



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 #28 May / June 2007

Lucy, Marc's Hedgehog

(This article has been written by the two people involved, Marc Escañuelas and Laura Dunklee.)

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Lucy's smile

MARC:

My friend obtained a hedgehog through a breeder. The hedgehog was small, brown, pointy and fearful of even the most unobtrusive sound. I named her Lucy after no one in particular. Lucy settled into her new home and slowly began to take to her surroundings, as much as a creature afraid of everything can. My friend hoped to bond with her as one would with a cat or some other domesticated animal. How he thought he could do so with a creature designed to physically repel him is beyond me.

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LUCY, MARC'S HEDGEHOG

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After several years, my friend's path took him to law school across the country. He was not able to take Lucy with him so I volunteered to take her as I was fearful she would end up with a stranger. He warned me she was getting older and that I should be prepared for her death in the near future. I disregarded his warning and accepted this quivering bundle of quills into my home.

Prior to this, my only experience with these little creatures had been playing one session of *Sonic the Hedgehog*. After a few seconds, my unfamiliarity with the game caused my Sonic to plunge down a crevice to his untimely death. I hoped that this wasn't a portent of things to come.

I tried to interact with her the first couple of nights that she was with me but she would quickly form herself into a ball and hiss ceaselessly. Occasionally, she would peek out but the slightest movement would cause her to withdraw again. Even though this wasn't the most welcoming behavior it was still more than she seemed to give to other people. I was honored.

Lucy and I lived like roommates. I saw to it that her cage was clean and her food bowl and water always full and she, well, she hid. Her home was a plastic orange igloo and only rarely did I see her out of it. Every day, I would stop by her cage and check in. I would lift the edge of her igloo and peek underneath. No matter how stealthily I tried to do it, she would hear me and go into a ball. A year of these little visits passed by without incident.

One night however, I passed by her cage while she was out eating. She saw me and ran back to her igloo. But before she did, I noticed a lump on her back. It wasn't particularly large, just a pronounced rise. I knew nothing of hedgehog genetics, nor was I aware that hedgehogs were prone to tumors and cancers. She was seated in a way that I assumed was causing her skin to bunch up like a ribbon. I remember that night clearly because it was the last time I would see Lucy move so freely.

A couple nights later I came home from work to find Lucy seated out in the open. She didn't move as I approached her cage. She hardly reacted when I touched her. Her coal dark eyes stared out at me from beneath her mantle of quills, and despite my ignorance, I knew in the dark of my mind that Lucy's life was coming to an end.

I was frantic. I spent the next 45 minutes on the phone calling every single pet hospital in the area trying to find a veterinarian who was capable of treating a hedgehog. After coming up short, I called my mom who had a few

more veterinarians for me to try. After holding it all back, my tears came like a flood. I had never lost a pet before and I wasn't ready to let Lucy go. I finally reached an emergency animal clinic where there was a doctor who was comfortable seeing a hedgehog.

I left my home bound for the far side of town, near the end of the evening rush. By some miracle I made it across town in around 20 minutes, a trip which normally takes an hour.

The emergency clinic was impeccably clean. I noticed a shiny swirl of white linoleum decorated with a dozen pictures of dogs and cats looking impossibly cute. I checked Lucy in and sat down to wait. After a few hours, the doctor emerged with bad news. Lucy was extremely weak and the mass on her back was of great concern. I left her in their care so that she could get some of her strength back until I was able to take her to a vet who was more experienced with hedgehogs. Before I left, I saw an x-ray. The breath drained out of me as my eyes went wide. The tumor was massive. The light didn't pass through it. It was an enormous white blob floating above her fragile skeleton. It was easily a third of her size.



Two days later, Lucy saw Dr. Dawson, a vet who specializes in exotic animals. Dr. Dawson was exactly the person I needed to see. She was kind, knowledgeable, and genuinely concerned about Lucy's welfare. She recommended a battery of tests but her prognosis was that the mass was cancerous. Given its size, surgery was not an ideal option. Previously due to an odd juxtaposition of letters, I became acquainted with the word *euthanization*. The thought terrified me. I had been placed in charge of Lucy's life. I wasn't ready to be in charge of her death.

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LUCY, MARC'S HEDGEHOG

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I pestered the hospital as the test results were slow in coming. Preliminary results confirmed what we had feared. I spoke with Roberta, who assisted Dr. Dawson and had a lot of experience with hedgehogs. She offered to connect me with a woman named Laura. Laura, as I would find out, was nothing less than a saint in the world of hedgehogs.

LAURA:

It was an odd call from Roberta, the office manager and lead RVT at the office of, Dr. Dawson. They had a new patient, an older hedgehog with a fast-growing mass on her back. After a series of tests (x-rays and aspirations, all of which were inconclusive but pointing to cancer), the vet wasn't feeling too optimistic about being able to successfully remove the growth and the hedgehog's caretaker needed someone to talk with. Would I be willing to talk with the caretaker and offer my insight?

I scribbled down the number of the caretaker, Marc; concluded the conversation with Roberta and called Marc. After introducing myself and giving a bit of my background, I started asking about Lucy. It turned out that she was likely five or six years old and had actually belonged to Marc's friend, who'd moved from the area and left Lucy in Marc's care. He'd taken good care of the little one. But he'd had limited experience with hedgehogs and was at a loss for what to do now.



Marc had noticed the growth the previous week and had gotten Lucy into the vet as soon as possible. X-rays were done, as well as aspirations, and Lucy had been put on antibiotics and pain medicine while everyone waited for



the pathology to be returned. Now the pathology was in and Marc had to decide what would be best for his charge. During our conversation, Marc said that now Lucy couldn't walk because the mass had grown to a point where it was affecting her right front leg. She wasn't eating either. He was syringe-feeding her water, but she wasn't interested in anything else, not even mealworms.

My schedule was chaotic that day but I told Marc that, if he was interested, I could come by his home that evening to meet him and Lucy. And that I would be willing to tell him what I would do if Lucy were my charge. I warned Marc that he might not like what I had to say but that I'd support him in any decision that he made. I'd be glad to offer post-surgical care help, assistance with syringe feeding, and anything else that might make things easier for the both of them. We set up a time for later that evening.

In preparation for the meeting I put together a care package, not knowing what Marc might or might not have on hand and unclear as to exactly how needy Lucy was. I packed a couple of fleece blankets, a hedgie sack, several jars of baby food (chicken, sweet potatoes, pears), baby yogurt, a lap-pad, tissues, 1- and 3-cc syringes, curved-tip feeding syringes, everything needed for sub-q fluids, and my digital camera.

MARC:

Laura and I spoke over the phone. I asked her advice. I was standing at a fork in the road in a place I wasn't familiar with and, thankfully, she offered a map. She agreed to stop by and see Lucy for herself. I was slightly intimidated. I worried she would walk in and chastise me for not acting quickly enough or criticize my treatment of Lucy. I couldn't have been more wrong. Laura was kind without pretense, understanding but also completely honest. She cradled Lucy for a long time. It was fascinating to watch. Something passed between them and an understanding was reached. Laura looked at me and recommended that I end Lucy's suffering.

LAURA:

When I arrived at Marc's home he met me at the door. We talked for a few minutes about how he was a college student, his other animals and life in general. Then he took me in to meet Lucy. She was in a very clean habitat, sleeping under an igloo. Marc brought her out for me to hold and she snuggled down into my hands. Lucy was clean, fairly bright-eyed, and looked

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LUCY, MARC'S HEDGEHOG

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like a normal hedgehog except for the massive growth on her back.

Like some other hedgehogs I've encountered, Lucy had that endearing hedgie smile which showed her top incisors. She was alert but didn't try to move. It was obvious when she did attempt to right herself that the growth was putting pressure on the muscles and nerves on her right side as well as starting to affect her neck muscles. It was easy to see that she was in some discomfort but I certainly couldn't tell if she was in pain. Hedgehogs are so good at hiding that from us.

I settled down with Lucy and stroked her face and sides. She turned to look at me but made no other movement, though her eyes closely followed my face as I spoke to her and to Marc. I mixed some of the baby food that I'd brought and offered Lucy the feeding syringe. She quickly opened her mouth and began to lap at the food. It was no trouble to get the nourishment into the little one but it was an emotionally difficult process. I found myself tearing-up as I held her little body in my hand.

I'd never seen anything like the growth that was taking over Lucy's body: the mass was firm to the touch and it was difficult to feel where the tissue changed from the growth to her muscle and skin. Although it had not broken through the skin, the mass stretched her back skin to a point where I wondered if it wouldn't soon tear through.

After a couple of deep breaths, I turned to Marc and gently said that if Lucy were my hedgehog, I would consider having her euthanized. We talked about surgery and how difficult it would be to remove all of the mass and how, considering Lucy's age and how weak she now was, it was possible that she would have trouble with the anesthesia and recovery. I told Marc that Lucy could be kept comfortable with pain medicines and that I'd be glad to help show him how to care for her. But it looked to me as though she would soon be dead as the mass grew around her neck and affected her ability to swallow and breathe. We also talked about euthanasia: what was involved and how it all worked.

MARC:

She shared her numerous experiences with hedgehogs in this situation. Her words shocked and angered me. This predisposition to cancer had been bred into hedgehogs through irresponsible breeding and it was quite common. Lucy had fared better than most. Although her tumor was quite large, she had lived a long life for a hedgehog and Laura was surprised by how healthy she looked.



We spent several hours talking. She agreed to meet me in the morning at Dr. Dawson's, to put Lucy down. After she left I held Lucy for a long time. It was terrible to think that this was her last night but it was worse to realize that the road ahead would bring nothing but more suffering for her. She was no longer able to move easily as the tumor seemed to be inhibiting the use of her right leg. I was able to end her suffering and give her back her dignity so, as difficult as that was, I decided to free her rather than imprison her.

LAURA:

After few tears on both of our parts, Marc said that he thought that Lucy should be euthanized sooner rather than later. I arranged to meet him and Lucy at the vet's office and to be with the two of them during the process if that would make the decision easier for him. We agreed to meet at the vet's office first thing in the morning.

Before I left, I showed Marc how to syringe-feed Lucy and left knowing that she'd be cuddled and kept warm through the night.

I cried driving home – not for me but for Marc and for all of us who have to make these decisions for these critters in our care. They're horribly painful decisions to make and the accompanying guilt can be overwhelming even when we know that we're doing the right thing.

MARC:

Early the next morning found me standing in a small room at Dr. Dawson's office waiting for Laura. She arrived with her kind smile and stood next to me. The nurse took Lucy into the back to prepare her for euthanization. When it was time, we joined her. It was fast. Faster than I expected but in a moment like that nothing moves quickly. When she was gone, the realization shook me like a little earthquake. I held her for the last time, memorizing her features as a screen of tears blurred my vision.

LAURA:

By the time I arrived at the vet's the next morning, Marc was already through most of the paperwork, and I joined him in the exam room where Lucy was cradled in his hands. We were then taken into the back where Lucy was given a little bit of gas to put her to sleep before the final injection. Marc stood at the table and stroked her quills, I had my hand on his back, and several of the office staff came into the room and stood behind us while Lucy took her last breaths. I can't speak for Marc but I felt good at

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LUCY, MARC'S HEDGEHOG

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that moment. Lucy was surrounded by loving, caring thoughts as she was set free of her body. No euthanization is easy but somehow this one felt right and good, if those descriptions don't sound too odd.

MARC:

Laura and I had coffee after that, letting the details of our lives fall like dominoes in front of us. It amazed me that in the course of 24 hours this complete stranger had come into my life and stood by me when I had no one else to turn to. After feeling so alone, it felt wonderful to have someone in my corner who supported my decision. I am deeply in debt to Laura.

LAURA:

After Lucy was gone and most of the tears had dried, Marc and I went for coffee and conversation while the veterinary technicians removed tissue samples for pathology and prepared Lucy's body to be transported for cremation.

I felt torn when we finished our coffee: Would Marc be okay? We all deal with grief in our own way and I know it's hell to be grieving over a companion when one is young. Marc, though, gave me a reassuring hug (and I thought I was there to reassure him!) and

promised me that he'd be okay and that we'd keep in touch. Since that day we've emailed back and forth and visited, too. One of these days we'll manage to get together so Marc can meet some other hedgehogs.

I think we were both relieved when the pathology came back on the tissue samples. The results showed that Lucy's tumor was a poorly-differentiated sarcoma, likely a myxosarcoma, with extensive necrosis and secondary infections. Marc had made the right decision for Lucy, although it was a painful one to make.

MARC:

All told, Lucy lived to the age of 5 and was loved and cared for during every one of those 5 years. Although her final days were difficult for all involved, I feel I was able to give her a gift of dignity and peace. Lucy's ashes are still sitting on a corner of my desk. I've been meaning to spread them in nearby Elysian Park for awhile but part of me is comforted that she is still nearby.

LAURA:

Sometimes we hedgehog owners are called upon to help others. I am grateful and honored that my vet trusted me enough to refer me to Marc and am even more grateful that Marc let me be a part of the time that he and Lucy shared.



~~ advertisement ~~

Red Hat Society

On Thursday, June 8, 2006, the idea for the Hedgehog Red Hat Society began formulating in the minds of three breeders, two rescuers, and three hedgegie slaves at the base of Pikes Peak in Manitou Springs, Colorado. These nine hedgehog enthusiasts decided to recognize special hedgehog ladies who have reached the grand age of four years old or older. After several meetings and hours of crafting, the Hedgehog Red Hat Society was officially launched on October 10, 2006.

By joining this elite club, your hedgehog will receive:

Decorated Red Hat	Beautiful Thick Red Hat Lap Pad
Decorated TP Tube	Laminated Membership ID Card
Red Hat Poem	Membership Certificate
Welcome Card	Photo Page in <i>The Red Hat Album</i>



Each member will receive a special gift and card on her succeeding birthdays. The committee will also be sending out a monthly newsletter. Once a hedgegie girl joins and receives her packet, take a picture of the grand lady in her Red Hat finery and submit it to the committee. That picture along with all the stats will then be placed in a *The Red Hat Photo Album*. The album will be taken and displayed at all hedgehog functions that a committee member attends.

Come check out the Red Quill Shop. There you will find other nice items to purchase that follow the red hat theme. Candles, pencil holders, bags and photo frames are just some of the things you will find there.

Hedgehog Welfare Society
Officer and Committee Reports
2007 Quarter I (January-March)

Chief Volunteer Officer — Linda Woodring

The following items were accomplished during this quarter:

- Held the first Board Meeting of the year on February 8.
- Wrote and posted minutes.
- Held two Healing Candle Ceremonies.
- Went through the website and made additions, deletions & corrections and forwarded the information to the webmaster to make the corrections.
- Began calling the vets on our Vet List to remove any that don't currently see hedgehogs.
- Compiled a list of information we might want to include in our Vet Packet and wrote to and received permission to use the information obtained from others' websites.
- Posted for Board approval and/or corrections & suggestions.
- Wrote several articles for the newsletter and recruited others to do the same.
- Collected hedgehog birthdays and pictures for Maisie's costume corner to be used in the upcoming newsletters.
Worked on collecting and editing photos for the CD we'll be putting out when Phileas Hogg's travels are finished.

Chief Organizing Officer — Vicki McLean

The COO assisted the efforts of the Chief Financial Officer in the filings necessary for the end of the Internal Revenue Service Advanced Ruling period by providing technical assistance and research for questions that arose in the process. She also acted as liaison between the Exempt Organizations Specialist at the Internal Revenue Service and the Hedgehog Welfare Society to answer questions.

Acting Chief Information Officer — Donnasue Graesser

This quarter, Carol Fish-Kregear resigned her position as Chief Information Officer. Donnasue Graesser will serve as acting Chief Information Officer until the next elections are held. In this capacity, Donnasue has assisted the Membership Chair in updating the contact list for HWS members, and continued to communicate with our membership and oversee the communications via the HWS information e-mail.

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.

Care Package Committee — Jennifer Plombon & Heather Johnson, Co-chairs

Between January 1, 2007, and March 31, 2007, the HWS Rescue Care Packages Committee shipped or delivered 13 care packages, hats, and/or food samples, to hedgehog rescuers throughout the United States and Canada.

Fundraising and Ruby's Rescue Shop — Donnasue Graesser, Manager

Nothing specific to report from Ruby's Rescue Shop. Although sales have slowed down considerably after the holidays, we continue to fill orders on a regular basis. No new items have been added to the online shop, although some new items have been added to the inventory and will be added by the webmaster soon.

A fundraising group has been created specifically for Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome Research. This committee includes representatives from the Hedgehog Welfare Society, Hedgehog Breeders Alliance, International Hedgehog Association, and Twink Fund. The group has been named: Hedgies for the Cure: United Against WHS. So far, the group has hosted two very successful fundraising eBay auctions. Jennifer Sobon, Cyndy Bennett, Brenda Sandoval, and Pat Storm have contributed items for the auctions, and Jennifer Sobon has been very helpful in running the auctions. Thank you to this superb and dedicated group of fundraisers!

Health and Education Committee — Gioia Kerlin, Co-chair

The committee has funded \$117 in veterinary care for rescued hedgehogs this quarter. Committee Co-chair Gioia Kerlin has begun plans for a series of Hedgie How-To articles with information to help caregivers socialize non-social hedgehogs. The committee has also corresponded with HWS members concerning hedgehog health issues. Co-chair Gioia Kerlin has planned an educational presentation to be given to The University of Tulsa's University Elementary School titled *Hedgehogs and Tenrecs: Who they are and where they come from*. Committee Co-chair Julie Hintz has no report this quarter.

Membership Committee — Jennifer Sobon, Acting Chair

Due to health problems, Kerri LeMotte has not been able to be fully involved in her membership chair duties. Therefore, Jennifer Sobon has stepped in as Acting Membership Chair to fulfill the necessary roles until Kerri is feeling better.

In the last month we have had thirty-one new members join our group. New membership cards have been received from Linda Edwards, and Jennifer has created an informative Welcome Letter for new members. She will get all the new info mailed out to our new members.

Newsletter Editor — Jennifer Sobon

We have successfully produced two newsletters so far this year. The third newsletter is in the works and will be finished prior to May 1st.

Public Relations — Tonya Thomas & Cindy DeLaRosa, Co-chairs

Representatives of the HWS, Sheila Dempsey and Murfi Jackson, attended the Animal Welfare Federation of NJ conference. They staffed an exhibit table and passed out Share with a Shelter information to the shelter staff in attendance, as well as newsletters and other educational information. The conference was a great success, and Sheila has written a more detailed article on her experiences for this newsletter.

Cindy DeLaRosa organized a very successful secret Bunny Buddy exchange for the Easter season.

Rescue Committee — Sheila Dempsey & Cyndy Bennett, Co-chairs

The Rescue Contact list was updated. Cyndy and Sheila worked with Steph Hyne to update the adoption application. This hasn't been put on the website yet but will be soon. Along with Murfi Jackson, Sheila attended the Animal Welfare Conference in New Jersey and hosted the HWS booth. We also welcomed three new official HWS Rescue Contacts.

Petfinder — Stephanie Hyne

The HWS Petfinder page listed two member's hedgehogs in two different states this quarter. We placed one and the other was removed due to her caretaker's health concerns. Our page averaged nearly 1000 views per week. We re-vamped the adoption application to make it more complete in some areas and are pleased with the result.

Financial Report — Donnasue Graesser, Chief Financial Officer

The HWS has completed and submitted form IRS 8734, Support Schedule for Advanced Ruling Period to the Internal Revenue Service. We have received notification from the IRS that our form has been received. They will make a determination in the next 120 days as to whether we will be permanently approved as a 501(c)3 organization. Our yearly financial filing is due at the Oregon State Department of Justice on May 15. The CFO is currently working on this paperwork.

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



The pet food recall, which began on March 16 when *Menu Foods, Inc.* recalled dog and cat foods produced at two of its facilities, continues to expand and seems to become more complex with each passing day. The best way to keep up with recall developments is to check out this helpful page from U.S. Food and Drug Administration:

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/petfood.html>

Here you can quickly access up-to-date information including what foods have been recalled, how to report a pet food complaint, news updates, and a list of recall notices by company.

The most valuable tool the FDA has to offer pet owners is a searchable combined list of recalled pet food products. This list may be searched by brand name, UPC code, product description (example: SL Beef/Gravy 24x5.5 oz), container (can or pouch), size, or any combination of these details. The list is updated as new information is received.

It is also possible to sign up for the FDA's recalls E-List through a link on this site.

Other resources linked to the site include frequently asked questions about the pet food recall, the FDA's general pet foods page, and information about how the FDA responds to pet food contamination.

If you are using any form of commercial pet food, you owe it to your pet and yourself to take a look at this free resource.

To the Rescue!

Welcome New Rescue Contacts!

The following individuals have become active rescue contacts, opening their hearts and homes to hedgies in need.

Tammy Christopher, West Virginia
 Karla Grimes, Illinois
 Rachel Johnson, New Mexico

If you are interested in becoming a rescue contact, simply write to Sheila at SexyTaxy@comcast.net for an application.

Thank you for your support!
 Sheila and Cyndy



MAY

- May 1 Junior Wrobel
- May 10 Wizard Woodring
- May 10 Angus McLean
- May 10 Lucy Kregear
- May 10 Notch Wrobel
- May 10 Esmirelda Wrobel
- May 19 Greta Weaver
- May 24 Babette Storm
- May 25 Pepper Storm
- May 28 Greta Storm

JUNE

- Jun 14 Little Frogger Graesser
- Jun 15 Eclipse Storm
- Jun 20 Caramel Fleming
- Jun 21 Nimue Kocunik
- Jun 26 Zanzibarr Storm

JULY

- Jul 4 Pugsley Fleming
- Jul 5 Frogger Graesser
- Jul 7 Sonata Storm
- Jul 9 Leo Jackson-Dempsey
- Jul 9 Spooky Wallenda Fleming
- Jul 12 Eryika Storm
- Jul 16 Pippi the Diva
- Jul 20 Dulcinea Fleming
- Jul 23 Suzi Que Storm
- Jul 23 Steve's Spirit Storm
- Jul 25 Oliver Storm
- Jul 26 Molly Weaver
- Jul 27 Emmy Myhre

Going to the Vet: What to Expect at a Well-Hedgehog Visit

Laura Dunklee

Common questions for new hedgehog caretakers are: Should the hedgehog be taken to the vet for a "Well-Hedgie" check-up? What to expect at such a visit? How frequently should healthy hedgehogs visit the vet? This article will discuss some of those questions and options.



Why go for a Well-Hedgehog Check-up?

I am a firm believer that any new hedgehog, whether a hoglet or an adult, whether a pet store purchase, a breeder purchase, a rescue, or a re-home, should see a good vet for a check-up within the first couple of weeks

at the new home. This allows the vet to get to know the hedgehog and to establish a baseline for behavior and appearance. It also allows the vet and caretaker to interact and answer each others' questions. The vet can offer some ideas concerning what the new caretaker should expect from their new companion and can also offer suggestions for changes or modifications in care, habitat, and food if those are needed.

Another important reason for a well-hedgehog check-up is that it's a chance to catch any problems early. Some common care problems would be improper or insufficient diet and inappropriate cage or wheel choices. Some common health problems would be skin issues (dry skin, mites, or ragged ear-edges), tooth or mouth problems, and digestive system problems (diagnosed through examination of the hedgehog's stool).

What Should One Expect at a Well-Hedgehog Check-up?

It has been my experience that there are usually three parts to a hedgehog check-up: The questions, the physical exam (including securing samples for testing), and the "Where to go from here" component.

Questions:

Your vet will likely ask you a series of questions about your hedgehog. Some common questions are:

- How old is the hedgehog?
- Where did the hedgehog come from?
- In what kind of a cage and on what kind of bedding is the hedgehog housed?

- What is the hedgehog's main food? (Bring along a list if you feed a kibble mixture.)
- What is the hedgehog given for treats?
- How much food does the hedgehog eat and how is his or her appetite?
- How active is the hedgehog?
- What is the hedgehog's personality like?
- Who is the hedgehog's primary caretaker? Who else interacts with the hedgehog?
- Are there other animals in the household? If so, do they interact with the hedgehog?
- How does the hedgehog seem health-wise? Have you noticed anything about the animal's behavior or appearance that you are concerned about?

Be as prepared as you can to answer these questions. They will help your vet to ascertain your hedgehog's health and living conditions and provide the best care and support you as the primary caretaker.

Physical Exam:

Most exams begin with weighing the hedgehog. Then your vet will likely assess your hedgehog's overall appearance before moving on to a more detailed examination. The hedgehog's quills will be examined (looking for missing, bent, and/or broken quills) as will the hedgehog's skin (color, dryness) both underneath the quills and on the stomach. Your vet will also look at the hedgehog's feet and nails, look into the hedgehog's ears, examine the hedgie's eyes, and at least attempt to examine the mouth.

The vet will use a stethoscope to listen to the hedgehog's heart, lungs, and digestive system. If your hedgehog is cooperative, the vet will also palpate the hedgehog's abdomen, feeling for anything abnormal.

During the exam, your vet may ask you to help hold the hedgehog still, to assist with scruffing, or help the hedgehog to unroll. If your vet is concerned about anything found during the physical examination, he or she may suggest further tests, such as an examination of the stool (particularly if the hedgehog has been experiencing any sort of GI-distress) or a skin scraping to look for mites (if the hedgehog has dry skin or is



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GOING TO THE VET...

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losing quills likely not related to a normal quilling process).

Concluding the Exam:

Most vets will usually take a few minutes at the end of the hedgehog's check-up to talk with you about the hedge's overall health, what they've observed, and any recommendations they might have for changes in the care that you're providing at home. They should also let you know, if any tests have been run or samples taken and when you should expect the results. Be sure to talk with the vet about any concerns you have regarding the examination or about caring for your hedgehog, and ask when the vet would next like to see the hedge or if a follow-up visit is necessary.

How Often?

How often a hedgehog should see a vet for a check-up (barring any health issues) is something that you should discuss with your vet. I usually take my hedgies in for well-hedgehog examinations every six months so long as



they've been healthy. This allows my vet to track their weight (an important issue for all hedgehogs) and to observe them as they age. Other hedge-care takers and their vets have opted for once-a-year examinations. Talk with your vet about his or her preferences and, of course, do not hesitate to take your hedgehog to the vet more often if you have any concerns about your hedge's health or behavior changes.



Every month, Maisey travels the world to find the latest and greatest in fashions for hedgies and is showcasing her finds here in Maisey's Costume Corner.

Send your pictures to hedgiemom@comcast.net



Katiya Storm Summer Basket



Mrs. Tiggywinkle Wikane Summer Gardener



Bucky & Wizard Woodring Go to the Races



Voodoo Magic Storm Memorial Day Salute

Welcome to Pog-Chit-Chat...

Where hedgies tell it like it is.

Pog-Chit-Chat is a *Yahoo* group in which hedgies live in their own fantasy world and discuss things among themselves. It is here that you will find several different clubs that your hedgie might like to join. These include the Molly Girls, Manley Hedgeboyz and, of course, the Quilled Gentlemen's Club. The girls usually talk about fashion and redecorating while the Manley Hedgeboyz discuss ways to avoid the dreaded foot bath and toenail clipping. The Quilled Gentlemen sit around planning the next big date.

Lately the discussions have turned to how to defend yourself against trolls. Since this is a very important thing for hedgies to know, Baxter Woodring has written an article on the subject. If you would like more information about defending yourself against trolls, or about the different clubs, or if you would just like to join in the fun, you can join Pog-Chit-Chat by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and search for Pog-chit-chat to join the group.



Gotta watch out for those trolls! Mom says so!

Baxter

Fighting Trolls by: Baxter Woodring

There has been a lot of talk recently about trolls and how dangerous they are. I've been asked to write an article on how to fight off trolls and stay safe. It seems there are some people who feel they are not dangerous and others who don't feel that way. I decided to ask Mom to help me do some research into what a troll actually is and whether or not we should be afraid of them. Well, basically, I'm just shivering in my paws!

There are many different theories on trolls. So I've just taken the most popular ones and combined them. A troll is a member of a mythical anthropomorphic race that originated in the Scandinavian areas. Some are very big (similar to English ogres), others can be quite small. Most of the trolls that we would come in contact with live underground in hill caves or mounds or sometimes in

hollowed-out trees in the forest. The really large trolls are brutish and ugly with unkempt hair, hairy arms, usually a long, bushy tail and beastly features including green skin, oversized ears and lumpy noses that can grow to three feet or longer!. Trolls have four fingers and four toes. Some of the smaller trolls can be somewhat humanlike but they have long tails hidden under their clothing. Some are even invisible or can take on other shapes and travel on the wind. These are really dangerous because you can't see them and may not know they're around until you hear them. Some trolls even possess magical powers.

Trolls are known for hoarding gold and treasures. They also abduct people (mainly young women and children) and sometimes animals to eat (shudder) or keep as slaves or prisoners. Those who have been abducted are called *bergtagna* which is a Scandinavian word for "spirited away". Upon returning, these prisoners usually suffer from



Continues on page 13...

FIGHTING TROLLS...

(...Continued from page 12)

insanity or apathy that was brought on by the trolls.

Trolls also like to steal babies and leave one of their own in return. Most trolls can regenerate. And when they finally do die, they take on the shape of the landscape around them. You might see them in the form of stones or logs.

There are four different kinds of trolls:

- 1) Cliff trolls: Their specialty is throwing people off cliffs and cutting the ropes of rock climbers.
- 2) Sea trolls: They are fully amphibious and can raise their long arms out of the sea and crush even a large boat
- 3) Lesser trolls: They are very goblin-like, small and weak so they usually attack in groups.
- 4) Greater trolls: They are huge, slow and stupid. They're known to pick up buildings (especially churches) and throw them for miles. They can drink a whole lake in one gulp or create a new one by leaving a big footprint next to a wandering river.

Now, you ask, how you can fight trolls and be safe? From all I've been reading, trolls have three big fears. The first is Christianity. Evidently, when Christianity first came into existence the Christians almost sent trolls into extinction. They watered down the troll gene pool until their physical features began to have all these mutant



changes. Keeping this in mind, the first things to try to really scare off a troll are church bells, a cross or even shouting words such as "Jesus" or "Christ".

The second thing that really frightens trolls is the sun or any bright light. If exposed to the sun, trolls can turn to stone. Try shining a bright light at them. Or better yet, have an



albino hedgehog look at the troll with those bright red eyes. That should scare them off! It is a really good technique since trolls only come out at night,

The third thing that I learned is that trolls are afraid of steel. So maybe you can leave a very heavy hammer on top of your condo to keep them away. I would suggest a new one that is bright and shiny so they're sure to see it.

Another suggestion from someone on our list was to have a pair of Foo Dogs at your front door. Although they actually look more like lions, Foo Dogs are the sacred dogs of Asia who guard the entrances to Buddhist temples. They can also be called *Dogs of Fu* or *Lions of Buddha*. The only problem I see with this is that the trolls may come in through the back door and not see the Foo Dogs standing guard.

Well, I sure hope this helps all of you stay safe from trolls. I don't know if any of this stuff really works but we can all try it and see what happens. I, personally, am going to go the 'bino route since we have Bucky in residence. Dad said he won't get us Foo Dogs but he does have a pair of magnetic Scotty dogs that might do the trick. Hmm...I'm not sure about that. Let me know how you do on your troll fighting. Good luck, everybody!

Baxter

Take a look at our past auctions.



Watch for up-coming auctions to benefit Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome research! The more you bid, the more we find out about the cause and treatment of this dreaded disease.

Adopt-A-Hedgie for Your Class

Linda Woodring

1. This program offers a good opportunity for youngsters to learn about the care and responsibility of having a pet and also about hedgehogs themselves. It could be coupled with animal education such as the reading of Jan Brett's books about hedgehogs

2. The Hedgehog Welfare Society has many rather "chatty" hedgehogs that they will pair up with your class. Hopefully, your class can be matched with a hedgehog who lives in your area of the country.

3. Your students can e-mail their hedgehog with questions about him, his food, his cage, his toys, etc.

4. The hedgehog will send personal answers back to each student answering their questions from the hedgie point of view.

5. If your computer system allows it, pictures of the hedgehog can be sent to your class so they will know what he looks like. They could be sent by snail-mail if need be.

6. If the hedgehog lives nearby, perhaps the the hedgehog and his guardian could come in at some point to talk to your class about hedgehogs. This would have to depend on the work schedule of the guardian. In some cases a visit may be impossible due to work commitments or distance.

7. If you'd like more information about this program or if you would like to "hook up" with a hedgie for your class, contact Linda Woodring at hedgiemom@comcast.net. Please put "classroom hedgie" in the email subject line.

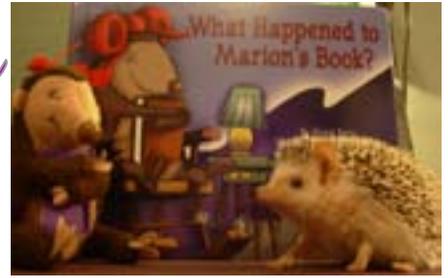




The Literary Hedgehog

Margaret Myhre

The Marion Trilogy: *What Happened to Marion's Book?*, *What Marion Taught Willis*, and *When Marion Copied*



Emmy poses with plush Marion and the first Marion book.

I. First the Fairy Tale

Once upon a time there was a young hedgehog who began her career as an exotic pet for a fourth-grade boy. When she and the boy failed to bond, she was given to the boy's teacher. After a couple of years the boy's teacher moved on but the little hedgehog remained behind as a fourth-grade classroom pet. At some point she went home to live with a teacher's aide and eventually she moved to a seventh grade science classroom. Over the years, she acquired several names including Velcro and Zipper but no one really took the time to get to know her or to learn how to care for her properly. Finally, after developing internal parasites and severe foot problems (her toenails had grown around her toes and back up into her feet), the hedgehog found a forever home with school librarian, Brook Berg.

Suddenly the lonely hedgehog was transformed from a down-and-out neglected pet to Marion, pampered hedge princess! She quickly acquired a plastic ferret ball and a custom-made, hedgehog-approved, exercise wheel. Not only that, she moved to a luxurious palace consisting of four spacious four-foot long translucent covered plastic boxes connected with 3" PVC piping! She had a room for her wheel, a room with a patio stone (to manicure her toenails), a dining room and a bathroom! Each room had a pipe, a box or a hat to provide plenty of places for privacy or napping!

Marion's palace was installed on top of a library shelf where she could watch the students as they selected their books. Every afternoon the ferret ball was placed in one of her rooms. Her slaves would tap on the ball to signal Marion and she would eagerly jump into it to tour of the library or the school hallways! Marion's weekends were spent at Brook Berg's home. Her box house, wheel and ball always traveled with her and she also had week-end access to a five-foot swimming pool and many toys.

After nearly four years as a pampered library celebrity, Marion died of old age.

2. Then the Books

Brook Berg has written three picture books about using the library. All three feature Marion in a starring role as a little girl hedgehog who aspires to be a librarian when she grows up.

In the first story, *What Happened to Marion's Book?*, Marion spills jam on her library book while reading at the breakfast table. Her frantic efforts to clean the book are very entertaining and effectively teach students how to—and how not to—take care of their library books. *What Happened to Marion's Book?* is a particular favorite with the younger students at the two schools where I work. They really sympathize with Marion as she tries to salvage her ruined library book.

The next book, *What Marion Taught Willis*, bravely tackles a notoriously dry library subject—the Dewey Decimal System. During "Career Day" at school Willis teases Marion when she says she wants to be a librarian when she grows up. Marion dares Willis to meet her at the Media Center so she can show him the interesting books he can find there. Willis can't turn away from a dare so Marion is able to convince him that the Dewey System will make it easy for him to find books on interesting topics. The story really engages students who enjoy discovering where books on their favorite topics can be found.

The third book, *When Marion Copied*, offers a clear, child-friendly explanation of plagiarism and how to avoid it. Marion is pleased when the teacher begins reading her report in class. But when he goes on to read the reports of a second student and a third, Marion realizes that the reports are identical because the students have copied the same Internet page on the topic! Her teacher explains what plagiarism is, describes its consequences and presents techniques to avoid it.

The books feature large, colorful illustrations by Nathan Alberg and a photograph of Marion the hedgehog. They were published by *Upstart Books* of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, a publisher which specializes in creative ideas for library and classroom learning. A small plush version of Marion is also available. All may be ordered through *Upstart Books* or *Amazon.com*.

On behalf of the Rescue Committee...

We would like to extend a heart felt thank you to everyone involved with hedgehog rescue.

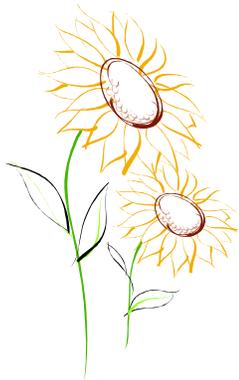
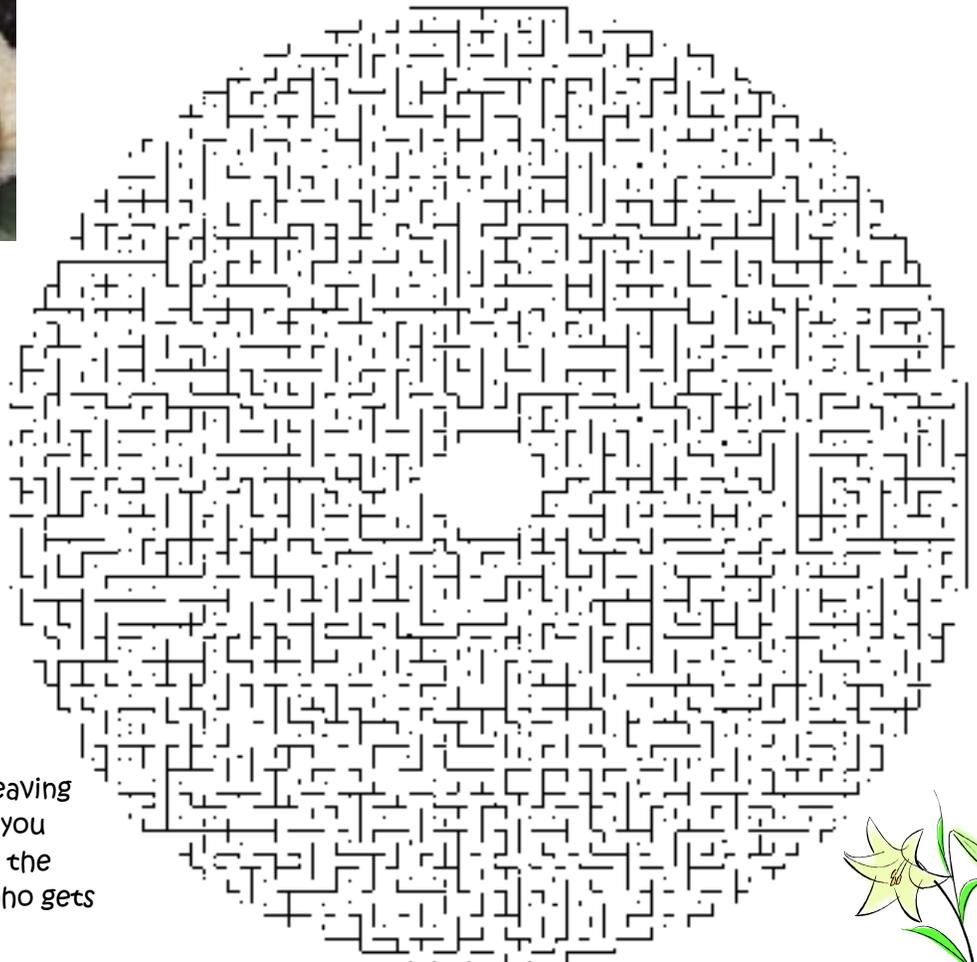
Including:

1. The person or persons who notify *HWS* when a hedgie needs a forever home.
2. The people who have applied for, been approved and run the rescue stations. They care for hedgehogs until a forever home can be found.
3. Everyone who adopts hedgehogs and gives them loving homes.
4. Everyone involved with donating to, assembling and sending care packages to rescued hedgehogs.
5. Everyone on the list for their ongoing support and the vast knowledge they share everyday.
6. The veterinary staff who see our wonderful quilled friends.
7. Everyone who has donated time, energy, ideas and funds to the *HWS*.

Thanks everyone, for making a big difference in a hedgehog's life.



Lucy Laughs



START

Lucy loves to run in her wheel, leaving tracks where ever she can. Can you make tracks from the **START** to the center of the wheel. Let's see who gets there first... you or Lucy!



Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey 11th Annual Conference

Sheila Dempsey and Murfi Jackson reporting

The AWFNJ Conference is an opportunity for shelters, humane societies and other rescue organizations to gather together for educational opportunities and networking. At the organization's recent conference, we met people from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Delaware and Maryland. Major sponsors included *Petfinder.com*, *Petco Foundation* and *Petsmart Charities*.

Thursday when I got home from work (I took off early) we loaded up the car and set off for the Garden State. We had the GPS programmed and the kids safely loaded. We left around 7 and got to the hotel around midnight.

The conference started on Friday morning at 8 am with a quick and easy registration. We received name badges and tote bags full of information. Among classes offered during the two days were *Shelter Operations 101*, *Old Board Members Learning New Tricks*, *Adoption Matches*, *Analyzing Ethical Dilemmas in Animal Welfare*, *Disaster Preparedness: Pet First Aid*, and *Emergency Wildlife Handling*.

Exhibitors could set up between 9 am and noon since the exhibit hall didn't open until noon. We took stuff down around 11 and set up our table. Unfortunately, I left our camera at home. We had the table cloth that Cindy De La Rosa made with the HWS logo on it, newsletters, *Share with a Shelter* sheets, HWS trifolds, candy and hand sanitizer on one part of the table. Leo and Tru occupied the other part of the table in their little play pen corral.

People started coming through around 11:45 and Leo and Tru were a big hit! Everyone thought they were softer than they looked. Leo was especially well behaved. He and Tru had been promised lots of wormies for being good. I think that was the secret to his compliance! We left them under their hats and just lifted up the hats to show them off or let people pet them.

Overall, people were very impressed with our newsletter for its professional look and colorful content. Thanks to everyone who sent us color copies so that we had enough to hand out. We also received compliments on the *Share With A Shelter* sheet. The other things that received a lot of attention were the hedgeie hats themselves. People were very impressed with such a great and perfect solution to a hedgeie's need to cover up and feel secure.

During lunch the *Hero to Animals* awards were presented. There were two recipients. I wish I had thought to take notes because I don't remember who the first award went to. The second one went to a high school stu-

dent who helped get a bill passed in New Jersey which gives students the option of using a computer model to dissect in biology class instead of a real animal. Prior to this bill, students who refused to dissect animals received an automatic "F".

From 5:30 – 8:30, the exhibit hall was open and the reception was going on. We had lots of visitors at our table. Leo and Tru were held quite a lot. Many people remembered HWS from prior years and were excited to see us again, knowing we are doing well and continuing in our good work. The reception was nice, good food and one free drink per person.

Saturday it was back at 8 for breakfast and then opening up the table at 9. From 9:15 to 10, we listened to the keynote address by Mike Arms of the *Helen Woodward Animal Center* in San Diego, California. Mike gave a very touching and motivational speech. He encouraged shelters to keep the adoption fee for their animals up rather than lowering it in hopes of increasing the number of adoptions. He said this devalues the animal in the mind of adopters. We are all in a business--the business of saving lives. Without the adoption fees, we go out of business and that is a horrible thing.

At lunch on Saturday we saw a video about how *Petfinder.com* was founded. Did you know it was started one New Year's Eve by a couple who were looking for a way to harness the power of the Internet for a worthwhile charity? They started out running the program from their apartment with the help of a couple of neighbors. Over the past 11 years it has grown to the fantastic organization we now know. The 2007 *Scott McVay UNITY* award was presented to a feral cat trap, neuter and release program (Again, I couldn't take notes, so forgive the lack of names).

The *Emergency Wildlife Handling* class was very good. Susan Greene from *Petfinder.com* presented it. She is a certified wildlife rehabber in New York State. About 30 people attended the class. Susan emphasized that animal control officers and shelters are ambassadors to the public and should always use every opportunity to create a good relationship with the public. She covered many topics, among them were legal issues, health concerns, working with officials, safety issues, when not to act and equipment.

Murfi and I want to thank the HWS for the opportunity to go to the conference. It was a privilege. While there we met a new friend from Southern Maryland. We will be taking the hedgehogs to her shelter meeting in May if everything works out okay. Of course we'll be handing out HWS info there too.

