



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 #18, SEPT/OCT 2005**

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501(c)(3) To Be or Not to Be

Early in the year 2003, the HWS became a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. In simplest terms, 501(c)(3) is a status that provides tax benefits to certain charitable organizations. To receive this status, a charitable organization must make an application to, and be recognized by, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Federal tax law provides "tax-exempt" benefits to nonprofit organizations that are recognized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC).

The most substantial advantage of the 501(c)(3) designation is exemption from paying federal income tax, and eligibility to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. So, the HWS does not have to pay federal taxes, and individuals or companies that make donations to our organization can deduct those donations on their federal tax returns. Financially, this of course benefits the organization, because it allows us to direct more of our resources to the goals of the group - helping hedgehogs in need. Individual and corporate donors are also more likely to support organizations with tax-exempt status, to stretch their financial resources.

According to the IRS, there are three key components for an organization to be exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the IRC. The following is information taken directly from the IRS publication listed at the end of this article. The organization must be:

1) Organized - A 501(c)(3) organization must be organized as a corporation, trust, or unincorporated association.

An organization's organizing documents (articles of incorporation for the HWS) must: limit its purpose to those described in section 501(c)(3) of the IRC; not expressly permit activities that do not further its exempt purposes, i.e., unrelated activities; and permanently dedicate its assets to exempt purposes.

2) Operated - Because a substantial portion of an organization's activities must further its exempt purpose(s), certain other activities are prohibited or restricted including, but not limited to, the following activities:

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- Must absolutely refrain from participating in the political campaigns of candidates for local, state, or federal office.
 - Must restrict its lobbying activities to an insubstantial part of its total activities.
 - Must ensure that its earnings do not inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.
 - Must not operate for the benefit of private interests such as those of its founder, the founder's family, its shareholders, or persons controlled by such interests.
 - May not have purposes or activities that are illegal or violate fundamental public policy.
- 3) Exempt purpose - To be tax exempt, an organization must have one or more exempt purposes, stated in its organizing documents. Section 501(c)(3) of the IRC lists the following exempt purposes: charitable, educational, religious, scientific, literary, fostering national or international sports competition, preventing cruelty to children or animals, and testing for public safety.

Clearly the HWS adheres to all of the above guidelines. Not only are there pre-approval requirements for the structure, operation, and purpose of the organization, but there are also post-approval responsibilities. We must keep meticulous financial records, especially in regards to our sources of support and spending. We must file annual paper work with the state of Oregon Department of Justice (the state in which we are incorporated). We must make our application available to the public, free of charge. Most importantly, we have an obligation to our contributors to send written acknowledgements of their donations and material contributions to the HWS. For the vast majority of our contributors, we keep a running tally of contributions (financial and material), and supply each individual with documentation at the end of the year. We are only required to provide documentation if an individual contribution is greater than \$250.00, but we supply a written record for every contribution, no matter how large or small.

Before we received our 501(c)(3) determination, some referred to us as an "illegitimate" organization. That is simply not the case. Many charities choose not to file, or are not granted 501(c)(3) status. Vicki McLean announced our 501(c)(3) approval in issue #9 of the HWS newsletter. She wrote: "This determination isn't necessary to operate, but it helps potential contributors make the most out of the money that they have available to spend on charitable causes." On the Yahoo list, she commented that we can donate to whatever charities we like (including her trip to Peru!), but that those donations are simply not tax-deductible if the charity is not a 501(c)(3). That is, you and I can give money to any person or organization we want to, whether or not it is tax-exempt. But, we will not be able to include those payments on Schedule A of our federal tax return.

The paperwork to apply for tax-exempt status is thought-and-time intensive. If we are able to operate without the status, why bother to jump through the hoops? Of what benefit is the 501(c)(3) recognition to the Hedgehog Welfare Society and, more importantly, to the hedgehogs we serve? Besides the fact that we don't have to pay federal taxes (thus freeing up more of our limited resources for hedgehog-related work), there are many ways that our efforts to obtain 501(c)(3) status have paid off, including:

- (1) Recognition of exemption by the IRS assures donors that they are contributing to an organization that is doing useful charity work, as approved by the federal government. Some donors, especially those not intimately associated with the HWS, are more likely to contribute if the charity has 501(c)(3) determination.
- (2) The 501(c)(3) status benefits our members and donors, because their contributions to the HWS (financial and material) can be deducted from their taxes.
- (3) Petfinder.com is the nation's largest resource for pet adoption and rescue. Many hedgehogs have found forever homes through the HWS Petfinder.com site. Petfinder recognizes the efforts that organizations have already gone through to achieve 501(c)(3) status, and respects the recognition of charitable work by the federal

government. Therefore, the paperwork requirements to establish a Petfinder site are relaxed for those recognized organizations. Our rescue networking opportunities have been substantially enhanced by our participation in Petfinder.com.

- (4) We are given discount exhibition rates at animal welfare conferences and events, helping us to educate the general population about hedgehog care and rescue.
- (5) The inkjet cartridge recycling program that we participate in is only open to 501(c)(3) organizations. Through this program, we have raised almost \$2000 to help hedgehogs in need.
- (6) Our 501(c)(3) status allows us to apply for some grants that are only available to 501(c)(3) organizations, thus raising more financial help for hedgehogs.
- (7) We save administrative expenses on supplies by taking part in Staples rewards and tax-free program for 501(c)(3) organizations.
- (8) The US Postal Service offers reduced postal rates to certain organizations, for certain types of mail. We have not yet been able to take advantage of this benefit, but we may be able to in the future.

The possibilities for benefits to our hedgehogs are endless. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Vicki McLean and Jennifer Plombon for putting in substantial effort towards our goal of being recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization. If you have any questions regarding the HWS tax-exempt status, please feel free to contact us at info@hedgehogwelfare.org. And, if you are aware of any opportunities for 501(c)(3) organizations, be sure to pass the information on to us! We are always looking for new ways to better the lives of hedgehogs!

Most of the preceding information is from the IRS publication, "Applying for 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Status." If you are interested in learning more about this topic, this publication is available to download from the IRS exempt organizations web-site - <http://www.irs.gov/eo>

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 Hobie Wikane. In his words:

My name is Hobie and I came to live with Naomi Wikane on Oct. 4th, 2003. I'm a rescue and was probably a little over a year old at the time. I needed surgery to remove a bump on my head and she had her wonderful vet do that right away. Thankfully it wasn't cancer.

The Questions

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

A: I was destined to get to Naomi when I did. Her beloved father took ill and died later that month. I was a great source of comfort to her and still am. I look right into her eyes so she knows I'm right with her.

Q: Do you have a significant other? What do you think it's like across the Rainbow Bridge?

A: Molly, who died in Feb. 2005, was my best companion next to Mom. She became very ill very fast and when Mom took her to the vet she went over the Rainbow Bridge but it was confusing to me because when Mom came home Molly was not with her. I could not eat and got sick so Mom took me to the vet and the same room where Molly went over the bridge. The vet and Mom explained very carefully with thought picture images for me what happened to

Molly and why. And I understood. And Molly's spirit came to me there in that room. She has visited me often since then. So I know it is a beautiful place over there and I look forward to going there to be with my Molly again. She is waiting for me.

Q: How do you want to be remembered?

A: Oh I want to be remembered for starting the Healing Candle Ceremony. When I was sick as described above it was both physical and emotional sickness. All the prayers from Mom and all her friends helped me. It seemed like I was sitting by a campfire and I could feel all the healing energy around me. I wanted it to continue because it was what kept me going to get to feel better. And so the Healing Candle Ceremony came into being. But we hedgies think of it as the campfire ceremony. And even when I go over the bridge I will continue to be at those campfire ceremonies.

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

A: Be open to all that we can give to you. Realize we are sensitive to your feelings and actions. Work with an animal communicator who can put what we think and feel into words you can understand. That is how Mom knows me. There would not be a Healing Candle Ceremony for example if I hadn't been able to communicate with Mom how I felt about all the prayer energy that was coming to me.

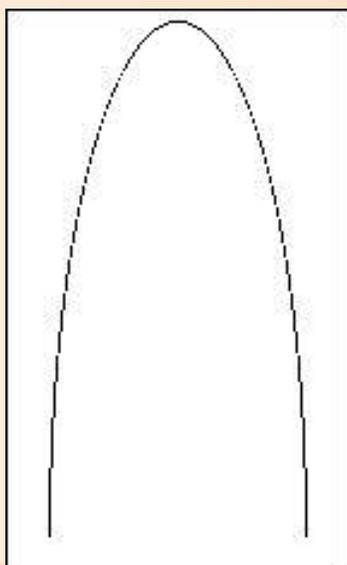
Q: If your human caretaker quotes you in email messages, do you think your thoughts are communicated accurately?

A: Yes. I love all the talking on Pog-Chit-Chat. Especially with my Quilled Gentlemen friends. And I work with Buckwheat who came here to live after Molly died. He will carry on for me when I go to join Molly.



What you'll need

- Sweatshirt and sweatpants in white, gray, or black
- One yard of stretchy fleece in white, gray, or black (for the hat)
- 1/4 to 1/2 yard of white fleece (for the fuzzy tummy)
- Two yards or so of white or cream muslin (for the quills; amount of material depends on how many quills you want to make)
- 8 inch by 8 inch piece of dark gray fleece, corduroy, or other fairly stiff material (for ears)
- Bag of fiber stuffing (to stuff quills)
- White or cream thread
- Fabric pen or paint to put stripes on muslin quills (I tried to sew black fabric on the quills but gave up)



My Halloween Hedgie Honey

by Susan Goetcheus, Arlington, MA

For Cheryl's first Halloween I decided that of course she had to be a hedgie, and of course I'd have to make the costume myself. (Had no choice, really.) I'd call myself a low intermediate sewer; I can do simple stuff but things like button sewing scare me. Luckily, any deficiencies in my skills are mitigated by the fact that the typical toddler looks adorable in anything.

Sweatpants

This is the easy part. Just put 'em on the kid; no further work required.

Quills

This part took the longest. I made about 45-50 quills, and if you're making quills for a 4T or larger sweatshirt and hat you'll probably need more.

1. Cut 3 inch by 5 inch pieces of muslin (if you want 50 quills, cut 100 pieces of muslin; for 70, cut 140 pieces, and so on) and pair them up.
2. Stitch a quill shape onto each pair of muslin pieces, similar to the picture accompanying this article (not actual size). The opening at the bottom has to be fairly big so you can get the batting in; people who have small fingers or are experts at stuffing can probably taper the opening a little more.
3. Trim the excess muslin 1/8 inch away from the stitching except at the opening.
4. Turn the stitched pieces right side out and use your fabric pen or paint to add the stripes.
5. Stuff each quill.
6. Breathe a sigh of relief.

Front of sweatshirt

1. Lay the sweatshirt flat and place the fuzzy white fleece on the front.
2. Trim the fleece to an appropriate size and stitch it to the sweatshirt.

Back of sweatshirt

Sew the quills to the sweatshirt. I took the easy route and put the neck of the sweatshirt to the left of the needle, laid the quill with its point to the left, and stitched the opening of the quill to the sweatshirt without turning the ends under. I figured that the quill would flop down over the place where I'd sewed and hide the fraying ends.

Ears

1. Fold your material in half and cut two pairs of half-circles. The pieces I cut were about 2.5 inches across and two inches high.
2. I took a tuck in the two "front" pieces so that the ears would curve; this isn't necessary but it looks cute.
3. For each ear, put the wrong sides together and stitch along the curved side.
4. Turn the ears right side out.

Hat

1. Measure the child's head just above the eyebrows.
2. Add one inch for seam allowances and divide by two.
3. Make the hat pattern: On a piece of paper, draw a straight line of the length you determined in Step 2. Trace a dome shape connecting the ends of the straight line, and cut out the shape.
4. Fold your stretchy fleece in half with the stretchy part going horizontally.
5. Put your hat pattern on the fleece and cut out the two pieces.
6. On the piece that will be the back of the hat, sew some quills. Don't sew closer than an inch and a half from the edges.
7. On the piece that will be the front of the hat, sew a few quills near the top of the hat. Again, don't sew closer than an inch and a half from the edges.
8. Take your two hat pieces and put the wrong sides together, with the ears between the two sides. (Use lots of pins!)
9. Stitch along the curve of the hat 1/2 inch from the edge.
10. Hem the bottom of the hat.



Trick or Treat!

Introducing Maisey's Costume Corner

Maisey hedgehog is traveling the globe to bring you the latest in hedgie costume fashions. This month, Maisey's theme is Halloween ghosts and goblins.



Darla is peeking out of her spooky ghost costume to say "BOO!" Frogger will be trick-or-treating this year dressed as a mummy-hedgie. Linda Edwards and Linda Woodring both submitted photos of their special boys showing off hedgie-pumpkins. Linda Edwards' husband, Gary, is a kid at heart when it comes to Halloween! Linda Woodring's handsome boy, Hoover, is pleased to meet a new, very large, very cinnacot friend...



Frequently Asked Quilly Questions

New hedgehog guardians often come to the Yahoo! hedgehog lists looking for advice on how to care for the most recent addition to their family. There are definitely some more common questions that are posed by newcomers to the wonderful world of hedgies. In this column each month, we hope to answer some of these more typical Quilly Questions by drawing on the collective wisdom of the hedgehog community. If you would like to submit a Frequently Asked Quilly Question for a future newsletter, please contact the newsletter staff.

Water Bottle vs. Water Dish

This month's FAQQ comes straight from the Hedgehogwelfare Yahoo! List. Last month, one of our new members asked:

Do pet hedgehogs drink from a bottle or from a dish/bowl?

There is no right or wrong answer to this question. There are advantages and disadvantages to every type of drinking apparatus. Over the years, our pet hedgehogs have thrived drinking from either water bottles or various types of bowls or dishes. The choice is a matter of personal preference and habit -- both for the hedgehog and his or her guardian.

Recently, we polled the memberships of two online hedgehog groups. Sixty hedgehog guardians responded to the poll.

- 62% of hedgehog-households preferred a water dish or bowl.
- 23% of hedgehog-households preferred a water bottle.
- 15% used both water bowls/dishes and water bottles.

According to this poll, the majority of our pet hedgehogs are quenching their thirst by drinking from water bowls or dishes. However, a large number of hedgies use water bottles or the combo method. Several experienced hedgehog folks have shared with us their rationale for choosing one type of water container over another. Many made their choices for the same reasons, but we decided to share several of them, since each guardian offers unique perspectives and insight. We will start with the bowls, since these are the most popular choice.

WATER BOWLS / DISHES

First, **Gioia Kerlin** offered a list of reasons that her hedgies drink from bowls:

1) Bowls are easier to clean. You just wash and dry and that's it. No bottle brush and



Pickle drinking

no slimy stuff left over in a crevice where you can't reach it.

2) All of my hedgies have started off with both in their cages. They all have freely chosen the bowl over the bottle. So I let them have it their way.

3) No leaks.

4) You don't have to worry about the little ball in the end of the tube getting jammed in place and closing off the flow of water. This happened to my first hedgehog during the night, once. I caught it early the next morning, but if I weren't the kind of person to check bottles every day, I might not have noticed right away. That's when I started using bowls.

Jennifer Plombon also has listed reasons for choosing bowls for her hedgehogs:

1) They can't leak. Though they can be tipped so you need a heavy one or one that clips to the cage bars. (see this site for an example:

<http://www.ferretstore.com/lixcorsidqui.html>)

2) They are more natural to use; a hedgehog in the wild wouldn't be likely to reach "up" to get water.

3) They are easy to wash and keep sanitary; water bottles are hard to clean inside and the spout isn't easy to clean either.

4) Tongues and teeth click, hit, and can, on rare occasions, get stuck on the little ball spout of water bottles.

5) They hold less and thus people aren't so easily lured into ignoring the need for clean, fresh water every single day. It's easy to let the water bottle sit for a day, or two.

Others chime in....

Becky Fleming's hedgehogs use dishes, "Because of the leaking, I couldn't tell if my first hedgehog was drinking water from the bottle or not. I switched to bowls and that worked fine. Then I heard the horror stories about hedgehogs damaging tongues and teeth on water bottles, and I gave all my water bottles away to rodent people. We've continued with water dishes, and all of the girls are doing well with them."

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Kelly also uses a bowl for NaCl. “He came with a water bottle but took quite readily to the water bowl. It's a nice heavy weight and he looks adorable drinking from it. I can't imagine that I, with a neck, would enjoy tilting my head back to drink all the time, so I'm sure that poor little practically-neckless hedgehogs would prefer a bowl.”

Naomi Wikane: “I use water bowls only and all my hedgies do fine. With a bottle they have to raise their neck and also risk teeth damage. With a bowl they are in normal position, and there is no risk to mouth or teeth or tongue. It is fun to see them lap the water...”

Nancy: “I personally won't use bottles. I have read too many stories of hedgehogs chipping teeth or getting their tongues stuck in tube around the ball. I have also read of many people who used a bottle and then switched to a bowl and found their hedgehog drank twice as much. Many people do use bottles with no problem though. I'm just paranoid.”

Tawana Hannaman: “My first hedgie, Wally, chipped a tooth on his water bottle and I about had a heart attack! Now I have only a few water bottles on hand for the hogs that come to me who need time to adjust to bowls. It usually only takes a few days. I use the heavy ceramic dishes because they are hard to push over.”

Cindy DeLaRosa: “I also use bowls; I have yet to find a water bottle that doesn't leak. In the reptile section of the pet supply store, I have found water dishes that are meant for lizards (see the photo of Frogger and her reptile waterer). They have a fake rock looking base that has a gradual upward slope. It has an upside-down bottle that sits on one side of the dish, like the continual cat

feeders. These take more time to clean, so I use them for hedgehogs who tend to tip over their bowls. I have also used them with Moms with new babies. I've heard horror stories of babies who have fallen in water dishes and couldn't get back out. With these by the time the babies are big enough to reach the water, they are definitely big enough to climb back out if they fall in.”

Finally, **Deb Weaver** says, “The Weavers have always used heavy ceramic bowls for water (set in to another heavy ceramic bowl to prevent the Nose Flip).”

WATER BOTTLES



Although the water bottle option is a less frequent choice, there are several owners and hedgehogs whose preference is a bottle.

Bridget likes to use a water bottle for her hedgies because, “a bowl (unless it was built in the cage) would tip and cause a mess and the poor little hedgie might go without water for a few hours. Spike uses a bottle, it drips a little, and he seems pretty happy with it.”

Linda Woodring: “I use only water bottles. All the hedgies I have had were trained on them when I got them. Water dishes get too much debris in them, and, if you leave them alone overnight, you have to worry about

them getting tipped over. I don't normally leave my boys alone for more than one night, but, if they do have to be alone for two, I put both out for them in case one should get drained.”

EITHER-OR

Then there are those hedgies that can “go both ways”.....

Sarah Shore: “Generally, I prefer water dishes, since I think they are easier to clean, and in my experience, most hedgehogs have an easier time drinking from a dish than a bottle. There are always exceptions, though, and an individual animal's preferences need to be taken into account. For example, out of my five hedgehogs, four have dishes, but Walter has a bottle. He was a rescue that I took in when he was about two years old, and he had used a bottle his whole life. I offered him a dish, to see if he would use it. While he took to it immediately, he never managed to figure out that he didn't need to submerge his entire nose while drinking! Of course, this caused him to inhale water, leading to a massive sneezing/coughing fit. I stuck with the bottle for Walter.”

Elena Leber's hedgehogs use both bottles and dishes. “Oliver will not drink from a bowl. If I put a bowl of water in his cage he promptly poops in it and looks up with those angelic eyes, saying ‘What, Mom? You know I hate bowls!’ (blinking as coyly as he possibly can). So, he gets the water bottle. Roger won't drink from a bottle. I think it's because he is not sure if the water is clean in there. After seeing the bottle he came with when I rescued him, I can totally understand that. I'm still gagging over it! So, Roger gets the bowl, and I have to say he is a very careful pog not to spill any on his blankies!”

The final words of wisdom in answering this month's FAQQ come from **Vicki McLean:** “My experience is that it depends upon the hedgie. Nadja does a great job of drinking out of her bowl and keeping her water clean. Bratgirl (Tinki) steps in hers, poops in it, and tips it over on purpose to make me fill it up again. I wish I could get her to drink from a bottle but she hasn't figured it out (or doesn't want to). Poog drinks from a water bottle. I don't know if he likes it or not. He lost a lower canine, but that may be from his propensity to bite at things (hard or not) when he's mad. These guys' whole world has been remade. I think we have to just do what seems best for our individual hedgiekids.”



Insectivoria or Insectivore

Clarifying the Confusion in Hedgehog Classification

by *Laura Dunklee*

Have you ever wondered why sometimes we refer to our pet hedgehogs as insectivores when they eat things other than insects? Or just what the term Insectivoria means? Or if the two terms are interchangeable? Hopefully this article will help clarify some of the confusion arising between these two like-sounding words.

Before going any further, though, I must let you know that I am not a scientist, nor an expert in classification. The information that follows has been gathered through research I have undertaken to understand the difference between "insectivore" and "insectivoria" and learn the proper usage of each word. It turns out that the confusion (at least in my mind) arises from the difference between the biological classification term "Insectivoria" and the eating behavior term "Insectivore."

INSECTIVORIA

Scientists have developed a practice called "taxonomy" which is the ordered classification of plants and organisms according to their relationships to other organisms. You can think of it as the process of categorizing by a "tree structure" a given group of objects. Taxonomy allows us to describe, name, and classify plants and organisms in such a manner that (if we're familiar with the categories) will allow us to immediately understand how a particular plant or organism relates to others. Here's how hedgehogs are taxonomically defined:



Noah James

Kingdom: Animalia (animals)

Phylum: Chordata (having a notochord at some point in development)

Subphylum: Vertebrata (having a vertebral column)

Class: Mammalia (having milk glands, hair, and three middle ear bones)

Order: Insectivora (primarily eating invertebrates/insects)

Family: Erinaceidae (hedgehogs and gymnures – defined by dental arrangement, size of ears and eyes, having plantigrade foot positions, and shape of eye socket)

Subfamily: Erinaceinae (hedgehogs)

Genera: *Atelerix* (African hedgehogs)

Erinaceus (woodland hedgehogs)

Hemiechinus (desert hedgehogs)

Mesechinus (steppe hedgehogs)

Our pet/domesticated hedgehogs in North America are of the Genus *Atelerix*. They are the species *Atelerix albiventris* (four-toed hedgehog) and the *Atelerix algirus* (North African hedgehog), which have been interbred. But the hedgehogs commonly found in the wild in Great Britain and Denmark are of the Genus *Erinaceus* (woodland hedgehogs). They're *Erinaceus europaeus* (Western European hedgehog).

This, then, is the biological classification of our pet hedgehogs:

Animalia ? Chordata ? Vertebrata ? Mammalia ? Insectivora ? Erinaceidae ? Erinaceinae ? *Atelerix* ? *albiventris* OR *algirus*. (Read that aloud, three times, really fast, and impress your friends and neighbors!)

INSECTIVORES

Having explored the taxonomical term "Insectivoria," we now turn to the second word that is contributing to my confusion: Insectivores.

There are adjectives which refer to what type of food a specific species of organisms commonly eats (called "eating behaviors"). The three most general adjectives are carnivore, herbivore, and omnivore. A carnivore consumes flesh (meat, fish, insects, decomposing animals). An herbivore consumes plant matter (grass, nectar, fruit, etc.). An omnivore consumes both flesh and plant matter.

There are few "true" carnivores, in that meat is all they consume. While wolves are considered to be carnivores, because their main diet is composed of flesh, they also consume some plant matter (we've all seen dogs eating grass). Therefore, wolves are considered to be

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carnivores because their primary food is flesh, but in practice they are omnivorous because they also occasionally (and voluntarily) consume plant matter.

Likewise, cows are considered to be "herbivores" because their primary diet is composed of plant matter. However, they do consume small amounts of insects in the plant matter (think of ants on a blade of grass), though they won't go out and voluntarily eat a chicken. Therefore, cows are considered to be herbivores but in practice are omnivorous because they also occasionally consume flesh.

The adjective "Insectivore" refers to an organism that primarily consumes insects. There are birds considered to be insectivores (swallows), plants that are considered to be insectivores (Venus flytraps), reptiles that are considered to be insectivores (frogs), mammals that are considered to be insectivores (bats), and even insects that are considered to be insectivores (praying mantises, which eat aphids). Therefore, hedgehogs are insectivores.

However, hedgehogs are *currently* considered to be omnivores because they consume both plant and animal matter (insects). I emphasize the *currently* part of the previous statement because taxonomy is an ever-evolving field and there are frequent changes (sometimes accepted by the wider scientific field, sometimes ignored) to the different categories and what delineates one from another.

Therefore, while hedgehogs are considered to be omnivores, it is possible that some scientists currently consider them to be carnivores (because their primary diet consists of insects) and it is also possible that at some future point hedgehogs may be officially reclassified as carnivores.

IN SUMMATION

Hedgehogs are of the order *Insectivoria*; while they are also Insectivores, they are considered to be omnivores because they consume flesh (primarily insects) and some plant matter.

Confusing, eh?

Sources:

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/index.html>

"Hedgehogs" by Nigel Reeve



Noah James



Donnasue (and Simon) and Jan in Niagara Falls

By Jan Ernst, Port St. Lucie, Florida

Donnasue Graesser has written many articles praising the accomplishments and efforts of "Hedgie Heroes" from our community. Members of the Hedgehog Welfare Society have repeatedly nominated Donnasue as their "Hedgie Hero," but of course it would be difficult and awkward to write about oneself. Also, Donnasue is far too modest to do so. I volunteered to write this month's column, because I saw it as a wonderful opportunity to write about someone who I greatly admire and just plain like as a friend. So, without further ado, I present Donnasue Graesser as this month's Hedgie Hero.

Donnasue lives in Connecticut with her husband Carl, and her son Simon, who is a treasure. I've had the pleasure of meeting Simon, and I think he has the most beautiful eyes and a wonderful personality. Donnasue says, "My favorite part of my day is when Simon wakes up. I just wake up missing him, and can't wait for him to be

awake too to share the start of the day together." Donnasue's family suffered a tremendous loss last year with the loss of their second son, Simon's brother, Eli.

Donnasue shares her home with a number of pets. Her current hedgie family consists of three wonderful girls, Darla, Frogger, and Franklynn. Darla is a robust albino girl, and Frogger is a little bundle of energy. They are complete opposites in color and personality... but they say opposites attract! Darla and Frogger are the best of friends. The newest member of the Graesser household is Franklynn, who is a quirky, intriguing, and rather hairy hedgehog. Donnasue, Carl, and Simon are grateful to have this unusual hedgehog as part of the family.

Other furred, but non-quilled family includes Ginger, a German Shorthair Pointer. She was rescued from a pound, and Donnasue says, "I can't believe any idiot would give up this perfect, lovable, loyal dog! We are the luckiest family in the world to have Ginger with us." She also has 6

Hedgie Hero:

Donnasue Graesser

wooly members of the family... sheep Naomi, Pinky-two, Marilyn, Phil, Pete, and Liberace. They were rescued through the Farm Sanctuary. Naomi is named after our very own sheep-loving friend, Naomi. Pinky-two is named after Pinky-one, one of Donnasue's very special hedgehogs who has traveled over the Rainbow Bridge.

When I asked Donnasue how she became interested in hedgehogs she told me that she met her first hedgehogs many years ago when she hedgie-sat for Carl's hedgehogs, Spike and Heidi. Donnasue's first very own hedgehog was Pointy. Pointy rivaled Grover in size. She has had many, many, many hedgehogs living with her on a foster or forever basis since then, and some of them spark especially fond memories. Shirley was her first girl, and a great hedgie-mom. Humberto was dad to many wonderful babies. Steve was her first WHS hedgie (the baby of Shirley and Humberto). And, Telly and Pinky were her first, beautiful albinos, who began her lifelong enchantment with albino hedgies.

Donnasue's educational background is amazing. She attended college at Valpariso University, majoring in Biology and Chemistry with minors in Theology and Mathematics. Her perfect 4.0 GPA at Valpo earned her the top spot in her graduating class. She went on to earn a Master of Science degree and Master of Philosophy degree. Finally, she completed her Ph.D. in Immunobiology and Experimental Pathology at Yale University, where she was a Sterling Prize Fellow, awarded to the top 0.5% of graduate students at Yale for academic achievement. She was one of two graduate students given honors at her graduation. As such, she had the privilege of joining the "honorary degree" recipients on the stage, including Desmond Tutu, Patrick Moynihan, and her all-time favorite playwright, Tom Stoppard!

Since her graduation, Donnasue has primarily worked as an academic research scientist and professor, but she recently

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joined the corporate world. She currently works as an "Information Specialist" doing background research for companies that are creating new technologies. She also holds part-time positions as an adjunct professor of biochemistry, a review editor, and owns a Pet Sitting business. She used to work as a veterinary technician, and occasionally still lends a hand in the clinic. In the past she worked numerous jobs including busboy, shoe salesperson, horseback riding instructor for blind and disabled children, towel folder at a racquetball club, and autopsy assistant in a morgue.

I asked Donnasue to share some experiences from her growing up years, and she said, "Believe it or not, one of my most significant experiences from high school was working in a shoe store. Who would believe that a place called "Shoe-Town" could be such an important influence on my life??!! There was a time when my classmates at school called me "Donna-Shoe!" People are always the most important part of every job, and I made so many life-long friends in that store. One of my co-workers from the store is now my sister-in-law (she married my brother). Another co-worker visited me years later at Yale, and he is now marrying one of my lab-mates! Simon "Ferdinand" is named after one of my friends who I met through Shoe-Town. And, the assistant manager of the store is now one of Simon's surrogate grannies, "Grand-Mama."

"An interesting story is that one of our regular customers at the store was the actor Eddie Murphy. Keep in mind, we only sold women's shoes. I was enamored with Eddie Murphy, and was always really excited when he came in."

"Even though I live in the country now, I am a city-girl at heart. Growing up so close to New York City was a blessing. My mom often took us kids into the city on Sundays for different excursions that I will never forget. I feel fortunate that we visited the observation deck of the World Trade Center a few times. New York was always "another world" to me, even though it was only a bus ride across the bridge. I felt like I was an explorer making new discoveries every time we went. Our family didn't have a lot of money, but my mom certainly made sure we were very rich in adventures! Tragically, we lost our mother to a brain tumor when I was in my late-teens. She was a great animal lover and I'm sure she would have adored hedgehogs!"

Donnasue also grew up with a love of traveling. She has visited all 50 US States,

with the exception of Hawaii, and she hopes to go there someday. Not anytime in the near future, though; there are too many other places ahead on the itinerary! Many of her travels have been by motorcycle. She loves to hike and in the past was an avid runner. She has twice completed the New York City Marathon -- not the running one, but a 26-mile Roller-Thon. "The first time I did the roller-blade marathon, it was as a guide for a blind classmate of mine. I was also on a Curling team with other Yale graduate students. I'm not sure why, but our team was called the Meatheads! "



After all her brain-power is exhausted on work and academics, and her muscle-power on rolling through New York City, Donnasue could not live without some mindless "guilty pleasures." She is a reality-TV junkie; her favorite shows are "The Apprentice" and "The Mole." She loves all sorts of music, particularly cheesy 80's music. Donnasue is self-proclaimed "Boy George's biggest fan," and once went to see him in concert three times within a matter of weeks. She enjoys playing the violin, but says that nobody on earth would enjoy listening to her play. Knowing how good Donnasue is at everything she does I'll bet I would love hearing her play.

Donnasue wears many hats in the hedgehog community. She is an active member of both the HWS and the IHA and is the current acting-CVO and Public Relations chair of the Hedgehog Welfare Society. She is extraordinarily active in hedgehog rescue and transport, and just logged in her 10,000th mile of hedgehog rescue transport!

She is also very active in raising money for hedgehog charities, as the manager of Ruby's Rescue Shop, chief financial officer of the HWS, and coordinator of the inkjet cartridge fundraising program.

As most of her energies are currently focused on administration and fundraising, she finds less time for her first love: studying medically-related issues. However, she has been involved in various hedgehog health and education projects over the years, including the Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome Research Project and the Mortality & Longevity Database. She has often presented her research at hedgehog events, veterinary research conferences, and veterinary schools. One of the next projects on her plate is to revamp the hedgehoghealth.com web-site.

Donnasue's hedgehog activities are international. She is the coordinator of the HWS European Hedgehog Adoption program, and a member of the European Hedgehog Research Group (EHRG). She presented information about pet hedgehogs in the USA at the EHRG conference in Germany in 2004.

We also see Donnasue's influence as a columnist in both the IHA and the HWS newsletters, as a writer for the ASPCA and Best Friends Animal Sanctuary Magazines, as the quilt-square exchange co-coordinator (along with Cindy DeLaRosa), as one of the conductors of the hedgehog train transport group, and as Phileas Hogg's travel agent, loot collector, and blogger.

I asked Donnasue what being part of the hedge community meant to her? She said, "Being part of a community of people with whom I share values, friendship, love of our hedges, long phone calls, and lots of laughs. I have made the best friends of my life through the bond we share through our hedgehogs. There is something very special about hedgehogs, and people who devote their lives to caring for hedgehogs. I'm so grateful for the joy that my hedgehogs have brought to me, as well as the life-long friendships they have introduced me to. I am constantly in awe of the creativity, generosity, and dedication of this unique group of people. I'm proud to be a part of this community."

Asked if she has a "philosophy of life" that she lives by or a favorite quote she replied: "Hmmm.....that is a tough one. There are so many. One of my advisors in graduate school had a little sign in his office with great quotes that I think about often during stressful days. One of them said, 'Without fear there is no courage.' Every day I try to do something that is a little bit out of my comfort zone. Otherwise, my life would be sort of boring."

“But, perhaps the most important words of advice given to me came from one of our lab assistants. All the graduate students in the lab were well aware of her philosophy of life, which was: ‘It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice.’ I don't always live by this philosophy, but I aspire to, and I admire people who do.”

I also have a favorite quote from **Matt Cartmill**: “As an adolescent I aspired to lasting fame, I craved factual certainty, and I thirsted for a meaningful vision of human life - so I became a scientist. This is like becoming an Archbishop so you can meet girls.”
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Well, some of our community members think Donnasue is both important and nice, and deserves lasting fame. Here is what some of her friends have to say about our hero:

Cindy Delarosa met Donnasue at the “Go Hog Wild” show in 2002: “I was just discovering online friends and had never heard of the Hedgehog Welfare Society. I went to my first hedgehog show not knowing a soul, and met Donnasue. She made me feel welcome instantly, like I was a long lost friend. At the Saturday night dinner we had a white elephant gift exchange. I had participated in white elephant exchanges before, and we always took “gifts” that would bring a laugh, and most of the time wouldn't take them home. We tried to make it a joke. Much to my horror this wasn't that type of exchange. We brought a styrofoam deer head that was used for target practice, which horrified the woman sitting across the table from me – especially when she won it! Donnasue laughed and laughed about this. SHE made me feel so much better. Over the years I've known her, I know she has done this for numerous hedgehog people. She has the ability to bring out the best in people.”

“I don't even think I can list everything she does for the hedgehogs. There is the running of Ruby's Rescue Shop – finding things to sell, filling orders, the mailing. Working on the Hedgehog Welfare Society board, the articles she writes for the paper, the veterinary bill fund. Donnasue picks up more rescue hedgegies than anyone else I know. Some she keeps, most she finds loving homes for. She has spent countless hours researching Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome. She was my pillar of strength this year while I took care of Lauren, my wobbly hedgegie, answering all of my health

questions, day or night She does all of this (and more) while holding down a full time job and raising a two year old. She has my utmost respect. I am honored to call her my friend.”
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Jennifer Plombon is one of the co-founders of the HWS, and describes Donnasue's work on the HWS board: “Donnasue is the most dedicated HWS founder I know. She is always ready to help the organization or a hedgehog in need. She stays up late and gets up early to do even more for our group; she is incredibly loyal and dedicated to the HWS and all its members; we could not survive as an organization without her. We're so lucky to have her on our side!”
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Judie Peters also works with Donnasue on the HWS board. She says, “I've heard Donnasue say many times that she is not creative and that her creative talents rival that of a pickle (my verbiage, not hers). However, Donnasue is one of the most creative people I've known. She could easily have had a successful career in a high-powered ad agency.”
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Carol Fish Kregear has created a list of words to describe Donnasue:

Donnasue is:

Dedicated
Organized
Nurturing
Newsy
Analytical
Scientific
Unflagging
Energetic !!!!

Hardworking, persistent, vigorous, talented... only a few of many words we can use to describe Donnasue, one of the founding members of the HWS. Her fierce love and devotion to the health and well being of hedgehogs is unquestioned. Donnasue works tirelessly to dispense information, educate the public, and to facilitate research on Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome and other ailments that decimate the population of our wee friends. Thank you for your years of service, Donnasue!”
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Naomi Wikane is one of Donnasue's closest friends. She writes about her friend: “Donnasue is a hero in the hedgehog world. She is very knowledgeable and has achieved

a great deal. She is very committed to our hedgegie causes and serious about our work. I'm also proud of her accomplishments as Dr. Graesser and being a member of the European Hedgehog Research Group. For several years now she has been driving over six hours round trip to come visit me, which I have really appreciated. And Simon--well as a person with no blood children/grandchildren, I'm just delighted to be a “Nana” for him. I love picking out things to surprise him. I'm grateful Donnasue for all you have done and are doing for HWS and the hedgegie world in general in so many ways. You have always gone the extra mile.”
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Linda Edwards from Hedgehog Heights Rescue in Canada writes: “Donnasue has an amazingly caring heart and generous spirit, and this shines through the efforts and sacrifices she makes in order to help her many friends with the rescue, transport, care and/or veterinary assistance of any and all hedgehogs, no matter what is going on in her own busy life. Besides being an incredibly intelligent and knowledgeable hedgegie person, and willingly sharing that with this community, Donnasue also knows no limits when it comes to offering a helping hand. She makes “everything” top priority, and each person and hedgehog feels like the most important being in the world.”

“Personally, Donnasue has been instrumental in helping us rescue and care for many hedgehogs over the years. These hedgehogs are very fortunate and thankful to have Donnasue in their lives, and so are we. Donnasue is not just a Hedgegie Hero but she's a people hero too.”
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Kirsten van Oosterhout from Denmark admires Donnasue from across the globe: “If anyone deserves to be a Hedgegie Hero it is Donnasue. No doubt about that at all. I am not sure I have enough space here to write all the things I want, so I will try to make this as short as possible. Donnasue came into my life via the internet many years ago. I am sure you all know how dedicated she is to the WHS, and HOW many hours she uses there. SO – I prefer to write about the more private Donnasue. What started out as a brief internet contact turned out to be so much more. I can NOT count the times where I wrote her to ask her help when I was sitting with a very sick (European) hedgehog. And she always took the time to give advice to a crazy Dane! When Ciko the high-five HedgeDog almost

died five years ago, Donnasue was there. She helped me and calmed me down. She talked us through the night until I could see our vet. So unselfish.”

“Last year Donnasue was invited - as the first Non-European - to make a speech at the EHRG (European Hedgehog Research Group) meeting in Münster, Germany. And, she was amazing. Donnasue opened a door between US and Europe - and that is not easy in the hedgehog world.”

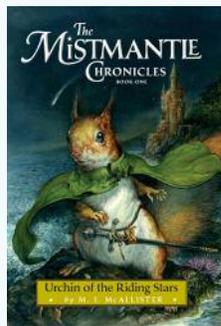
“We had the pleasure of having Donnasue, Carl and little Simon here with us in Denmark. It was AWESOME! I could tell a lot about that (how we went to a dark barn together looking at hibernating hedgehogs) - but will just conclude: Hedgie People are the best to spent time with!”

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Tonya Thomas and Donnasue are close friends and colleagues. Tonya shares her thoughts about her friend: “Donnasue was one of the very first people to help me when we got our first hedgehog, Prickles. She is a wonderful and very experienced hedgehog person, who taught me so much. I have gotten to know her very well over the past three years, and I am glad to say she is not just a friend, but a very big part of our family. Thank you Donnasue for everything! You *REALLY* deserve to be our Hedgie Hero! Love, and Hedgie Hugs, Tonya....”

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I'd like to add some of my own thoughts to the ones expressed by Donnasue's other friends. I first met Donnasue when she invited me, someone she had never met, to stay with her and Carl for the Boston Pog Party. I had a wonderful time with her and found her to be extremely generous and helpful and lots of fun. I learned so much from her because of her extensive knowledge of hedgehogs and their diseases. Without her, we would know very little about Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome. Her work with Dr. Spraker, who does necropsies on hedgehogs, has taught us much about the disease, and her work with the Mortality Database will continue to improve the life of hedgehogs. I'm sure I speak for many when I say that I'm indebted to Donnasue Graesser for all she does to help us improve the health of our precious quilly friends. Donnasue is a Hedgie Hero. I'm lucky to call her my friend.



MISTMANTLE CHRONICLES-BOOK ONE-URCHIN OF THE RIDING STARS by M. J. McAllister is a new hardcover book published this year by Hyperion Books For Children and is priced \$17.95 US and \$23.95 CAN. It is an animal fantasy novel for older children and adults. The author lives in England.

Mistmantle is a secret island where a kind king rules from a high tower on the rocks, and bright-hearted red squirrels, faithful hedgehogs, brave moles and valiant otters live and work together. It is a good, safe place, protected by the enchanted mists folded around it like a cloak.

Urchin is a squirrel and his mother had stowed away on a ship to escape harm in her homeland and when the ship comes into the Mistmantle port she slips from ship to shore already in birth pain. She realized something was wrong and as soon as her baby is born she whispers to him: ‘Heart keep you. Be happy. May someone find you and love you’. And she dies. A seagull thinks he is something to eat and snatches him up. While flying to a perch he is frightened by a falling star and drops the newborn. The baby is discovered and taken in by the animals to be raised. So ends the prologue.

We next meet Urchin grown to an age ready for his place in the world of responsible animal life. It has always been kept a secret how he was found and it is unknown to the inhabitants of the island and himself where he came from. Of course they all know he has different light colored fur than any other squirrel on the island.

As the story gets under way we meet King Brushen and Queen Spindle, who are hedgehogs, and three Captains: hedgehogs Husk and Crispen, and Padra, an otter. By chapter three the king and queen’s baby, Prince Tumble, is found murdered while sleeping. And thus all the intrigue is underway as the story unfolds with triumph over evil at the end.

It is a nicely designed book with lovely pencil drawings at the head of each chapter. The characterizations of the animals develop in a believable way and the descriptive material of places and things is detailed. The action is more gentle and less involved than in Brian Jacques’ Redwall stories. And you have to read it to get the meaning of the riding stars.

I really enjoyed reading this and will reread it again sometime in the future. Also since this is Book One of The Mistmantle Chronicles we can look forward to more titles.

Naomi Wikane for Newsletter Literary Hedgehog

Do you Yahoo?

by *Donnasue Graesser, North Windham, CT*

Yahoo! Groups are one of the best resources for hedgehog information of all sorts. The groups are used as an informational resource, a fundraising avenue, a social mixer, a way to promote hedgehog events, and for a million other purposes. There are general care groups, where prospective and new hedge guardians receive guidance from experienced hedge people. There are rescue and welfare groups, where hedgehogs that are in need of new homes may be listed, so that forever caretakers can be found. Through many of the groups hedgehog guardians find support in time of grief following the loss of a hedgehog. Local hedgehog people set up gatherings and events through some of the regional groups. Whatever your interests in hedgehogs are, there is a group that is just right for you.

How do I join a Yahoo! Group?

This is probably old information for most who are reading this newsletter. Just in case you are the rare hedge person who has not yet stumbled on the Yahoo! Groups, it's very easy to sign up and join in!

The most active Hedgehog Yahoo! Groups are listed below. Just pick a group and go to the group home page. On the upper-right side of the page is a link to click on to "Join This Group." Yahoo will lead you through the rest.

I can't handle all the mail!

Some of the Yahoo! Groups generate quite a bit of mail. Keep in mind that you do not have to overload your inbox to participate in the hedgehog groups. You can edit your groups' settings to receive mail as a daily digest, so that you will receive only one e-mail a day with all the messages included. Better yet, change your settings to "No Mail" and simply read the message on the group's home page. You can read, post, reply, and forward through the home page, without ever getting a single message in your inbox. Many of us swear by the "No Mail" option. It may be tough to get used to the format of reading mail this way. But once you become accustomed to it, you'll never go back to

maxing out your inbox quota to read hedgehog list mail.

Photos, Files and Polls

These are all fabulous features of the Yahoo! Groups. You will need to go on to the home pages of the individual groups to display them. They are listed on the left side of the home page of each of the groups. The photo album section is great for sharing photos with your friends. The files can be used to post forms or flyers for others to print out. The polls are used to ask "fun" questions, as well as for tallying results about certain topics for research reasons. Be forewarned that there is a space quota for the storage of photos, and it is at the discretion of the group's owner to delete photos to make room for more. Never use a Yahoo! Group photo area for permanent storage of your hedge photos.

What groups should I join?

No matter what your special interests in hedgehogs are, there is a group for you. If you search Yahoo! for hedgehog-related groups, you will come across hundreds of them. Many of these groups are quite obscure and not significantly utilized. Some are groups set up by local organizations. Others are "Sonic the Hedgehog" video game groups.

You need to find the groups that fit you best! If you are interested in rescue, there are lists that focus on rescue. If you'd like to help transport hedges, there is a list specifically for "train" participation. If your hedge had an unexpected litter, join the breeding list for guidance. There is even a list for hedgehog quilting!

Below is a list of the Yahoo! Groups that we have found to be most useful. All these groups are open to the public by request. Membership approval is based on different criteria for each list, but virtually all memberships are approved on all the lists. The average traffic volume for the groups listed below has been calculated over the past six months.



Hedgehog Welfare

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hedgehogwelfare/>

Group Description: Covers all topics related to hedgehog health and well being including caretaking, rescue, animal communication, health research, and grief support programs. The perfect place to come for guidance on hedgehog care and community support.

Traffic: Heavy (~1200 messages per month)

Pog-chit-chat

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pog-chit-chat/>

Group Description: Fun, games, and chit-chat related to hedgehogs. The focus is on community and fun. Mostly related to hedgehogs, but this list allows off topic posts as well.

Traffic: Moderate to heavy (~400 messages per month)

Hedgehog Help

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hedgehog_help

Group Description: General hedgehog advice and guidance related to health and husbandry topics.

Traffic: Moderate (~350 messages per month)

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Breeders Helping Breeders

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/breedershelpingbreeders/>

Group Description: This list was started for new breeders to get information and help from seasoned breeders 24 hours a day. We welcome anyone who is thinking about breeding or just getting started in breeding hedgehogs.

Traffic: Moderate (~ 300 messages per month)

HH Rescue

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hhrescue/>

Group Description: A list to post hedgehogs available for rescue, and for people who are willing to rescue or re-home hedgehogs.

Traffic: Light to moderate (~125 messages per month)

Hedgehog Train

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hedgehogtrain/>

Group Description: A place to organize hedgehog transports from different locations in the USA and Canada to forever homes.

Traffic: Light (May become moderate sometimes if a tricky train is being organized)

Hedgehog FreeShare

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hedgehogfreeshare/>

Group Description: A "FreeCycle" like group, where hedgehog owners swap or give away hedgehog-related items.

Traffic: Light

Northwest Hedgehog Owners

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NW_hedgehog_owners/

Group Description: This group is for anyone who lives in the Northwestern United States or Southwestern Canada and owns hedgehogs or would like to learn more about them. The goal of this group is to make friends, share knowledge, stories, and pictures of our hedgehogs.

Traffic: Light to moderate.

Spanish-speaking Hedgehog List

<http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/erizosafricanos>

Group Description: Everything hedgehog, but in everything Spanish.

Traffic: Very light

Mortality and Longevity Update!

Boys vs. Girls

by *Donnasue Graesser, North Windham, CT*

A few months ago, we re-introduced the Hedgehog Mortality Database, and promised updates from the information reported to the data base. This month we answer a very simple question: Is there a difference in hedgehog lifespan between genders?

The database was last updated on July 27, 2005. The current data reveals no statistical difference in life expectancy between male and female hedgehogs.

Average Hedgehog Lifespan:	38.5 months
Males:	40.1 months
Females:	37.3 months

Another announcement is that we have chosen to add the word LONGEVITY to the database name: Hedgehog Mortality & Longevity Database. This project is not just about death and dying, but it is also about celebrating the lives of our hedgehogs.

As always, the input of owners is not only enormously appreciated, it is essential to continuing this project. Every hedgehog owner is encouraged to contribute, and every contribution is crucial. We know how difficult it is to lose a dear pet and friend, but we can make more sense of each death by gaining some productive knowledge from that death. Any hedgehog death can be reported to the Rainbow Bridge Mortality & Longevity Database. To add information to the database, just send an e-mail to donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu. We will follow up by sending you a list of questions to answer about the hedgehog. The information you give does not need to be complete or exact. With experience, we have learned to tease out every bit of useful information, even from cases with a lot of "mystery" background.

Thank you to you and your hedgehogs for your input. We continue this work in the memory of all hedgehogs over the Rainbow Bridge.

Kainan's

Hungry Hedgehog

www.hungryhedgehog.com

Good Food
Good Price
Good Cause

Quills and Comfort

by Judie Peters, Bluffton, SC

Healing Candle Ceremony

The two most recent Healing Candle Ceremonies were conducted August 11 and August 31. Naomi Wikane and Hobie coordinate the ceremonies, which are simultaneously observed worldwide. In addition to the many requests for hedgie and human healing, Naomi and Hobie requested that the August 31 ceremony focus on concern for all – humans and animals – who have been affected by the disaster created by hurricane Katrina. Special blessings were asked for those who perished. Naomi and Hobie also requested that a healing power flow throughout the hedgie community to unite those whose lives had been fractured by upheaval and dissent.

The following animals, hedgies and humans were remembered during the ceremonies:

August 11

Noah James, guardian Jacque
 Asti, guardians Sheila and Murfi
 Rambo, guardians Sondra and Kimberly
 Buckwheat, guardian Naomi
 Hobie, guardian Naomi
 Dasher, guardian Judie P
 Payton, guardians Jim and Linda
 El, guardian Judy B
 Zoey, guardian Allie
 Miss Pepper, guardian Laura D
 Miss Penelope Anne, guardian Laura D
 Gadgit, guardian Penni
 Huggles, guardian Cyndy
 Serendipity, guardian Diana
 Grover, guardian Deb W
 Timmy the rabbit, guardian Jennifer
 Tiggy Cleese, guardian Kadie
 Mandy, guardians Ashley and Andrew
 T-2 the cat, guardian Colleen
 Zoey, guardian Renae
 Molly and Ruby, guardian Cindy C
 Oliver, guardian Tawana
 Patti
 Jerry, Chris Houze's Dad
 Naomi
 Sweet Pea, guardians Rick and Tonya
 Cidhis, guardian Susan M

August 31

Dasher, guardian Judie P
 Patti
 Grover, guardian Deb
 Jerry, Chris Houze's Dad
 Simon the cat, guardian Chris H
 Nicky the cat, guardian Ali
 Gadgit, guardians Penni, Darwin and Amanda
 Air Head, guardian Tiffany
 Huggles, guardian Cyndy
 Zoey, guardians Allie and Jeanne
 Baby hedgies, guardian Julie
 Sweet Pea, guardians Tonya and Rick
 Payton, guardians Linda and Jim
 Dymaxion, guardian Dawn
 Leroy the opossum, guardian Brenda
 Timmy the rabbit, guardian Jennifer
 Noah James, guardian Jacque
 Blizzard, guardian Tiffany Clark
 Serendipity, guardian Diana
 Emma, guardian Elena
 Asti's passing, guardians Sheila and Murfi
 Murfi
 Hedgie with bedding tangled around leg

Miss Pepper, guardian Laura D
 Dave mourning death of son in Iraq
 Miss Keelin, guardian Jacque
 Pistachio, guardian Renae
 Kismet, guardians Linda and Gary
 Cidhis, guardian Susan
 Lindy the opossum, guardian Jan
 Rambo, guardian Sondra
 Spazzie, guardian Sondra
 Presley, guardian Jennifer P
 Huggles, guardian Cyndy
 Harriet, guardian Tawana
 Ivy, guardian Patti
 Dulcy, guardian Becky
 Thumbelina, guardian Kimberly C.
 Nell's passing, guardians Susan, John and Cheryl
 Oliver the bun, guardian Laura D.
 Cinders, guardian Nancy
 Hokey and her three baby boys, guardian Judith
 Jan
 Hobie, guardian Naomi
 Buckwheat, guardian Naomi

A Special Night of Circle of Light and Healing Candle Ceremonies



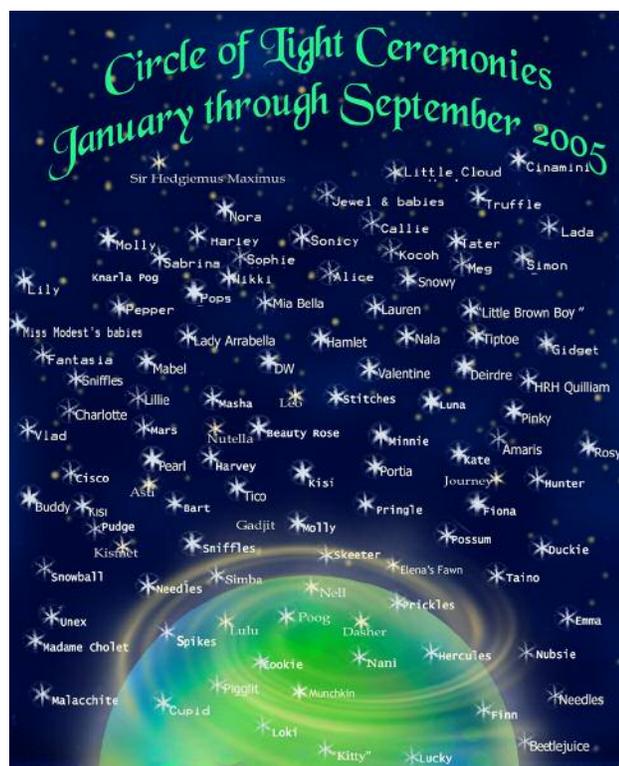
On September 9 a Circle of Light and a Healing Candle Ceremony was observed to remember the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Participants worldwide lit candles to honor the humans and animals, great

and small, who could not escape the wrath of Katrina. The Healing Candle Ceremony was held to ask that comfort and aid be rendered to the injured and lost, and to those who were –and still are – in desperate need of help.

Circle of Light

A Circle of Light was observed September 30 to honor the hedgies who have recently passed. Although our hearts are heavy with sadness, we also rejoice that our little ones are now free and happy, and in a place where no pain is allowed. Although their bodies are no longer of this earth, their hedgie spirit lives in our hearts and minds. Each hedgie is honored with a star that will forever shine in the Circle's Night Sky.

Sir Hedgiemus Maximus, guardian Renee
 Poog, guardian Vicki
 Lulu, guardians Carol & Jim
 Gadgit, guardians Penni, Darwin & Amanda
 Nell, guardians Susan, John, Cheryl
 Nutella, guardian Michaelann
 Kismet, guardians Linda & Gary
 Asti, guardians Sheila & Murfi
 Leo, guardian Amy
 Dasher, guardian Judie P
 Journey, guardian Angela
 Munchkin, guardian Dawn
 Mandy, guardians Ashley & Andrew
 Butterball, guardian Gillian
 Serendipity, guardian Diana



Phileas Hogg

Frequent Flyer



Which hedgehog has accumulated the most frequent flier miles, traversing the globe? That would be Phileas Hogg, of course!

Hello there Ladies and Quilled Gentlemen. My name is Phileas Hogg II. Like my predecessor, Phileas Hogg I, my time is spent traveling to new places in pursuit of adventures. I have had the good fortune of visiting with so many gracious and interesting hosts. During my visit with each host, I explore local landmarks, history, culture, and natural beauty. I participate in family functions, traditions, holidays, and vacations. I keep a journal of my voyage, and share my writing and photographs by posting on my online blog.

As my path leads me across the country (and around the world), I also collect local treasures! When I decide to follow in the footsteps of Phileas I and settle down with one family, I will bequeath all my treasures to my lucky forever guardian.

My trek began in March, 2005, as I departed from the state of Connecticut. My destinations have included Tennessee, Kentucky, Texas, Illinois, and New Jersey. I also roamed far to join Dawn Wrobel in an African excursion!

The next stop on my tour is Canada, where I will attend the wedding of Elana Adler and Jason Rabinow. Elana and Jason have graciously allowed me to chaperone them on their honeymoon in Hawaii!

I have met many friends thus far, and I look forward to meeting many more. My hosts have included Tonya and Rick Thomas, Renee Kettling, Linda and Jim Woodring, and

Dawn Wrobel. I even spent a bit of time with Richard Simmons! My loot includes some gifts from Richard Simmons, as well as an autographed photo.

I'd love to get to know each and every one of you!! If you would be willing to host a visit, please contact me at phileashogg@yahoo.com. My itinerary is quite full, but there are inevitably some cancellations. I'll be looking for new hosts if and when that occurs. My goal is to travel to all 50 US states during my current expedition.

I've included a few photos of my journeys, and the friends I've made along the way. To see and read all the Amazing Adventures of Phileas Hogg II, read my travel blog at:

<http://www.phileashogg2.blogspot.com/>

I hope to update you regularly through the newsletter as well.

Judie Peters will be accompanying me to the Mile High Hedgehog Show, October 14-16. Come meet Phil II at the HWS table! <http://www.milehighhedgehogs.com>

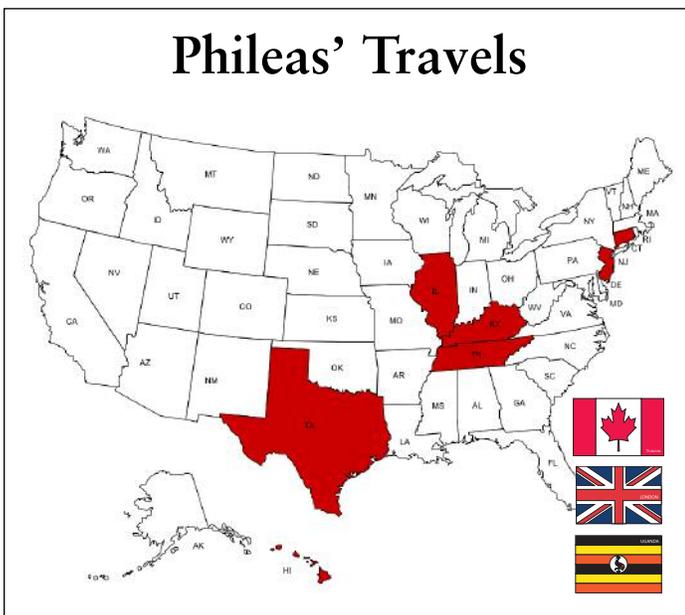
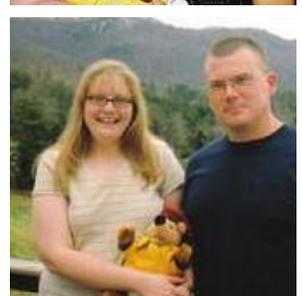
Phileas flipping burgers with Linda and Jim Woodring



Phileas meets Richard Simmons



With Tonya and Rick Thomas at Cumberland Falls, Kentucky



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

by Susan Goetcheus, Arlington, MA

In the last issue, we described how to get started planning your own hedgehog event. This follow-up article gives more information about the various activities, including the necessary equipment and the number of people you'll need to run the activities.

Planning the activities

The first rule of planning a hedgehog event is that you shouldn't try to do it by yourself. Most shows have at least two principal organizers and many have a committee. Before the event, you'll need to handle registration, speaker coordination, publicity, and getting equipment together for the events.

Seminars

Possible speakers include local vets and people in the hedgehog community with special interest in particular subjects. You could also have a roundtable discussion with a few people who can talk knowledgeably about hedgehog topics.

Equipment: Overhead projector, slide projector, computer projector, extension cords, microphone and loudspeaker, drinking glass for each speaker and pitcher of water, speaker's lectern or table, chairs for audience.

Staff: Two or three people to set up the seminar room, and at least one person in the seminar room to introduce the speakers and keep track of the time.

Things to note: You need to offer at least a small honorarium to your speakers and pay for their lunches, and they should receive free admission to the other events (if they are entering hedgehogs in events, you don't need to waive those fees). Make sure you ask your speakers what, if any, equipment they need; some will expect to be able to hook their laptop up to a computer projector to do a PowerPoint show, some may ask you to make copies of printed handouts, and others may need nothing but a microphone and a glass of water. Determine in advance how long the seminar session will run; for a one-day event, two hours is a good maximum, which allows for

two or three speakers. Make sure you communicate clearly to your speakers what their time limits are; a good rule of thumb is to allot 30-45 minutes for the presentation and 15 minutes for questions.

Conformation show

Although I have participated in conformation shows, I've never been involved in running one, so I will direct you to Tig Means' write-ups at <http://www.hedgehogcentral.com/putshow.shtml> and <http://hedgehogvalley.com/showcl.html> for more information about planning a conformation show. My one piece of advice, which I have heard from people who've done conformation shows, is that having a good show secretary can make the difference between sanity and insanity for the show organizers and the judge.

Equipment: Tables, tablecloths, cleaning spray, hand sanitizer, paper towels, awards, microphone and loudspeaker.

Staff: Judge, secretary (helps check in hedgehogs and keep track of classes and winners), person to help check health of hedgehogs when they check in, announcer, cleanup person.

IHOG

If you do both a conformation show and an IHOG, you can run the IHOG while the conformation show is going on. Unless you have two sets of IHOG equipment, you'll need to let all the boy hedges complete the events first (if the girls go first, the boys tend to get distracted when it's their turn). Make sure you announce the point at which the boys are finishing up; you may need to be flexible about the end of the boys' round if some of the competitors are on the conformation show table.

Equipment: Contact Dawn Wrobel (<http://www.aintnocreek.com/>) for up-to-date information about IHOG equipment and ribbons/medals. You'll also need paper towels, hand sanitizer, wipes, a couple of trash cans, chairs for the judges, microphone and loudspeaker for making announcements.

Staff: Two or three people to set up the IHOG events, one person to make sure that all entrants are recorded on the judging sheets, one judge for each IHOG event (note that if you use the same track for the sprint and shot put, the same judge can time both events), announcer, person to tabulate results.

Costume contest

You can tailor this event however you want! You'll need to figure out appropriate categories for the awards; it's nice to announce those ahead of time if attendees want to aim for certain categories. If your event falls near a holiday or if you're holding it in a significant location, you could create a couple of special categories. For example, the first Boston Pog Party was held near July 4, so we had a "Most Patriotic" category. The 2002 Go Hog Wild! show had a western theme, so Dawn gave out some appropriately named awards.

Equipment: Table with tablecloth, paper towels, chairs for the judges, paper and pen for the judges, microphone and loudspeaker for announcing winners, awards.

Staff: Judges, announcer.

Bedlam ball, Prickle Pin, other games

Equipment: Whatever's necessary. For Bedlam Ball, you'll need a large enclosed area (20'x20' is good) and a number of empty paper towel tubes and toilet paper tubes, each standing on end with the name of a prize written on them. All the hedgehogs go in at once in their exercise balls and the hedgehog who knocks over a



certain tube wins the prize that's written on it. Prickle Pin is a bowling-type game for which you need four pieces of wood to make an alley and 10 bowling pins. The hedgehog is placed in her exercise ball at the end of the alley and the winning hedgehog is the one who knocks over all the pins in the shortest amount of time. You'll also need the appropriate number of prizes, which should be fairly small items.

Staff: At least one person to get the equipment set up and monitor the activities.

Vendor tables

The chance to buy lots of interesting hedgehog-related stuff is an important attraction for your attendees. One thing you'll need to decide before you start signing up vendors is whether you'll allow the sale of hedgehogs at your event. Some organizers prohibit hedgehog sales because of concerns about impulse buying, some allow sales only if they are arranged in advance, and others have no restrictions. If you allow sales, make sure the vendors are licensed in accordance with USDA regulations.

Equipment: Table, tablecloth, and two chairs for each vendor.

Staff: Before the event, one person to coordinate vendor sponsorships and assign locations. If two vendors are selling similar merchandise, try not to put them next to each other. At the event, one person to direct vendors to their locations and guard the tables if the vendors attend the seminars.

Things to note: If your event takes place in a single room, it's best not to have the vendor tables open during the seminars because the noise of commerce can be distracting to seminar attendees.

Silent/live auction

Many events have silent and/or live auctions to benefit hedgehog charities. For the second Boston Pog Party we decided to do a silent auction with a small number of unique items. This decision was based on our previous experience of auctioning too many ubiquitous items; that auction took a long time, was tough on the person running it, and didn't make a ton of money because by the end we were getting only the minimum bid on things.

Equipment: Table, tablecloth, bid sheets, pens.

Staff: For live auction: person to solicit donations of items, auctioneer, person to

receive money and distribute items. For silent auction, person to solicit donations of items, determine starting bid and bid increments, create bid sheets, set up table, and run auction.

Registration

Handling registration is not the most glamorous job, but obviously it's critical to the success of your event. If you choose to accept registrations before the event, you may want to set up a bank account in which you can deposit checks. You'll need to determine your event fees; many organizers have an all-inclusive fee for people who are attending all of the activities. Attendees who come for one or two activities pay fees for each activity.

Equipment: Table, chair, money box, small bills for change.

Staff: Before the event, one person to receive registrations and keep track of the money. At the event, one person staffing the registration table at all times. You may want to assign people in two-hour shifts and have two people at the table during busy times.

Things to note: When attendees check in at the registration table, make sure you double-check the names and genders of the hedgehogs they have entered in the various events. Some organizers charge an extra fee if attendees decide to switch hedgehogs on the day of the event. You may want to set a cutoff time for entries so that you have time to write the names down on the judging forms; if you have a cutoff time, make sure you announce it in the event materials and during the day at least 15-30 minutes before the cutoff.

Arranged meal

If your event lasts all day and the venue doesn't have restaurants within easy walking distance, you'll need to arrange lunch for attendees. Many catering companies provide box lunches for a reasonable price and you can buy flats of soda at your local warehouse store. (Bring a couple of coolers and sell the soda at the registration table; your attendees will thank you!) If your event takes place in a hotel or conference center, the in-house caterer can provide buffet-type meals. In our experience a box lunch is an easier, cheaper, and tastier option than the typical buffet meal.

Local sightseeing

When we've traveled to hedgehog events we've really enjoyed seeing some of the local attractions. You can either plan an outing for your attendees or just provide them with information about what to see. If you do a planned outing, take advantage of group discounts.

Whew!

Putting on a hedgehog event is a lot of hard work, but whatever you choose to do, you'll be bringing together lots of people who love hedgehogs and don't often get the chance to meet face to face. The personal interaction during an event is many times the part that attendees appreciate the most, and if their hedgegies take home awards it's just icing on the cake.



Jennifer Plombon sees a bit of Boston during the first Boston Pog Party

Hedgehog Cage Liners by Sherry Songhurst, Denver, CO

Sherry's famous Pins-N-Needles liners have been the "gold standard" in hedgehog cage liners for years. Now, you can make them, too! Sherry has graciously offered her secrets to the hedgehog community at large, because more than anything she believes that our wee friends benefit in many ways from living on cozy fabric as opposed to shavings or other types of bedding. Making these liners is fun and easy. As Sherry herself has said, "It's not rocket science, it's just hedge liners." So let's get down to work!

Step 1:

Getting your measurements.

First, measure your cage floor. Depending on the size of your cage, you will need approximately 1 yard of corduroy and 1/2 yard of fleece for each liner. Make sure you pre-wash the fabric.



Figure 1a



Figure 1b

Step 2:

Fold your corduroy in half lengthwise, right sides together. Cut this rectangle 3 inches longer than the length of your cage, and 3 inches wider than the width. Do not cut the folded edge—if you do, you'll just make more work for yourself. Keep this piece as a folded-over rectangle with right sides together.



Figure 2a



Figure 2b

Step 3:

Lay your corduroy rectangle on top of your fleece and pin it in place. Cut a fleece rectangle that's a little larger on all sides than your corduroy—approximately 1 1/2 inches larger on all sides.



Figure 3a



Figure 3b

Step 4:

Sew all the way around your rectangle (through both corduroy and fleece), leaving an approximately 10" opening on the long, cut-edge side. Trim corners diagonally across both corduroy and fleece within 1/4" of sewn seam.



Figure 4a



Figure 4b



Figure 4c



Figure 4d

continued on page 21

Step 5:

Use the opening to turn the piece to its right-side-out position, so that the two layers of corduroy are on the outside, right sides out, and the fleece is hidden in the middle. Use a blunt point (I use a Tupperware orange peeler) to gently push the corners out to a sharp point.



Figure 5a



Figure 5b

Step 6:

Turn in the edges of the 10" opening, pin the opening closed, and sew around the entire liner, close to the edge. I use a simple decorative stitch made of all tiny stitches. Beware of zigzags that leave stitches long enough to trap hedge toes. Then sew another round an inch or so inside the first. This stabilizes the edge and helps keep the liner flat. Trim all threads.



Figure 6a



Figure 6b

*You now have a beautiful,
longwearing hedge house liner!*



The Clubs: Part II

Ladies and Quilled Gentlemen

Hedgie fraternities and sororities? Believe it or not, hedgehogs have their own clubs. The three most popular are the Manly Hedgeboyz, the Quilled Gentlemen, and the Molly Club. In the following articles, the founding members of these select groups introduce you to their clubs, and invite you to join them! This month we introduce the Quilled Gentlemen and the Molly Club.



Quilled Gentleman Grover



Bucky's 1st birthday

The Quilled Gentlemen by Hobie Wikane, Schoharie, NY

When the Manly Hedgehog Boyz formed I thought we need another group for us guys who love girls. So I got in touch with Grover Weaver, Bucky Woodring, and Sleepy Dekeroff, and we decided to form this club "to tell the world that we like women" in the words of Bucky. He has the most experience with girls. He has a lot of girlfriends and goes to visit them... actually stays with some of them for many days (Bucky is a new Daddy). He writes: "One day Mom asked me if I would like to go on a date with a girl, so I did. She was very nice to me, but when I got back home she sent

me a 'Dear Bucky' letter saying that she just didn't think I was her type. I was crushed, because I sure had a good time when I was with her. So, Mom let me go on other dates. Ladies are fun, and so warm and cuddly, and they really like it when you sing to them." [I, Hobie, like to sing to the girls who live here].

We bounced around names for our club and in Grover's words: "We were looking for a name that reflected our elegance, style and gentlemanly ways. I know humans (men) have a magazine called GQ (that reflects those traits), so QG, or Quilled Gentlemen, came to my mind and the guys agreed. We are small in membership (the only requirements are to be respectful of others and like girls), but strong in comradeship. We are good friends with the Molly Club girls. And we get along okay with the Manly Hedgeboyz, but we sure don't agree with the way they feel about girls. We welcome new members. Buckwheat Wikane has just joined us.

The Molly Club by Molly Weaver, Milwaukee, WI

The Molly Club was started by me and Molly Wikane. We thought that since the boys had clubs so should the girls. We love to talk about anything we wish, and we have a great affinity for each other. When Molly Wikane went over the Rainbow Bridge in February, Meggie Wikane took her place. Molly now has the job of welcoming all the Molly Club girls when they arrive over the bridge. Molly's greatest asset was her conversational skills. Meggie (who is blind) says she certainly appreciated Molly talking with her, she found great comfort in the spoken word, as I'm sure all the Molly Club girls do now over the bridge. We only



Molly Wikane in hat

have one rule, to respect each other, and we're always eager to welcome new members!

Perhaps your hedgie is destined to be a Manly Hedgeboy, a Quilled Gentleman, or a Molly Girl? To learn all about the clubs and to become a member, to join the pog-chit-chat yahoo group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pog-chit-chat>



Hobie Wikane - Quilled Gentleman looking for a girl



Molly Weaver

Hedgehog Welfare Society Committee Reports

April-June 2005 (Quarter 2)

Advocacy Committee

*Jennifer Plombon & Stephanie Hyne,
Co-chairs*

The Committee assisted concerned HWS members in contacting the USDA to report poor conditions seen in pet stores. The Committee assisted others in determining the licensing status of pet stores and breeders, and ensured that contact information for the USDA remained up-to-date on the HWS Website.

The Committee is currently preparing a report on recent changes in USDA licensing for Class A Breeders; this report is being prepared by Stephanie Hyne, Jennifer Plombon, and Michelle Mulliniks, and will be posted to the Hedgehog Welfare web site when completed. It will also be published in the HWS Newsletter.

Care Package Committee

*Jennifer Plombon & Heather Johnson,
Co-chairs*

During April-June of 2005, the HWS Rescue Care Packages Committee has shipped or delivered 25 Care Packages, hats, and food samples, to hedgehog rescuers throughout the U. S. and Canada. Expenses for shipping, postage, purchase of supplies, fabric, foods, treats, and wheels are covered by donations from iGive, newsletter subscriptions, hat sales, and personal donations.

Fundraising and Ruby's Rescue Shop

Donnasue Graesser, Manager

Ruby's Rescue Shop was closed for much of this quarter, due to technical difficulties with the shopping cart host. We continued to accept sales by e-mails. We added Tonya's First Aid Kits to inventory of Ruby's Rescue Shop.

Tonya Thomas has been very successfully promoting the First Aid Kits she put

together. Most of the kits have sold, and due to popular demand, Stephanie Hyne will recruit donations and assemble more kits for sale at the Mile High Hedgehog Show.

Naomi Wikane has donated proceeds from blankie sales. Thank you Naomi!

Judie Peters has donated proceeds from her fabulous CafePress store. Thank you Judie!

We have reserved tables for sale of Ruby's Shop and CafePress items at the Mile High Hedgehog Show, to take place in Colorado in October.

The Phileas Hogg traveling project is well under-way, and a great success thus far. I'm happy to report he has been on schedule, according to his itinerary.

Health and Education Committee

Gioia Kerlin, Co-chair

During this quarter, the HWS contributed \$450 towards veterinary care for hedgehogs in need.

During this quarter, the Health and Education Committee continues to work with Dr. Priscilla Dressen about the possibility of her writing an article for the newsletter on the benefits of spaying hedgehogs. We have also been working on our educational video discussed in the last report. We have corresponded with Welfare list members and board members concerning potential projects for the future.

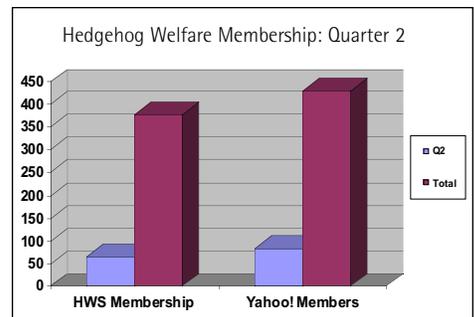
Jennifer Plombon, Health Research & Education Committee member, (with Sarah Eshelman, HWS member) taught a class on hedgehog health, disease, and care at a veterinary clinic in Blaine, MN, on June 1, 2005. The class was offered to 2 veterinarians and several veterinary technicians and lasted for over 2 hours. All participants were able to examine a hedgehog, and were able to observe differences between male and female hedgehogs. Ms. Plombon is a licensed USDA Class C Exhibitor, and is available to teach hedgehog care classes to

veterinarians and veterinary students, veterinary technicians and technology students, veterinary clients, and potential hedgehog adopters.

On July 9th, Jennifer and Sarah attended an Open House at the same veterinary clinic, dispensing hedgehog care sheets, hedgehog care advice, and contact information for hedgehog rescue and the HWS.

Membership Committee

Kerri LeMotte, Chair



As outlined above, there have been 63 new members to the Hedgehog Welfare Society, for a total of 378. There have been 82 new members to the Hedgehogwelfare Yahoo! Group, for a total of 432 members.

Changes to the online membership form proposed to the board last month are still pending review from the webmaster.

Newsletter Committee: No Report

Public Relations

*Donnasue Graesser & Tonya Thomas,
Co-chairs*

HWS members attended the Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey conference on April 1, and passed out over 100 tri-fold brochures and 100 newsletters to animal shelter staff and animal welfare organizations in the northeast. We also attended the Rhode Island humane societies

showcase, and disseminated similar information. We planned on attending the Michigan Humane Societies conference, but the cost was prohibitive.

We have progressed with a series of "rotational ads" that have been sent to the Hedgehog Welfare Society members and Yahoo! Groups, to highlight specific HWS opportunities and to remind our members of ways they might participate in the HWS.

We have also initiated "Tuesday To-Do"s. These are reminders of small ways in which our members can help hedgehogs both within the organization and in their daily lives.

Quills and Comfort:

Judie Peters, Chair

From its conception Quills and Comfort was designed to be a support and outreach program for hedgegie companions. The Circle of Light was our first support program and continues to be a great comfort and solace for grieving companions. During the last quarter the Circle conducted two

ceremonies. As a follow-up to the Circle ceremonies, each hedgegie is honored with a "heavenly star" which is depicted in a "Night Sky" graphic; the graphic is included in each HWS Newsletter and resides on the Quills and Comfort website.

We are pleased to continue expanding Quills and Comfort through the addition of Naomi Wikane and Hobie's "Healing Candle Ceremony". Additionally, in early 2005 we developed an on-line CafePress Store with all profits donated to the HWS; we were able to recently make the first donation.

An additional outreach is the Comfort Card program. To date over 135 Comfort Cards have been hand crafted and sent to hedgegie companions who are experiencing the loss of a beloved hedgehog.

Rescue Committee:

Yolanda McLean, Chair

The resignation of Co-Chair Laura Ledet was accepted in May with regret.

One new Rescue Contact was approved and added to the HWS Rescue Contact List.

Five applications are in review, pending responses to application-related questions.

The planning phase for the HWS table at the upcoming PetRock '05 has begun.

Web-site and Petfinder: No Report

Financial Report:

Detailed monthly financial reports are available to any HWS member, or other interested party, by sending a request to: donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu. HWS yearly reports are submitted to the Oregon State Department of Justice, charitable activities division, and are available for public viewing on the ODJ web site

(<http://www.doj.state.or.us/ChariGroup/welcome2.htm>)
Registration # 31631



*A question for the page?
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