



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 #17, JUL/AUG 2005**

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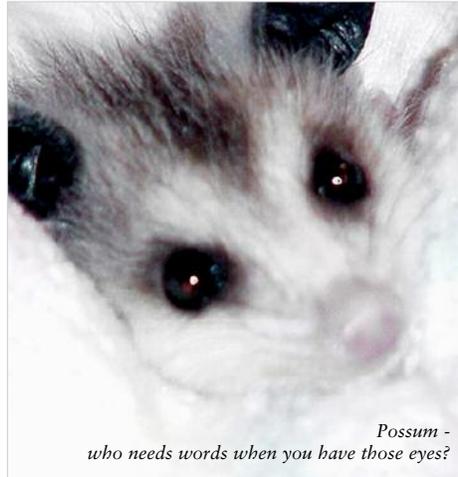
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*Possum -
who needs words when you have those eyes?*

Animal Communication

by Brenda Ice

To tell you when I first knew I understood what animals were saying to me, I guess I would have to go back a long way! My first animal was at birth--my great-granddad gave me a part coyote/dog when I was only a few days old. Silvertip became my constant companion and protector. My Mom always said we thought alike and that dang dog could read my mind.

As a girl, I was always dragging home abandoned or injured animals and trying to doctor them. Thank goodness my Mom was an animal lover herself. As a young mother with sons, all the kids in the neighborhood would bring the hurt animals to me to doctor.

The first animal that I really knew was telling me things was a cat! Kitty Tom was a huge yellow tom, who attached himself to me one day at about half grown, and from that day forth never left my side until he crossed the Rainbow Bridge at 17 years old. He just showed up on the farm, a scruffy little cat, and sat down beside me and said "I'm home." I completely understood him,

and when I told Mom that we talked, she would smile and say, "That's good honey!"

I'm an only child and on a farm there aren't any playmates around, so my animals were very important to me. They were my playmates, friends, companions, and protectors. Once when Mom was tending her "kitchen garden" (a totally southern phrase-meaning a vegetable garden-not for canning but for everyday use for the kitchen), I was standing by an old fence post when my cat, Kitty Tom, grabbed my leg with all four paws and started to scratch me. It scared Mom--she thought he had gone mad--until she saw the snake right at my feet. As soon as he grabbed me he let go and went after the snake, but by then I had moved out of the way of the snake!! He thought that the only way he could keep me safe was to make me move immediately--and I did!!

I don't usually get words from animals--just pictures or phrases--it is rare when an animal can send me words. They seem to use almost a slide show in the mind to communicate. My lab, Beaver (that's another story-my husband named him) and I were so in sync that all I had to do was look at him and he knew what I wanted. I could tell what he was saying and he could look at me and tell me just what he wanted me to know. He was the animal that gave me the confidence to realize that I could communicate with others.

When I read an e-mail about one of the hedgies, I will get whole pictures of them doing something or just looking at me

continued on page 2

In this issue

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Animal Communication | 1 |
| Pog Profiles | 3 |
| Quills and Comfort | 4 |
| Let's put on a show (Part 1) | 6 |
| Wolves & Eagles & Bears, oh my | 8 |

telling me things. For the most part, they really love to talk. They seem amazed that a human will actually speak back to them—some that have talked to Carol or Mary before—just have a nice little sit down with me and it's very casual. Others are surprised and some are very careful, not believing.

You too can do this; all it takes is to just have an open heart and mind. Those thoughts you get when you ask your animal a question, the ones that you think are just you making up an answer, well, it isn't, it's them sending you thoughts. Next time this happens—go with it—do what they want. You will be surprised—each time it gets easier. You understand more.

Try it you might like it!



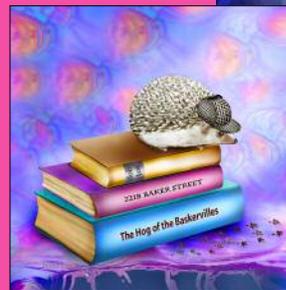
Custom Designs Now Offered at the HWS CafePress store

The HWS CafePress store – www.CafePress.com/judiepeters – is now offering special order and custom design services. If you see a design you like in the Store, we can put it on any of the CafePress items. Or, we can make a custom design specifically for you. It could be as simple as the names of your hedgiekids on a mug. Or, if you would like something a little more elaborate, we can create an original art design featuring your hedgie. All custom work will entail a small additional charge; in return you will have an original piece of art that can be duplicated onto any of the CafePress products.

As an additional example of customization, we recently introduced the 'Global Hedgie' line. It is composed of a hedgie sitting on a globe with the Canadian, US, Norwegian, and Danish flags in the background. However, any flag(s) can be used; for example, the 'Global Hedgie' could have an Italian flag as the background. All your Italian friends could be the recipients of a hedgie/Italian flag coffee cup!

The CafePress store needs YOU!

It's as close as your keyboard and located at www.CafePress.com/judiepeters – no infuriating traffic, no disinterested sales help, and we're open 24/7/365! What more could you ask for? Please help support hedgie rescue and the HWS by selecting cards, t-shirts, coffee cups, sweats, baby items, coasters, b-b-q aprons, pillows, clocks, teddy bears, hoodies, or a myriad of other hedgie-decorated items. All profits from the store are donated to the Hedgehog Welfare Society. If you place an order, be sure to contact Judie Peters at bjpeters@hargray.com – we want to send you a small token of appreciation. The same address can be used to place special orders. And please remember, 'it's for the hedgies.'



Pog Profiles

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

In this issue, we profile Elvis Plouff, whose mom Maurita wrote this about him:



Sleepy Elvis

His Grumpitude Elvis came to live with the Plouff family in April 2002, and we believe he's about four and a half years old (he's a rescue pog, so we don't know for sure). Elvis is a truly beautiful hedgehog - chocolate chip in color, heavily snowflaked, with incredibly long quills. When he first came to live with us, he was terribly shy and ferociously grumpy, with a nasty habit of biting everything in reach. It took time and patience to win his trust.

The Questions

Q: Where is your favorite place?

A: There are 2 places I like best. One is right by my food bowl, especially when there's something nice to eat in there, like salmon-fruit, my favorite. My other favorite would be in a fleece blankie held by my devoted slave, which is where you can see me in the photo above. Oh, and there's another place I can visit only in the warm days of summer - there's a big smelly plant in the garden that has a hollow underneath it, just right for a hedgehog to be in. It's a wonderful smell and I feel very stealthy there. [note - that's in the herb garden, and Elvis loves to shelter underneath the overgrown marjoram]

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

A: Salmon-fruit! But it doesn't happen often enough! I also like that cluck stuff, but only if it's moist and chewy, not dry. The little round green squishy things are good, and scrambled eggs. My people give me a mix of dry foods in my bowl and I dig around to pull out the best ones. I'll toss the ones I don't like around my cage. The stuff I really don't like I will poop on.

Q: Which recreational activities do you pursue?

A: Um, er, you mean when there are no girls around? Oh, not that kind of recreation. You mean things to do that are fun but not THAT much fun. I really like rooting through my slave's hair, snuffling behind the ears where the really fine strands are. I never get enough of the hair thing. And sometimes I make sculptures from the fleece blankies I find in my house, often arranging and rearranging them while standing beneath them. It's very tiring work, and I often find I need to rest partway through.

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

A: My humans should help me be warm, comfortable, and happy - that means lots of fleecies, lots of salmon-fruit and wormies and other goodies, and lots of snuggling time. When they make a Warm Place for me in their laps they should sit still; jiggling is not good. They should not keep lifting the blankies to peek in, that makes cold breezes.

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

A: I have a special Happy Noise I make when my humans are doing things just right - it's a soft noise between a chuckle and a purr. I know they like it when I venture out from my warm spot to lick their face or hair. When I'm grumpy, they like it if I bite the blankies and not them.



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

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
P.O. Box 70408, Seattle WA 98107

Quills and Comfort

Healing Candle Ceremony

by Judie Peters

Quills and Comfort is an outreach program that was originally designed to honor our much-loved but departed hedgehogs. Quills and Comfort was also designed to provide a measure of comfort for the grieving guardians of hedgies gone. Drum roll please - we are proud to announce that Naomi Wikane's Healing Candle Ceremony will now reside under the Quills and Comfort "umbrella" of outreach services. Instead of focusing on bereavement, the Healing Candle Ceremony utilizes the marvelous power of prayer/meditation to assist those in need.

The Healing Candle Ceremony brings hedgie companions together in spirit to send healing thoughts and energy for those who are ill; it offers a venue where we can focus on blessed hope and a better tomorrow. Naomi describes the genesis of the Healing Candle Ceremony:

The Healing Candle Ceremony came about through Hobie, one of my hedgies. When the animal communicator was talking with him (at a time when he was ill and several were praying and sending positive energy for him) Hobie said he could feel the prayers and love of others surround him. He expressed it as though he was sitting by a campfire and all around was the healing coming to him that he so needed and he asked for it to continue. So we had our first ceremony. And since we have the Circle of Light Ceremony with a candle we do the same for the Healing Ceremony. But we visualize the hedgies at the campfire that Hobie introduced us to. We have these ceremonies as often as needed. We know from the responses we read that these campfire gatherings do have a positive impact. I'm the shepherd for these ceremonies. If you feel you'd like one please let me know — Naomi Wikane

*The Healing Candle Ceremony,
July 25, 2005*

Candles are lit at the same time according to the schedule below. We have friends in Europe and thus those times are included.

6 PM Pacific Time
7 PM Mountain Time
8 PM Central Time
9 PM Eastern Time
2 AM UK Time
3 AM Denmark Time

The Healing Candle participants are listed below with the healing requests according to their companions:

- *Asti*, guardian Sheila, for comfort and well being relating to his WHS
- *Safiya Pearl*, guardian Gioia, that her mouth may be healed and she will be in good health again
- *Hobie*, guardian Naomi, that his cancer medication will continue his well being
- *Lilly* (sugar glider), guardian Elena, that her babies (joeys) growing in her pouch will emerge healthy
- *Serendipity*, guardian Diana, that she may be healed from her bladder troubles
- *Pi-Man*, guardian Gioia, that his winky tumor can be healed
- *Poog*, guardian Vicki, for healing from removal of abscessed teeth
- *Smoke* (kitten) guardian Carol, that she will grown strong and healthy as she recovers from lung issues
- *Thomas*, brother of Becky Fleming, that he may fully recover from car accident injuries after being hit by a drunk driver
- *Subail*, guardian Gioia, for continued healing of toothie troubles
- *Ifni*, guardian Gioia, that he will leave his hunger strike behind and continue to eat better and better
- *Payton*, guardians Linda and Jim, that he may continue to do great despite some remaining health problems
- *Hannah* and *Fantasia*, guardian Pat S., for healing
- *Marshall* (kitty), guardians Krissa and her Mom Amy, for comfort and well being as he battles cancer
- *Sweet Pea*, guardians Linda and Gary, that she may regain good health with them after her awful previous situation
- *Lindy* (opossum), guardian Jan, that she may get rid of her cough and have better health
- *Gretchen* (ferret), guardian Jan, that she will come through her surgery for removal of spleen with tumor and maybe removal of one or both adrenal glands and recover to good health
- *Jerry*, Dad of Chris H., for comfort and healing of his lung cancer (small cell-inoperable) as he undergoes more chemo as it has spread to his esophagus
- *Spicy*, guardian Judith, that she may perk up and get back to her old self
- *Mandy*, guardians Ashley and Andrew, for healing of her body and spirit after having her eye recently removed
- *M&M* (dog), guardian Sheila, for healing of a mammary cyst



continued on page 5

Quills and Comfort Can't

Circle of Light

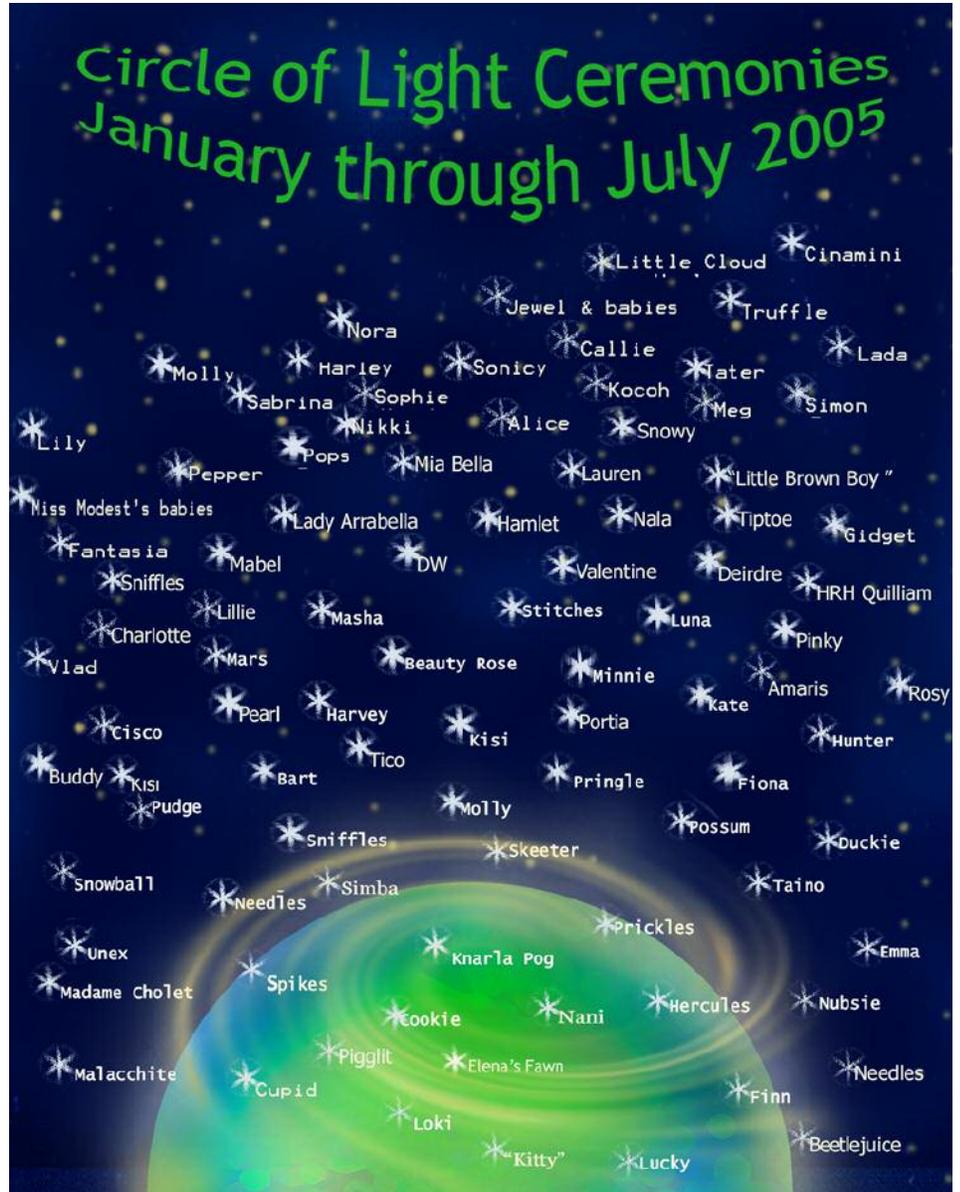
Carol Fish Kregear coordinates the *Quills and Comfort Circle of Light* ceremonies at the request of hedgie companions. Sadly, there are always far too many hedgies included in each ceremony. Here are the most recent ceremonies:

May 29, 2005

Mabel (guardian Jen)
 DW (guardian Elana)
 Rosy (guardian Jan)
 Amaris (guardian Cindy)
 Valentine (guardian Peggy)
 Buddy (guardians Tonya & Rick)
 Pinky (guardians Donnasue & Simon)
 Portia (guardian Maurita)
 Tico (guardian Tawana)
 Lady Arrabella & HRH Quilliam (guardian Gillian)
 Deirdre (guardians Aimee & Jim)
 Lillie, Hamlet & Piggli (guardian Vicki)
 Needles (guardians Linda & Gary)
 Mia Bella (guardians Laura & Michelle)
 Lauren (guardian Cindy)
 Beetlejuice (guardian Dawn)
 Tiptoe (guardians Ashley and Andrew)
 Pearl, Nala, and unnamed little "brown boy" (guardians Linda and Gary)
 Charlotte (guardian Shelley)
 Sniffles (guardian Jan)
 Snowy the ferret (guardian Bridget)
 Kiwi (guardians Dave and Joy)

July 22, 2005

Cupid (guardian Judie P)
 Gidget (guardian Lin)
 Alice & Simon (guardian Cindy)
 Pops (guardian Judi J)
 Tater (guardian Judy B)
 Sophie (guardian Kristen)
 Kocoh (guardians Linda & Gary)
 Vlad (guardian Renae)
 Meg (dog) and Callie (guardian Ali)
 Nikki (guardians Donna & C. Heather)
 Sonicy (guardian Robyn)
 Truffle (guardian Erika)
 Nora (guardian Bridget)
 Jewel and her babies (guardian Jeanne)
 Sabrina (guardian Judi J and Judy B for a while)
 Lada (guardian Liz S)
 Cinamini (guardian Robin)
 Molly (guardian Vanessa)
 Little Cloud (guardian Paige)
 Harley (guardians Laura W. and Tom)
 Lily (guardian Erika)
 Pepper (guardian Steph)
 Miss Modest's babies (mice) (guardian Laura D)
 Fantasia (guardian Pat)



Comfort Cards

Tonya Thomas faithfully sends a Quills and Comfort Card to each companion who has lost hedgie, and typically writes a comforting note. To date Tonya has sent out over 135 Comfort Cards. I generally design and make each card. Tonya and I both feel this is a true labor of love. We hope that the card recipients derive comfort from receiving a card.

Quills and Comfort Web site

The Web site remains under construction. Our web-lass Aimee Hassler will be helping us get it together.

Let's put on a show! (Part 1 of 2)

by Susan Goetcheus, Arlington, MA

Have you ever read about a hedgehog event and thought, "Too far for me to travel; wish someone would do a show near me..."? Instead of wishing, why not put on an event yourself? From informal regional get-togethers to multi-day hedgehog-o-ramas, part 1 of this article will give you some ideas and tips to get started with your very own faboo gathering! In the next issue, part 2 will describe more about planning the various activities.

What to do?

First, figure out the scope of your event: do you want to have an afternoon get-together, a one-day event, or a two-day multi-activity gathering? Do you intend your event to interest only the people in your geographical area, or do you want to attract people who will need to fly in?

If you just want to hang out informally with some of the hedge lovers in your area, invite everyone over to your place for a couple of hours. Serve tea, hedge cake, or some of the recipes from the Hog Heavenly Recipes book! If you have your sights set on doing a conformation show or IHOG, you may want to start out with an informal gathering because it's a great way to find other people in your area with whom you can plan a big event. (Do note that a couple of hours may turn into a few hours because as fellow hedge lovers, you will find lots to talk about. The topic of poop can consume an hour of conversation all by itself!)

If you want to put on an Event, here are some of the activities you might include:

- Seminars (1-3 hours depending on number of speakers)
- Conformation show (2-4 hours depending on number of participants)
- IHOG (2-3 hours depending on number of participants)
- Costume contest (1 hour)
- Bedlam Ball, Prickle Pin, other games for people to play (can take place while show/IHOG are happening)
- Vendor tables
- Silent/live auction
- Arranged meal for attendees

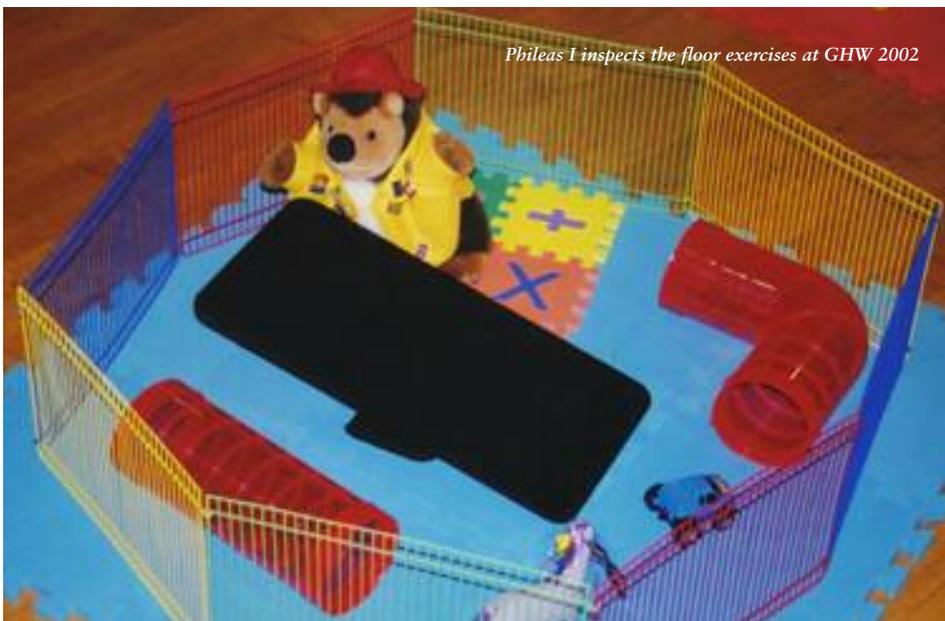
Part 2 of this article, which will appear in the next issue, will have more information about each of these activities, but you should have an idea about what you want to do before you start looking for a place to do it. Knowing how many things you want to include gives you a more accurate picture about how many people you'll need on the planning team.

Location, location, location

After you have a rough idea about the length of the event and the activities it'll include, you need to find a suitable location. Ideally,

fees and/or stay in smoking rooms.

- Conference centers. Many are located close to hotels, but may have the same anti-animal sentiment.
- Lodges and social halls. Elks, Masons, and Lions often rent their halls at reasonable rates. Some of these halls are pretty smoky, though, so make sure to visit the premises. Attendees will need to travel from the hotel to the event location. You will probably need to provide your own equipment for seminars.
- Community rooms in libraries and churches. These rooms are often available to community or church members for free. The drawbacks are that they may not



Phileas I inspects the floor exercises at GHW 2002

you'll find a place that's conveniently located, affordable, and has hotel rooms and activity rooms in one building.

- Hotels. The convenience of taking an elevator down from a hotel room to the event location is great. You can often get a discounted rate on meeting rooms if the hotel gets enough business from your attendees, and the hotel can provide loudspeakers, overhead projectors, and other amenities. You can also book blocks of rooms at special rates. However, many hotels don't want anything to do with animal events, some charge over \$1000 for a meeting room, and you may also find that your attendees have to pay pet

be as nice as hotel meeting rooms, they may not have the same amenities for seminars, and your attendees will need to travel from the hotel to the event location.

Choosing the date

Your choice of location may lock you into a certain date, but if you can choose, you need to consider these factors:

- Other hedge events that are going on. Try not to schedule your event too close to other events. If you're planning an afternoon tea for the people in your area, this isn't as important, but if you're doing

continued on page 7

Let's put on a show! can't

a two-day show and IHOG, try not to schedule it within a month or two of another similar event.

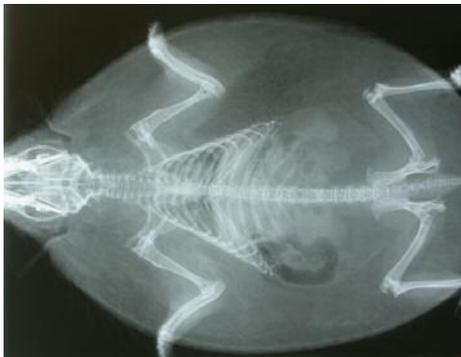
- Major holidays. Avoid Easter, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas, because most people plan family events for those times. Planning an event for Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, or Columbus Day deserves some thought; it's nice to have a long weekend when you're traveling to a hedge event, but family plans may conflict and some people may not want to fly or drive on those heavy travel days.
- Availability of judges, if you're including a conformation show.
- Availability of speakers, if you're including seminars.
- Weather. A hedge show in St. Pete, Florida in January is a great idea. A hedge show in Boston, MA in January is not. 'Nuff said.

Publicizing the event

For a small get-together, an email to the people in your area will do the trick. To attract people to a larger gathering, use all the publicity weapons at your disposal:

- Create a Web site with all the event information
- Announce the event on the various hedgehog mailing lists and Web sites
- Put fliers up at local veterinary offices, pet stores, community bulletin boards
- Send press releases to local newspapers, radio stations, and TV stations
- Announce the event on local email lists

Even if you don't yet know your schedule or list of activities, announce the date and location to the hedge community as soon as you can. Lots of people will want to pencil your event in on their calendars, and you'll probably start getting offers to help!



An x-ray of Fifer Rabinowitz. No... that's not an egg around her... that's her fat! My pudgy girl.



Mark your calendars
for the famous

Mile High Hedgehog Show

in Colorado Springs, CO on October 14-16

Friday evening events include a Fun Show and Hospitality Room; Saturday events will include two conformation shows and a banquet along with a Silent and Live Action; Sunday events will include IHOG, Flash and Thelma Rescue tour with lunch and Judges Training by Bryan.

Held at the Clarion Best Western (formally the LeBaron) rooms are \$75. A buffet breakfast will be included daily.

For more information, please visit
<http://www.milehighhedgehogs.com>

Registration forms and schedules will be posted soon.

For those who would like to sponsor a part of the show, please contact Kari Espelien at kjespelien@yahoo.com for more information.

Many attendees have mentioned planning their vacation around this event as there are many places to go and see in the Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs area. Go to www.ExperienceColoradoSprings.com and see for yourself all the things to do here.



Bear cub ready to let fly

Two days prior to our visit, the resident pack, which consisted of 2 adult Arctic Wolf males, a yearling grey brother & sister pair, and their yearling grey female cousin (who was actually black), suffered a huge upset when the pack attacked and gravely wounded the black female yearling wolf. Sadly, she had to be euthanized due to her injuries. The Center staff members were devastated, of course, and we were sorry not to have seen Nyssa, who was a beautiful girl. Please read <http://www.wolf.org/wolves/support/memorialfund.asp> for more details and a response from the staff.

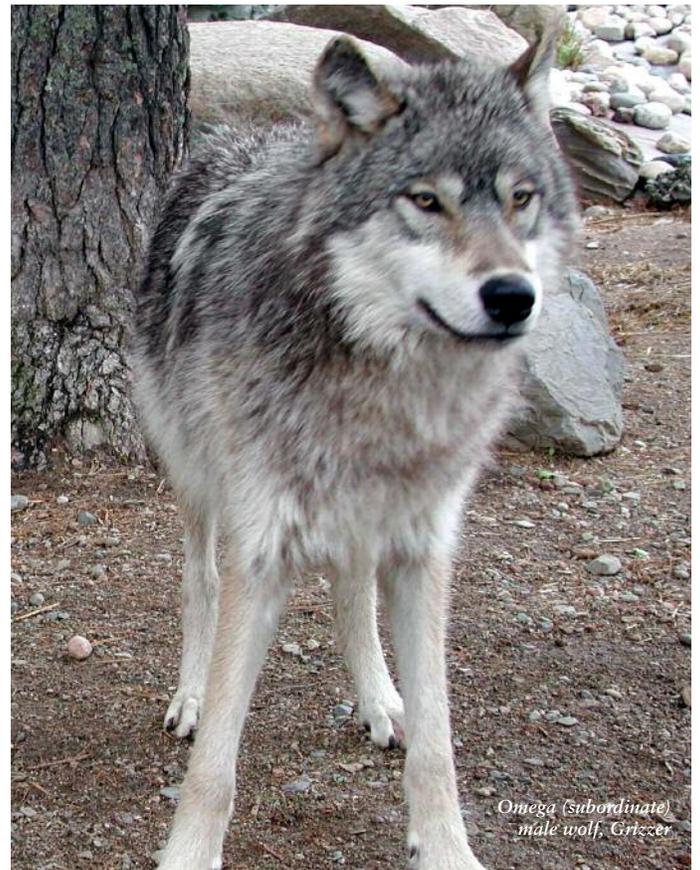
We then attended a talk on wolf tracking, picked up radio receivers, and took off in the rain and sleet in the van to try to find some wild wolves with radio collars. Again, we were unsuccessful in locating wolves, but had a great time trying. We then visited an eagle's nest where the adult Bald Eagle could be seen gazing at the wee people below, and then headed off to the Vince Shute Bear Sanctuary (<http://www.americanbear.org/Sanctuary.htm>) to see some bears. At the Sanctuary, wild black bears are fed seeds, nuts, and fruits at outdoor sites. This is a response to the original sanctuary which fed bears all manner of foods and, frankly, garbage, for many years, while tourists observed and mingled (luckily without any major injuries!) with the bears for years (read the whole story at the above web site). The bears now visit and eat in the spring and into the summer, leaving in the fall and then hibernating. The Sanctuary wasn't opened for the season yet, so we were able to actually walk a bit on the grounds (with bears

within touching distance!) and we stayed for a long time watching them from a high platform. There were many new cubs; mom bears would come by, "park" their cubs up in a tree, and eat. As they ate, the cubs would stealthily creep down the trees to romp and play on the ground, scampering back up when Mom noticed them and "whoofed" at them. It was like looking at trees covered with little black berries, the berries being cubs. On page 8 is a photo of the cub tree; can you see four little cubs in the tree, and their Mom below?

There was a yearling cub in a tree very near the platform. He kept climbing higher and higher, onto smaller and smaller branches, as we all held our breaths for fear he'd fall. Of course he never did; and at his highest reach, he leaned his bum out and let fly a big "scat" or poop, narrowly missing his Mom below! In the photo on this page you can see him observing from on high, and climbing higher.

We spent hours watching the bears, then headed out to visit another eagles' nest, an Ospreys' nest (an Osprey was flying around looking gorgeous) and the largest beavers' lodge any of us had ever seen. We also visited and marveled at a bear's den, amazed that a big bear and her cubs could spend the whole winter in such a small hole. After a fine dinner at the Dam Café, we headed back to our cabin (communal, of course!) to dry off, warm up, and sleep. The next morning we visited and thoroughly explored the International Wolf Center, and then, to everyone's everlasting delight and forever memories, the Center employees took us, in small groups, outside to the chain link fence at one end of the resident wolf pack enclosure to meet the wolves. No doubt our cheerful attitudes while spending 2 days outside in pouring rain and sleet deserved some sort of reward. We slowly approached the fence, and the wolves came up to greet us. After they greeted the Center staff, we were allowed to place the palms of our hands (no fingers!) flat against the chain link fence and the wolves greeted us and licked our hands! Oh, my, what an awesome thing! I wanted to never wash my hands again. While we were there, the Alpha male, Shadow, had to chide the Alpha female, Maya, for some reason. He growled, postured, grabbed her muzzle in his, and she behaved in perfect submissive fashion, staying low, touching him with a careful paw, rolling over and showing her abdomen ... given what had just happened to the Omega female, Nyssa, we were all nervous that we'd see another attack, but we were reassured that both Shadow and Maya were behaving in perfectly normal pack fashion. Pack dynamics are complicated and fascinating.

All in all, a most awesome weekend. Please visit the web sites given, view the web cams, and learn more; it's fascinating!



Omega (subordinate) male wolf, Grizzer