardian Steph)
 Pearl (guardian Jenn W)
 Cosquillas (guardian Sarah E)
 Lady Maribelle (guardian Judith Juarez)



Submissions for the
 Newsletter Welcomed!

A question for the pogs?
 Favorite Rescue Story?
 Favorite Photo(s)?
 Letter to the Editor?

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

or via snail-mail to
 HWS Newsletter c/o Kathleen Knudsen
 P.O. Box 70408, Seattle WA 98107



The Literary Hedgehog

by Naomi Wikane, Schoharie, NY

Beatrix Potter was a Victorian English author/illustrator of a series of small books for children published in the early 1900s. The most well known is THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT which was my first book as a child. 2005 marks the 100th Anniversary of the publication of THE TALE OF MRS. TIGGY-WINKLE (Frederick Warne, 1905). She is a hedgehog and a washer woman for many of the animals in Miss. Potter's stories. Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle's nose went sniffle sniffle sniffle, and her eyes went twinkle twinkle as she washed and ironed.

She also sang a little song:
*"Lily-white and clean, oh!
 With little frills between, oh!
 Smooth and hot-red rusty spot
 Never here be seen, oh!"*

This little book was my introduction to hedgehogs many years ago.

Susan Wittig Albert is a writer today of adult mystery novels. The first in a new series has recently been published - THE TALE OF HILL TOP FARM (Berkley Prime Crime, 2004). The year is 1905 and Beatrix Potter, a Londoner and unmarried, sets out to purchase Hill Top Farm in the Lake District hamlet of Near Sawry. She brings with her a hedgehog, Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, a mouse, Tom Thumb, and two rabbits, Josey and Mopsy. Animal pets had always been part of her rather lonely life in the large London mansion where she lived with her parents. All of this is fact. The fiction comes with the great characterizations of the

inhabitants. And the mystery concerns the missing parish registry and stolen objects from a recently deceased villager. But the most fun are the above mentioned animals plus others in the village including cats and a dog who talk among themselves entirely unknown to the humans. I've never seen this style of writing before and it makes for a wonderful read. While the book is an adult book it is suitable for any older child able to read it. And for us hedgehog folks the real Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle comes to life.



Hedgehogs in Pet Stores:

A primer for dealing with inadequate care

by Jennifer Plombon, Heather Johnson, and Susan Goetcheus

Scenario #1:

You're visiting your parents for a few days and run out of mealworms, so you go to the local pet store to get a couple of cans. When you walk in, you see a 10-gallon aquarium with a hedgehog sleeping on cedar shavings, with no hiding spot, poop all around her, and dirty looking water. Holding her, you realize that her ears are tattered and her skin is terribly dry. You take pity on the poor girl and buy her, but when you return to the store two days later, there are two more hedgehogs in the same aquarium.

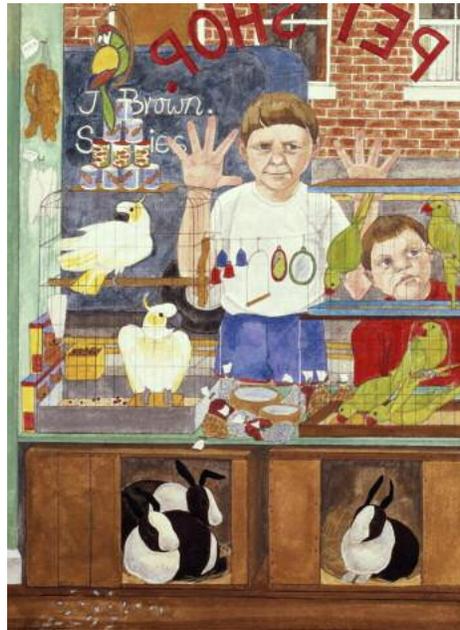
Scenario #2:

During a trip to the mall, you discover a new pet store there has three hedgehogs for sale. They have a spacious cage, a wheel, and a pigloo, but when you pick them up, you find that there are two females and a male in the one cage. You say to the bored employee standing next to you, "You need to separate the male from the females," and he shrugs and says, "If they have babies, we'll sell them too."

Scenario #3:

When you go to your regular pet store to buy food, you see a small cage with a very sick looking hedgehog. He's wheezing and looks very thin, and his eyes are dull. You demand to speak to the manager, and when you tell her that the hedgehog needs immediate medical attention, she says that their vet is coming tomorrow and will take care of it.

To many of you, these stories may sound all too familiar. While there are many pet stores that take great care of the animals they sell, there are some that don't, because of ignorance or deliberate neglect. If you go to pet stores that sell animals, you may find yourself in one of these situations. As members of the hedgehog community, we all want to make sure that hedgehogs are healthy, safe, and happy. This article describes some steps you can take if you find hedgehogs living in sub-par conditions in a pet store.



1. Assess the medical status

First, assess the condition of the hedgehogs. If you think a hedgehog needs to be seen by a vet as soon as possible, notify the manager or owner. If you do not get a satisfactory response, your only recourse may be to purchase the hedgehog. Some people have been successful in getting the store to give them the hedgehog so that it can get immediate medical attention. Purchasing a pet store hedgehog encourages the store to stock more hedgehogs, so if you take this step, it's very important that you take the other steps necessary to educate the store personnel or get the USDA to act.

2. Check whether the store is licensed (US only)

When you get home from the store, your next step is to check whether the store has a USDA license. A pet store must have a USDA license in order to sell hedgehogs. To determine whether a store is licensed, go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/publications.html> then go to the lower left-hand side of the page and look under

"Dealers." If licensed, the store should be listed in "B Dealers" or "A Breeders." It helps to know the store owners' names or if they are a DBA (Doing Business As) entity, because sometimes stores are licensed under the owner's name or a DBA name instead of under the store name.

If they are not listed, call the USDA directly to ask if the store is licensed. (They may have a license but not be listed on the Web page yet.) On the very top left-hand side of that page, under "Animal Care Organization," there are maps showing which region (Eastern or Western) this store is in, plus phone, fax, and email contacts to which you can send inquiries, requests for an inspection, and complaints.

If the store is not licensed, they are breaking US Federal Law by selling hedgehogs and you may register a written complaint (ask the USDA to whom it should be addressed) and ask for an inspection. Usually the USDA provides the store with the paperwork for licensing, makes sure proper animal care procedures are being followed, and asks the store to apply for a license if they wish to keep selling, and to return the hedgehogs to the breeder or find them a home with an employee, thus ensuring that they don't continue to make money by breaking the law.

If it is licensed, you can fax (you can also send a written request, but faxing is quicker) the USDA and ask for an inspection to make sure the store is doing all they should do to care for their animals and sell hedgehogs legally. Again, ask the USDA to whom your request should be addressed. Unfortunately, the USDA has no regulations against placing opposite genders of breeding age together, nor do they have specific regulations regarding sufficient warmth, cage size, or availability of hiding places and wheels.

3. *Educate the store employees*

If the hedgehogs are neglected or have inadequate living conditions, you can educate the people at the store about how to take care of them. First, approach the store personnel with the assumption that they want to do the right thing for their animals until they demonstrate otherwise, and don't assume that the presence of bored clerks necessarily means that the manager or owner won't listen to you and make changes. Don't be afraid to speak to the manager or owner. Second, your best bet is to emphasize that proper care will increase the salability of the hedgehogs and prevent customers from returning sick animals. For example, having clean cages with fewer hedgehogs in each cage shows off the hedgehogs better, and putting wheels and other toys in the cages encourages customers to spend more money on accessories for the hedgehogs they purchase. Presenting the changes in a "what's in it for you" light to the store personnel is more likely to win you respect and the hedgehogs the care they need and deserve.

Go to the HWS Yahoo Group Files, print out one of the provided care brochures in the HWS documents section, and bring copies to the store. Visit with the store owner and offer suggestions to make the hedgie's life more comfortable and safe.

Example scenarios

Given the information above, what is the best way to proceed in each of the scenarios described at the beginning of this article?

Scenario #1:

If the store is licensed, your goal is to educate the store personnel. Take copies of the HWS care sheets into the store, ask for the manager or owner, and tell him or her nicely that you want to pass along some information that will help the store take better care of the hedgehogs. Point out the problems with the existing setup, emphasizing the health aspects. For example, you could say, "The latest information about hedgehogs says not to use cedar shavings, because it can cause respiratory problems. I see you stock aspen shavings and Carefresh(R) in your store; either of those is a better product to use for hedgehogs. Also, if you put an igloo and a wheel in the cage, that will encourage people to buy those when they buy a hedgehog."

Scenario #2:

Determine whether the store is licensed to sell hedgehogs and to breed hedgehogs. If it does not have either license, register a complaint with the USDA and note that the store may be breeding hedgehogs. If it has a license to sell but not one to breed, you need to talk to the manager or owner and show him or her the USDA licensing information. Point out that hedgehogs can mate at any time, and if a male is in the cage with a female when she gives birth, one or both of

them will likely kill the babies. Hedgehog cannibalization is probably not something that customers and their children will enjoy watching.

Scenario #3:

If you think the hedgehog is in immediate danger and the manager is not responsive, you may want to purchase the hedgehog and get him to a vet that day. If you do so, make sure to document the condition of the hedgehog thoroughly. Do not bathe or medicate the hedgehog before going to the vet and taking pictures; the vet's records will be more useful if the vet sees the hedgehog in its present condition. After you have taken care of the hedgehog's immediate needs, you should follow up with the USDA, your local animal welfare agencies, and local media. It may also be helpful to mention the media when you're talking to the store owner; the threat of bad publicity can galvanize business owners to take action immediately. For example, you could say, "I'm going to contact the Channel 5 ActionLine to let them know how you're treating your animals."

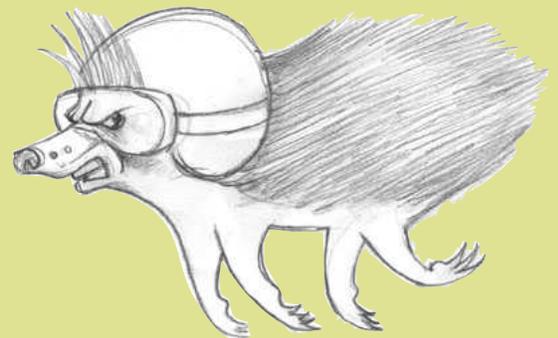
Resources

USDA dealer information:
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/publications.html>
 HWS links to USDA information:
http://hedgehogwelfare.org/usda_info.htm
 HWS care brochures:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hedgehog-welfare/files/HWS%20documents/> (must log in to Yahoo Groups)
 HWS Advocacy Committee:
advocacy@hedgehogwelfare.org

Wheel-a-Thon 2005

It's time again for the major annual fundraising event of the Hedgehog Welfare Society! Wheel-a-Thon 2005 will be held the night of February 2, Hedgehog Day. The Wheel-a-Thon is a way for your hedgies to put their wheeling to work to help raise funds for education, rescue, research, and other efforts for hedgehog care. Donors sponsor your hedgehog for a "night of wheeling" on February 2. Anyone can participate!

The Wheel-a-Thon offers many unique prizes for participants. This year, a local graphic artist, Greg Hart, has kindly donated his time to create an illustration for this year's event. This design will appear on limited edition T-shirts that will be received by any participant raising \$50.00 or more, and a painting of the design will be offered as one of the fabulous prizes for this year's event!



Hedgies...start your wheels!

For more information and to register your wheeler, go to www.hedgies.com/wheelathon.htm or, contact the Wheel-a-Thon coordinator, Heather Johnson at stormypetrel@comcast.net

Pogs Are People Too

Occasionally we'll print stories from you, our members that illustrate the amazing ways in which our hedgehogs display their emotions, feelings, and thoughts. Herewith, two very amusing and amazing tales:



Prickles and his butt

Prickles and the Cats - A story of a tough guy

Tonya Thomas wrote: We had always been fascinated with hedgehogs and being in animal rescue with many shelter contacts we put out the word. Well, one day we got a call from a shelter saying they had taken one in and would we like it. YES I said but could not get him till the end of the week. The next day the shelter owner brought him the almost 100 mile trip to my door.

Prickles was very huffy and had not been socialized at all. I was told he had been handled with thick leather gloves. I would hold Prickles for hours and he got to where he would calm down and let us pet him. We have four cats that were rescued when they were just a couple weeks old and they have grown up with all kinds of different animals in the house so I don't think they know that they are actually cats. When we Prickles became used to us we started letting him down on the floor for some supervised roaming. Well, the cats would gather around and look at him with a look of "what's this!!!" All at once Prickles would look around like he was counting the cats. Then he would hunker down and look some more then it was like a voice went off in his head that said "CHARGE!!!" and off he would go chasing cats all over the house. Cats were running in a million different directions at once. It was the funniest thing. Prickles will always hold a very special place in out HEARTS.

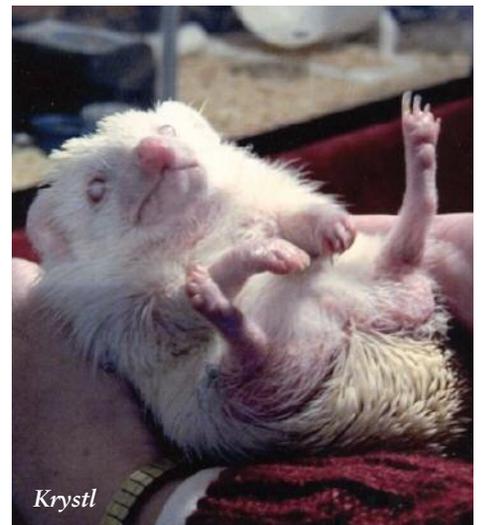
Krystl A story of a memorable lady

Darcie Carter wrote: It all started in 1997. My husband and I saw the bizarre creature in a pet store. We asked the clerk if we could see this little quill ball. She sat it on the floor and put his head up and looked at me with those beautiful eyes and sweet little face. I was hooked but I wanted to research these things so I would know what I was getting in to. Well after much research, my husband and I went to a pet rescue and lo and behold a lady with hedgehogs was there. She had 3 albino females her boyfriend was making her get rid of (imagine that!); I fell in love with one of the girls and immediately went out and bought her all the things I had read they needed. My husband did not like the look of the albinos (but that didn't last long). We brought her home and after some time watching her run around on the floor I named her Krystl, her quills were so shiny and sparkly she needed a sparkly name. Her first house was a card board box that I glued fabric to and a sign that read "Krystl Palace" I think she liked it. Krystl was such a sweet girl always lifted her head high when you talked to her as if she knew everything you were saying. She had just enough attitude to make her really something special. She won "Pet of the Day" in 1998. Krystl's appetite was also amazing, she ate everything, mealies, fruit, hamburger, turkey, veggies and her favorite watermelon. She could smell that watermelon coming up the stairs and be ready and waiting by the time it got to her cage.

Whenever I was sad or was crying while holding her she would lick my tears as if to say it's okay I'm here to help you. Krystl taught us so much about hedgies and their disposition, nature and feelings. It is because of her that we have continued having hedgies and I would never be without one again.

At about age three Krystl developed a cataract in her eye, so she had one pink eye

and one white eye. It didn't seem to bother her though, she never lost a beat. Two months later the cataract got her other eye, so now she was basically blind. Again never a complaint from her; in fact the way she acted you would have never known. She just held her head even higher when you spoke to her so her other senses took over. At almost 4 years old Krystl developed a jaw tumor. It came on so rapidly there was nothing we could do. We did take her to Dr. Dressen but she said it was so bad we would have to remove most of her jaw. I could not do this to my baby girl who had to much life and zest and take away her ability to eat. She eventually went to eating soft cat food only and eventually even that was causing her mouth to bleed every time she ate. This was heartbreaking to me and I would ask her if she needed help to cross the bridge. I finally had to make that decision; it was the toughest thing I have ever done in my life to let my girl go. I stayed with her to the very end and told her I loved her many times and that I thought this was the best thing for her. Two years after Krystl's passing I asked a pet psychic about her and if she was upset with the decision I had made. She said Krystl was pleased with your decision because she was in so much pain but that she didn't want to leave me because she knew how much it would hurt me and that I had to make that decision. It was a great relief to hear this. Krystl was cremated and now stays in a Memorial I made for all my kids that pass away. Krystl has come back to me in some small way because I thought I would never have an albino hedgie again, but along came Mari and she has so many of Krystl's qualities that I am sure Krystl has told her about and in some ways I think this was her way of saying " I am never far away from you mom."



Krystl

This column introduces our readers to some of the wonderful hedges with whom HWS members share their lives. Each "profile" is given a list of 15 questions and chooses five of them to answer.

In this issue, we profile Subail Kerlin, who took the time to answer almost all of the questions! Subail lives with his mother, Gioia, and here is his bio:

My Mother refers to me as "The Mighty Suhail." I celebrated my third birthday last year, and through the years I have become known as "Gioia's First Hoggie." I'm eloquent and of a discerning nature.

The Questions

Q: What is your favorite food, and do you think you get enough of it?

A: Although limiting my opinions about a favorite food is difficult, I would have to say that Wendy's hamburgers are the most delicious treat of all time. I've spoken with Carol Schultz about my food preferences, and I've told both her and Mother that whoever cooks this food does it just right, and they need to make it more often. For some reason unknown to me, the elusive Wendy Burger only appears in my food dish about one day each month. I'd like it to appear more often.

Q: Which recreational activities do you pursue?

A: My favorite activities are marathon wheeling in the dark only, snuggling, and sniffing. I adore being taken outdoors to sniff the grass and dig in the dirt. I also help Mother with the things she does around the house: poop-patrol, dust bunny clean-up, and I tidy my own house every night (even though Mother messes it all up the next morning—pfffft).

Q: Do you have a significant other?

A: I was in true, platonic love with my dear Yasmina, who crossed the Bridge last January. I met her when I was but a wee youngster of six months. She was an experienced, older woman. I sniffed her face—she bit my forehead quills—it was the truest of love for a youngster such as I. Throughout our time together, we conversed nightly and shared stories about herd life.

Q: What is your philosophy of life?

A: One must eat mealies while one can, run hard and sleep deeply. All else is folly.

Pog Profiles

The Mighty Subail

Q: What do you think it's like across the Rainbow Bridge?

A: It must be a place of great abundance: mealies, waxies, crickies, silkies, and Wendy burgers. You can eat as much as you want without ever getting fat. There is also a warm, soft place there for us to snuggle on until our humans join us someday. One thing I know for certain—there are no Dreaded Baths across the Bridge.

Q: How do you show your affection for your human caretaker(s)?

A: I snuff "good morning" to Mother as she wakes me in the evening for our daily snuggle and dinner. I allow her the privilege of kissing the soft fur of my face while I refrain from biting her.

Q: How do you like your human caretakers to show affection for you?

A: More than anything, I enjoy lap snuggles while watching a movie. The purest bliss it is to stretch out, warm and with a full belly, under a warm fleece blankie. Mother must make me more blankies.

Q: How do you want to be remembered?

A: Mother has always said that I was a polite hog. When she has me on her lap and must answer the telephone, or whenever she leaves me unattended for a moment, all I require is a fleece blankie over me, and I await patiently Mother's return. I want to be remembered as that: polite. And articulate. I was, after all, instrumental in Mother's university degree and taught her everything she knows.



Q: Do you have a favorite saying?

A: "Let's go visit Auntie Sherry," because Auntie Sherry lets me have Chicken Sticks sometimes, which are almost as wonderful as Wendy burgers.

Q: Where is your favorite place?

A: When I was a wee pog, my favorite place was Mother's sweatshirt pocket. But times change, and hoggies grow bigger, and now I must admit I don't fit as comfortably in that space as I had before. I think now I'd have to say The Lap with a fleece blankie over me.

Q: If your human caretaker quotes you in email messages, do you think your thoughts are communicated accurately?

A: Yes, because I am a stern task-master and have taught her well.

Q: What is something that very few people know about you?

A: Gioia's note: (Suhail wouldn't want anyone to know this, as he tries to maintain the image of a strength and self-sufficiency, but he sleeps with a plush kitty every day. When he was a young boy, he used to sleep in a small ferret bed. Suhail dragged his kitty into bed, under the fleece blanket with him every morning as he would settle down for sleep.)

Q: What piece of advice do you have for all human caretakers?

A: Treats, like snuggles and kisses, should be given liberally. Baths, however, are not like treats. Baths are the Devil's Spawn. Run from them, if you can!

Periodically, the members of the Hedgehog Welfare Society are asked to respond to a poll regarding the hedgehogs that they have rescued. We have found it beneficial and educational to the organization to gather information about how many hedgehogs are rescued by our members, as well as what situations necessitate those rescues. The poll helps to determine rescue trends and educational needs.

Rescuing vs. Rehoming

We sometimes find it difficult to determine whether all the rescue hedgehogs reported in the poll truly fall under the category of rescue hedgehogs. It has been an ongoing challenge to come to a consensus definition of the word "rescue" in the hedgehog community. Gradually, we are trying to fine tune this definition, with the help of the members of the HWS and the online rescue community. A big Thank You to our members who participated in the recent discussion: Cheri, Kimberly Clark, Kelsey Corey, Cindy DeLaRosa, Sandi Dunn, Linda Edwards, Jan Ernst, Sondra Harman, Stephanie Hyne, Heather Johnson, Gioia Kerlin, Kay Raade, Deb Weaver, and Linda Woodring.

There are some hedgehogs that are without question considered rescues. We are all in agreement that a hedgehog who is removed from a situation in which he/she faces imminent harm is definitely a rescue hedgehog. Stephanie reserves her in-home rescue space "for those in serious need of immediate attention, those who need hand-feeding, special needs care, veterinary treatment, etc." Gioia adds:

"In my mind, 'rescue' means that you are rescuing the animal FROM something – physical danger, illness, harm, abuse, and so on... That would include situations where people are about to euthanize a perfectly healthy hedgehog simply because they don't want him/her anymore or those who would turn their animal loose because they can't/haven't tried hard enough to find him/her another home... Taking in a hedgehog who just hasn't been played with much, but whose hygiene, environmental, and dietary needs have all been met isn't always a rescue for me. It depends on whether or not there is imminent harm that will befall the animal if it is not removed from its current situation immediately."

Some rescuers go one step further in their rescue definition to include hedgehogs that are not in imminent danger, but might be if

Rescue Recap 2004

by *Donnasue Graesser*
North Windham, CT

they are not removed from their current home. In her definition of rescue, Linda W. includes "getting a hedgehog out of a bad situation that is a threat to his health and well being, or taking a hedgehog out of a situation if there is a threat that he *would* be put in danger – deserted, ignored, or mistreated -- if left where he was." Cindy agrees: "I think a true rescue is an animal that would end up very sick or dead if not removed from the situation he/she was in." Cindy provided an example of a rescue hedgehog that was a former classroom pet, and the students were pulling out his quills! All of us would agree that hedgehog needed rescuing from that classroom!

Hedgehogs living in substandard living conditions may also fit the "rescue" bill. Kelsey's Prickles "was living in a 1-foot by 2-foot aquarium, with his house taking up almost half of the space... His water bottle was broken, and I found green gunk in there. He was fed poor quality kitten food, and his owner had been plucking out his wonky white visor quills. He had mites, and he hadn't seen a vet for at least a year." For Kay, the line between minor and major rescues would be drawn at adequate vs. inadequate care, although that opens up a whole new can of worms in the question of what constitutes "adequate" care. Cheri tells us that "the one thing I have learned is that the idea of what the previous owner thinks is good care and what comes to your doorstep are not always the same thing."

The vast majority of the hedgehog community would consider a hedgehog to

be in need of rescue if he/she is sick, is in a situation that is potentially harmful, or is living in unacceptable conditions. But, others have a broader perspective of which hedgehogs fall under the category of "rescue." Heather says, "For my purpose, any hedgehog that is no longer welcome in his/her previous home, for whatever reason, is a rescue on my books. There are obviously grades of severity within that large category." Likewise, Linda E.'s definition of a rescue encompasses "ANY hedgehog needing to be taken out of harm's way, whether it be simply unwanted (because then we don't know how desperate the people are to get rid of their hedgehog, nor what they will do with him/her) or whether it be in a threatening position."

Jan elaborates on why any unwanted hedgehog might be considered a rescue:

"When hedgehogs are unwanted, there is no way to know what will happen to them once they are given up by their owners. Some owners will make sure they go to loving homes, but many others don't care, as shown by the hedgehogs found roaming loose outdoors. Beauty was an unwanted hedgehog. Her owner could have returned her to her original owner, who would have welcomed her with open arms, but he decided instead to take her to an animal shelter. The shelter told him about me and she was brought to my house... Beauty developed WHS after she came to me, but suppose she had gone to the shelter and had been adopted by someone who knew nothing about hedgehogs and WHS. Would they have taken her to a vet and cared for her properly? It's not possible to know. She could have been given away, let loose outside, neglected, and left to die without proper care. I am so thankful that I have her especially since she has WHS, because I can care for her with love." (Editor's note: Beauty recently crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.)

Others would not consider an unwanted hedgehog to be a rescue, provided that the hedgehog was receiving proper care and treatment in the previous home. They would say these hedgehogs have been "rehomed." It seems we all agree there are many gray areas, and in the future, we will consider these gray areas in the rescue poll. We will make a clearer distinction between "rescued" and "rehomed" hedgehogs, depending on the individual animal and the specific situation.

continued on page 12

As we continue to gather information about rescued and rehomed hedgehogs, we will have further, more specific, discussions about different adoption situations. For example, what conditions justify a “pet store rescue?” If a hedgegie is receiving superb care, but the owner dies or is deployed to the military, would that hedgehog be rescued or rehomed? Are retired breeders considered rescues? There are endless permutations of situations that may or may not constitute hedgehog rescue. Our extraordinary group of rescuers will continue to provide warm blankets, ready wheels, necessary health care, and endless love to all hedgegies who are in need of a new home, no matter how those hedgegies are classified.

2004: Good News and Bad News

In the rescue surveys of the past three years, we have not distinguished between rescued and rehomed hedgehogs. These polls have included information about any hedgehog whose guardian considered that hedgehog to be a rescue. The results from the past two years are tabulated below.

There are some positive trends in hedgehog rescue. Every six months, the survey garners responses from 30 to 40 rescuers, indicating a very active rescue community. The Hedgehog Welfare Society “official” rescue contact list has grown to include seven new rescuers willing to take in needy hedgehogs, and several new states have been added to the geographic areas that are covered by official HWS rescue contacts. Please contact our rescue co-chairs, Laura Ledet and Yolanda McLean, if you would consider becoming part of the rescue team. Their contact information is listed on the front page of the newsletter.

One positive trend seen in the 2004 poll is a 50% decrease in the number of hedgehogs rescued from animal shelters. We hope this trend indicates that more owners are relinquishing their hedgehogs directly to knowledgeable hedgegie homes. We also hope this trend continues in the years to come.

Unfortunately, there is also some bad news, including a 48% increase in the total number of hedgehogs rescued. In 2004, members of the HWS rescued 164 hedgehogs, as opposed to 111 hedgehogs in 2003. Despite our continued educational efforts, our top need for rescue is still from homes that “no longer had time for” their hedgegies. We are also still providing new

homes to a large number of hedgehogs from families whose children lost interest in their quilly pets. This information helps us to set goals for our educational efforts, and we know that we must help prospective owners to set realistic expectations of the extent of care a pet hedgehog requires.

We are disappointed, and yet glad, to see an enormous number of hedgehogs being rescued from areas where they are illegal to own. Of course, it is a benefit to the hedgehogs to remove them from locations where they risk confiscation and euthanasia (or, as it is phrased in the Georgia code, “disposal”). We also find it encouraging to see owners, as well as some state fish and

game departments, turning to the HWS to deliver hedgehogs to safe and legal locations.

If you are interested to learn more about rescue trends, the statistics from both the 2003 and 2004 rescue polls are provided in the table below. As usual, the percent column will add up to more than 100%, since some hedgehogs are reported under multiple categories. No matter whether we consider each hedgehog a “rescue” or a “rehoming” it is abundantly clear that HWS members are providing a wonderful service to a great many hedgehogs by providing them with loving forever homes.

Situation	2003	2004	Total 2003-2004	Percent
Total # of Hedgehogs	111	164	275	100.0
Owner “no longer had time for” hedgehog	38	35	73	26.5
Retired breeder/non-producer	3	31	34	12.4
Shelter/Humane Society	23	10	33	12.0
Rescued from “illegal” area	0	30	30	10.9
Child/teen lost interest	17	12	29	10.5
New baby in family	10	13	23	8.4
Owner moved/convenience	13	6	19	6.9
Neglect/bad conditions	0	17	17	6.2
Hedgehog's personality	4	9	13	4.7
Moving to college	5	6	11	4.0
Pregnant rescue hedgehog had babies	0	11	11	4.0
Bad pet store conditions	3	2	5	1.8
Owner's health problems	0	3	3	1.1
Wandering outdoors	1	2	3	1.1
Classroom pet	0	3	3	1.1
Relinquished by owner for unknown reasons	0	2	2	0.7
Abandoned at vet/doorstep	0	2	2	0.7
Owner moved (to illegal area)	2	0	2	0.7
Owner died	0	1	1	0.4
Military deployment	0	1	1	0.4

Valentine's Day is upon us, and the Hedgehog Welfare Society is offering two great gifts for your hedgie and human friends. Both gifts will be sold to benefit hedgies in need. Show your eternal love and devotion while supporting hedgehogs everywhere!

First, Hobie Wikane wants to let you know that his mom, Naomi, will be making personalized Valentine greetings from her hand stamped and colored Penny Black Valentine rubber stamps. There are three designs on each card, along with your personalized message. The card will be mailed to your sweetie along with an extra-special Valentine-decorated fleece blankie. All wrapped up with lots of love. For only \$5.00 this Valentine greeting and fantastic fleecie to will be sent to your hedgie-love.

Special Valentines for Special Hedgies



Next - back by popular demand! A limited Valentine's Day edition of Julie's Superb Spa Kits! The Christmas version of these spa kits sold out in just days, so don't miss a chance to get one for your hedgehog sweetheart. A day at the spa is a perfect way to pamper your hedgie while easing his/her dry skin and ears, and dirty feet. Included in each kit is a packet of a soothing oatmeal milk bath, ear balm, soap, and a buckwheat bag. Made with real oatmeal and milk, the oatmeal bath will soothe dry winter skin with the calming effects of chamomile. The ear balm is made with all natural ingredients and will help make ragged

ears a thing of the past. The soap is homemade by Julie with only pure olive oil and cocoa butter and a touch of goats' milk. The buckwheat grain bag is microwavable and freezable, and will help keep your hedgie warm (or cool) for short periods of time while providing a nice pillow to lie on. The bag also comes in its own flannel pillowcase that can be removed and washed. Everything comes wrapped in its own holiday basket, making a complete and perfect gift for your hedgie friends. For a \$20.00 donation to the HWS, some lucky hedgehog will be pampered like a queen or king!

Orders must be placed by February 10.

To order a personalized Valentine greeting and fleecie, contact Donnasue at donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu. To order a spa kit, contact Julie at meihee@yahoo.com.

Whose Tat is That?

*We've played
"Whose Tat is That?"
for over a year,
and finally the winner
is clear.*

*Our champion this year,
it was tough to deceive her.
She is a tattoo-guessing
over achiever!*

*I'm proud to announce
that our prize receiver
Is Molly and Grover's
mom, Deb Weaver!*

Thank you to all the participants!

Congratulations to Deb Weaver for earning the most points throughout 2004 in the "Whose Tat is That?" game. It has been so much fun hunting down hedgie tattoos and taking guesses from our readers. Deb will receive a special prize for her tattoo identification skills.



Elana Adler



Heather Blank



Kim Scea



Jennifer Plombon



Laura Ledet

Simon Says

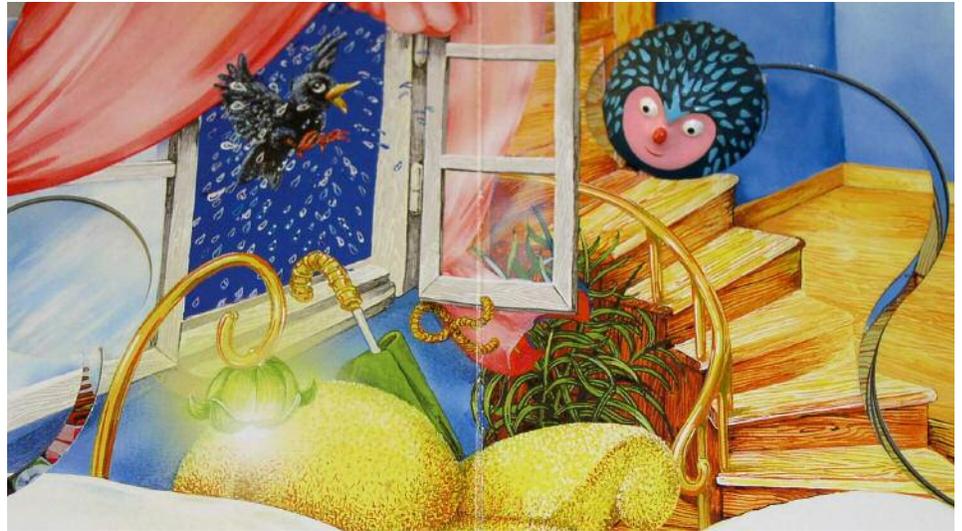
by Simon Correra, North Windham, CT

This month's selection from Simon's must read list is *Little Hector Hedgehog*, from The Busy Friends Book series.

Is it a book? Is it a toy? It's both! This book/toy is on my favorites list, not only because it was a special gift from Mormor Kis vanOosterhout, but also because it is one of the coolest hedgehog books that my mom reads to me.

In this story, Little Hector Hedgehog arrives home on a cold, rainy night, brushes his quills, reads a book, and gets ready for bed. Suddenly, a wet crow crashes into his window! Hector, being the generous and compassionate hedgehog soul that he is, brings the crow into his warm house and provides tea, treats, and a warm, fluffy bed for his new friend. This feel good story teaches us kidlets about the value of helping others. The text says it perfectly: "Little Hector sure is a busy fellow, but he always has time to help someone in need."

What makes this board book super-duper-fun is that Hector is a gumdrop shaped plastic toy attached to the book. The toy is attached firmly so it is safe for even young toddlers like me. As you turn the pages, you



can move Hector by sliding him around a little track, following the action of the text. Hector comes down the staircase, goes to the bookshelf, runs to the window to let in the crow, dashes to the kitchen to make treats, and then trots to the crow's bedside. I love sliding Hector around again and again and again and again....

The book's bright, bold pictures are engaging. It's cute to see that many of Hector's household objects are illustrated to have a hedgehog texture and/or shape. His carpet is "quilled," as are his fluffy chair, his hairbrush, and even the treats he feeds to his crow friend. The bonus of the movable Hector makes the book unique amongst kids' hedgehog books.

Little Hector Hedgehog is available on Amazon.com (ISBN 2-7641-0887-7). The story adaptation is by Catherine Solyom, and the illustrations are by Janusz Oblucki. It is published by Tormont/Brimar Publications in Canada, and is imported to Europe through Ireland. Obviously it is available in other parts of the world as Mormor Kis found it all the way over in Denmark. Only she can tell you the secret of how she found Little Hector.

*Tell your moms and dads
that Simon Says
to buy this book for you!*

Hedgehog Welfare Society Committee Reports Quarter 4 (October-December) 2004

Advocacy Committee

Co-chairs: Jennifer Plombon, Heather Johnson, Stephanie Hyne.

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 Website.

Heather Johnson did not run for reelection for this committee when HWS elections

were held; Stephanie Hyne was nominated and elected to join the Committee as a new Co-Chair. Steph brings much expertise to the Committee as a USDA-licensed breeder. She has a good working relationship with her USDA inspector, and plans to focus on educating pet stores and breeders on proper animal care, and on assisting others in communicating with the USDA.

Jennifer Plombon has applied for a USDA Class C Exhibitors license to allow her to teach hedgehog care classes to veterinary students and instructors. She has a good working relationship with her USDA

inspector, and will focus on assisting others in communicating with the USDA.

Care Packages Committee

Co-chairs: Jennifer Plombon, Heather Johnson

Since October 1, 2004, the HWS Rescue Care Packages Committee has shipped 25 Care Packages, hats, and food samples, to hedgehog rescuers throughout the U. S. and Canada. Several of the packages contained supplies for more than one rescued hedgehog.

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Funding for the care-package project is received from Jennifer's private donation, hat-sales, and iGive donations.

Fundraising and Ruby's Rescue Shop

Manager: *Donnasue Graesser*

Ruby's Rescue Shop has been closed for this quarter, due to a move and emergency situation. The shop will be re-opened as of January 1, 2005.

Julie Hintz ran a "holiday spa kit" fundraiser and sold 25 kits. We also received several private donations this quarter. The quilt square exchange has been initiated, including 2 quilts to auction off for the HWS. E-bay auctions have been held, raising several hundred dollars for HWS projects.

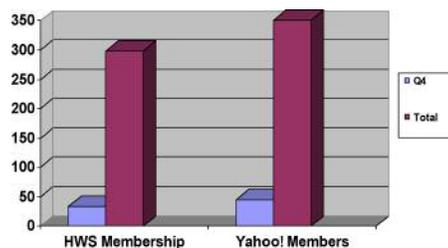
Health and Education Committee

Co-chairs: *Gioia Kerlin, Linda Fine*

New co-chairs were elected to the Health and Education Committee. Welcome Gioia and Linda. Ideas for new projects have been initiated included a "spay information" packet. Gioia is also working on an instructional video/DVD for hedgehog owners through the HBA, which will be available to all hedgehog owners.

Membership Committee

Chair: *Kerri LeMotte*



As outlined above, there have been 34 new members to the Hedgehog Welfare Society, for a total of 299 members. There have been 45 new members to the Hedgehogwelfare Yahoo! Group, for a total of 350 members.

In November, postcards requesting updated contact information were sent to HWS members who did not have active e-mail addresses on file. There were 209 postcards

sent. Replies with updated contact information were received from 6 members. 27 postcards were returned as undeliverable by the US Postal Service. Members who did not reply to the postcard, including those for members with undeliverable addresses, were removed from membership with the HWS.

Due to size, a new Yahoo! Group, HWSmembers, was created to house the Membership Database. Board members who require access to the membership file have been invited to the group and were given moderator status. Other committee chairs that require member information are able to request it through a list member.

During the first quarter of 2005, the on-line form available on the HWS website will be reviewed. Web submissions often contain incorrect or missing information. Any necessary updates to ensure ease of use will be made to the on-line form.

Public Relations Committee

Co-chairs: *Tonya Thomas, Donnasue Graesser*

Tonya Thomas has been elected as Public Relations co-chair. We have registered a table for the Animal Welfare Federation conference in NJ for March 2005.

We have several ideas in the works, including a "Share with your Shelter" day to promote the HWS at local animal shelters.

Rescue Committee

Co-chairs: *Laura Ledet, Yolanda McLean*

Number of hedgehogs taken in by our rescue contacts: 22 reported (7 from a breeder's liquidation). Out of these, 7 were from owners who no longer wanted them, 2 were relinquished by an owner who was too ill to care for them, 6 were rescued from illegal states, 7 were retired breeders; (3) of which were very ill that came from Mark's Exotics.

Number of those successfully re-homed: 12

Number/location of new rescues approved for this quarter: 1.

Number of applications denied and why: 0
All current rescues reported that they still wish to remain listed with us.

Areas where we DO NOT have any listed rescues in include:

Alabama, Arizona, West Virginia, Indiana, Maine, Kentucky, North Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Iowa, Mississippi, Nevada, Montana and New Mexico.

****This committee is aware that some of these states are illegal to own hedgehogs in, but we still seek people who are willing to take hedgehogs from those areas and transport them to safe states.*

I am pleased to now have rescues located in 2 additional states; Wisconsin and Utah!

Newsletter

Editor: *Kathleen Knudsen (No Report)*

Quills and Comfort

Co-chairs: *Judie Peters, Carol Fish Kregear*

Quills and Comfort continues to evolve as a support service for guardians experiencing the loss of a hedgehog. To date Quills and Comfort is comprised of three facets, the Circle of Light, the Comfort Cards program, and the Quills and Comfort website. During calendar year 2004, seven Circles were conducted by Carol Fish Kregear wherein over 120 US animals, and more than 60 Euro hedgehogs were honored. The Comfort Card program, initiated in July 2004 by Tonya Thomas, was responsible for sending over 80 Comfort Cards to guardians requesting the service. And finally, the website was updated to include all the names honored in Circle of Light ceremonies.

Web site Management

Web Lass: *Aimee Hassler (No Report)*

Financial Report

Chief Financial Officer: *Donnasue Graesser*

The quarterly financial report of the Hedgehog Welfare Society is available upon request to any HWS member or interested party. Please send requests to donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu. As a registered charitable organization in the state of Oregon, annual reports are available to the public on the Oregon State Department of Justice web site, charitable activities section.