



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 #34, MARCH / APRIL 2008

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Welcome Spring!



Mrs. Figglywinkle Gardner

I visited Pat Storm in 2000 to get Tiggy as a baby. She died in 2003 of cancer (five different types in her little body). She was sweet and very personable. She loved to roam around outside (at that time I had a very safe place to take her outside). When she was really on the move I had to trot to keep up with her. I had plans to go to the hedgie show in Niagara Falls and this was to be her entry in the costume contest. Plans changed and we did not go to the show. I still have the basket and accessories stored away as I still miss her greatly.

~Naomi Wikane

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HEDGIES VISIT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Cyndy Bennett & Jennifer Plombon

On Monday February 4, 2008, a small group of hedgehogs and their moms went to the University of Minnesota to teach third-year vet students about hedgehogs. The group consisted of Presley, Daisy and Jennifer Plombon and Cuddles, Snuggles, Princess and Cyndy Bennett. Of course the hedgehogs were the stars of the presentation.

course, all the hedgehogs were of different sizes, shapes and personalities. This gave the students some exposure to the hedgehog world. They got to touch, pet and see the hedgehogs up close and observe different behaviors. They were able to look at hedgehog teeth and commented that there were a lot more teeth than they had expected. Thankfully no one was bitten. The girls provided a number of different vocal sounds for the students to hear.



Django - Infected Penile Sheath from Clumping Litter



Lucy - Large Myxosarcoma Tumor

Handouts of the presentation outline were available to all the students who attended. Jennifer talked about how to care for hedgehogs, the different illnesses affecting the hedgehog population and their nutritional needs. She talked to the students about how to handle hedgehogs when they see them as clients. The warning "lick, lick, chomp" and the explanation of how to get a hedgehog to let go of your skin seemed to get a lot of attention. The costs of owning a hedgehog were also discussed, including not only home care expenses but veterinary expenses as well.



Noah James - Apocrine Gland Carcinoma

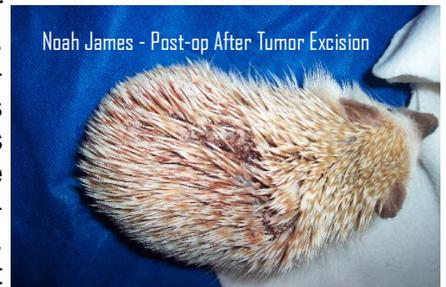
The topic of hedgehog rescue and re-homing caught a lot of attention. The students asked questions concerning Hedgehog Rescue Stations. Some expressed an interest in getting involved. We described some of the good and sad experiences we have encountered.



Cuddles - Post-op After Spay

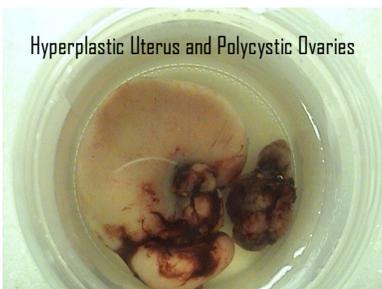
The students asked many good questions concerning the health issues of hedgehogs. They enjoyed the hands on encounters with the hedgehogs that were there. Of

Snuggles showed the students just how fast a hedgehog can move and almost got away a few times. These experiences emphasized the importance of not taking the eyes off the hedgehog for a second. Presley demonstrated just how relaxed and laid back some hedgehogs can be by showing off her tummy and lounging on Jennifer's arm. Daisy showed them that hedgehogs like to hide and used her hedgegie hat for the demonstration. Cuddles demonstrated how curious some hedgehogs are. Her little nose did not stop twitching the whole time. She checked out each and every student she could. Princess was a little shy at first, then warmed up to the idea that the students wanted to see her.



Noah James - Post-op After Tumor Excision

The entire experience was rewarding for everyone involved--the hedgehogs, their owners and the veterinary students.



Hyperplastic Uterus and Polycystic Ovaries

Of course, all the hedgehogs were of different sizes, shapes and personalities. This gave the students some exposure to the hedgehog world. They got to touch, pet and see the hedgehogs up close and observe different behaviors. They were able to look at hedgehog teeth and commented that there were a lot more teeth than they had expected. Thankfully no one was bitten. The girls provided a number of different vocal sounds for the students to hear.



Phileas Hogg Visits Washington State

As reported by Margaret Myhre

Phileas Hogg II, roving plush representative of the Hedgehog Welfare Society, spent the month of January in Spokane, Washington. Although, Mr. Hogg had visited Washington State on at least one other occasion, this was his first visit to the colder eastern side of the state.

With a fully booked schedule, Phileas also hopes to slip across the border into Idaho, one of the handful of states he has never visited. Just prior to his trip to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, he sat down for an interview with an intrepid reporter from *The Hedgehog Welfare Society Newsletter*.



Panhandling in the Idaho panhandle.



Phil models his Cataldo School uniform and Gonzaga hat at the GU library.

Reporter: Thanks for meeting with me today, Mr. Hogg. I understand you've had a very busy schedule here in eastern Washington.

P.H.: Yes, that's true. I visited the libraries at two elementary schools, talked to kids in classes ranging from preschool to fifth grade, and even helped with story times for three kindergarten classes, two first grade classes, and three second grade classes. I also talked to the kids about hedgehogs; you know where they live, what they eat, how they are not the same as porcupines, the usual stuff.

Reporter: I understand you helped set up some displays too.

P.H.: Yes, I have. At St. Mary's School, I took lots of photos out of my scrapbooks and put them up on the library bulletin board. Of course I included the map that shows all the states I've visited and the librarian helped me find some hedgehog story books to display on the shelf just below the bulletin board.

After a couple of weeks I moved on to Cataldo School and set up the same display in a big glass case near the vice-principal's office. Heh, heh, I think they moved all the sports trophies out to make room for my stuff!

Reporter: What other places have you visited?

P.H.: Well, I went to Gonzaga University and visited with a huge bulldog who is their mascot. A singer and actor named Bing Crosby was a student at Gonzaga a long time ago before he became famous. There is a building on the campus that is named after him. It used to be the library but now it's a student center with a post office, meeting rooms and stuff. They have a whole room full of Bing Crosby memorabilia like his gold records, his Oscar and things like that. I had my photo taken with his Oscar and again with his portrait. I even signed his guest book! I was scheduled for a photo shoot with a huge bronze statue of Mr. Crosby, but it was too snowy to get to it. It's been postponed until all the icicles fall off Bing, but I might get to do it later.

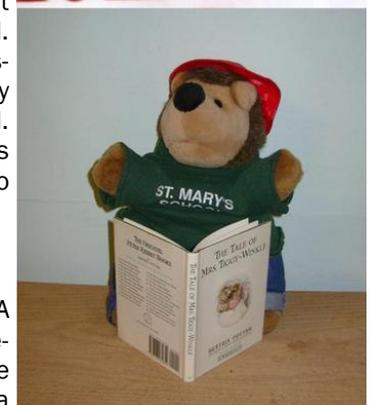
I also visited the library at Gonzaga. It's huge!

Reporter: Have you picked up any souvenirs during your trip?

P.H.: I have two school uniforms that I wore during my visits to schools—a dark green sweatshirt from St. Mary's and a white turtleneck sweater and navy blue polar fleece vest from Cataldo. At Gonzaga I was given a navy blue stocking cap with a bulldog emblem and a "Go Zags!" button.

When I first went to St. Mary's, I felt kind of shy wearing the school uniform. So when I met my first class, the fourth grade, I was wearing my raincoat over my green sweatshirt. I was introduced to the class and I showed them my map and photos. Then I was hot so I took off my raincoat. They all applauded when they saw my St. Mary's uniform. It was really cool. In fact that has been my favorite part of my visit here.

READ



Presenting a book report on Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle to students at St. Mary's School.



Fearless bronze bulldog protects Phileas from the snow.



Standing on the pier at Lake Coeur d'Alene in Idaho.

Thoughts from the Chief Volunteer Officer

Linda Woodring

This month I just thought I would say a few words about choosing the right vet for your little one(s).

Before I got my first hedgehog, I started looking for a vet in my area who would take care of hedgehogs. There was a vet just a couple of blocks from our house who I thought would be perfect. I stopped in one day and asked to speak to him. He was a very nice man but when I asked him if he took care of hedgehogs, he answered, "Yes, but nothing much can go wrong with a hedgehog other than mites." Ooops...scratch him off my list.

Well, I picked up my little guy and still hadn't found a good vet. One day I was at the local pet store buying worms and happened to mention that I was looking for a good exotic vet in the area. The woman in line behind me said she had birds and had a wonderful vet that specialized in exotics. That's how I found Dr. Sam and his office is only about a mile from our house. I didn't even know that clinic was there.

Now we do live in the Chicago area so I realize that we have a lot more choices than some of you who live in more rural areas. But if you are having trouble finding a good vet with exotic experience, check the vet list on hedgehogwelfare.org or just ask around. Find people with birds, reptiles, or small animals and ask about their vets. Then go in and talk to the vet. I think even if you don't know a lot about hedgehogs yourself, you can get a feel for whether the vet really knows what to do or the vet is just willing to try anything. And remember, if there is no one with experience in your area, maybe you can find a good vet who is willing to learn. A lot of people on the list have vets who will take telephone calls or e-mails from other vets when they run into problems. You can also post to one of the Yahoo groups to see if there is anyone living near you who can recommend a good vet. There are options to help your little ones get the best of care when they are sick or have an accident.

-- 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 hedgie 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
- Decorated TP Tube
- Red Hat Poem
- Welcome Card
- Beautiful Thick Red Hat Lap Pad
- Laminated Membership ID Card
- Membership Certificate
- Photo Page in *The Red Hat Album*

Each member will receive a special gift and card on their succeeding birthdays. The committee will also be sending out a monthly newsletter. Once a hedgie 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.

The Literary Hedgehog

Margaret Myhre



Hedgehogs in the Hall by Ben M. Baglio.
 (Animal Ark series #5) New York: Scholastic, Inc. 1994.

The *Animal Ark* series from Scholastic, Inc. is a British import for elementary school children. It consists of more than 50 titles detailing the adventures of the animals at the Animal Ark Veterinary Clinic. The principal character, Mandy Hope, helps her veterinarian parents care for animals of all sizes both inside and outside the clinic.

In *Hedgehogs in the Hall*, the fifth installment in the series, Mandy and her friend James help rescue an injured mother hedgehog and her tiny babies. However, they know the wild creatures can't stay long at Animal Ark. Their goal is to find a way to safely release the hedgehogs back to the wild but their efforts are hampered by their young new neighbor Claire who wants to keep the babies as pets in her home.

The book has more depth than most series titles for children. It clearly addresses the issues discussed by Z.G. Standing Bear in his article *They've Gone Batty in the Colonies (Again!)* which appeared in the January/February issue of the *Hedgehog Welfare Society Newsletter*. Of course, the discussion is presented at a child's level but the concept is there nevertheless.

In this case a sort of compromise is reached. The neighbors pitch in to make the garden behind Claire's home into escape-proof but protected and safe environment for the injured mother hedgie and her young family.

Hedgehogs in the Hall is currently out of print but multiple used copies are available through *Amazon.com*, *Abe-Books.com* and Barnes and Noble (www.bn.com). This book is appropriate for readers in grades 3—6.



Do you have an idea for Lucy Laughs? You can e-mail the editor with your ideas.
 ~Editor

Lucy Laughs

Hedgie Band

Can you unscramble these words to find out what kind of instruments will be in the Hedgie Band?

ruagti
 oabjn
 dusmr
 niodarcca
 uttrem
 niaop
 nroag
 ftule

iaclretn
 anxhaeosp
 mtbenoro
 mrenatoib
 oilvin

eldifd
 hrpa
 ydabrcoe
 eoob
 bslycom

Welcome to Pog-Chit-Chat...

Where hedgies tell it like it is.

I'm With the Band!

By Winceston Hatch Reichert

how the band started is that i wrote a song. it is not a poem. i is a manly hedgeboyz (no wimmens allowed) and manly hedgeboyz don't write poems. i posted the song on Pog-Chit-Chat it is called *The Trolls and Cupids Song* but some call it *Cuddles Warned Us*. i also posted that my dad he says he will writes music for my song. here is my song.

The Trolls and Cupids Song

my friend cuddles is so brave.
all of us hedgies she did save.
she did! she sent out a warning!
beanies on guard 'til morning!

and my friend baxter he do says
these things to keep them at bays.
bells, crosses, shouts, and steel too.
also lights, albinos and dogs of foo

is it trolls, or could it be cupids?
either, beware, don't be stupids.
why to beware we hedgies knows.
trolls ascare us, cupids shoots bows.

what do they wants, i mean realies.
do they come to steal our mealies?
maybes they comes for all our toys.
maybes our wheels, our favrite joys?

so if you hears thump in the night
dive in your blankies out of sight.
make sures you has beanie protection
and you has a fierce foo dog section.

everbody wanted to hears it and my dad he says that since he has all the quipment and everthing, he would also records it. i asked my dad if i could learn to play the guitar like him and he says to me that he will teach me. Then i typed wouldn't it be cool that if anybody else plays guitars or basses or drums or sings, that we could has a



band! a lots a lots of everbody did. that is how the band started. we did a poll of all the name sgestions for the band and chosed *The Pog-Chit-Chat Band* because we thought that that says best what the band is. friends havng fun, and helping others.

anybody who is a friend on Pog-Chit-Chat cans be with the band if they wants. the band so fars is hedgies, a pos-

sum, wet noses, meowys, a tenrec and our humans. we has so many different of instruments, and lead and backup vocals. we has composers to write the words for songs that is original music that we cans record, and for fun songs that is the music of songs that everybody already knows that we cans perform at concerts. we has a cho-reographer and dancers, a technical crew and roadies. we has security and band support. and we has group-ies! Hee-hee-hee



our band website will has our bios and pictures and tour dates and how to order the album. we will also has t-shirts and other stuffs to sell and any monies we make will be for the hedgehog welfare society. i thinks that *The Pog-Chit-Chat Band* will be a really cool way to help a lots of people learn bout Pog-Chit-Chat and the HWS.

Send your band experiences to the editor and you can read about it in one of our future issues.



Hedgehog Trivia:

By: Margaret Myhre

If you have ever considered the matter at all, the one characteristic shared by both hedgehogs and cactus is obvious – spines! It should be no surprise then that at least one cactus has been named after a hedgehog. But it may surprise you to know that an entire genus of cacti have the name ***Echinocereus*** which is derived from the Greek word for hedgehog. The plants are small to medium-sized, cylindrically shaped, and ribbed cacti. Their flowers are usually large and most produce edible fruit.

The species *Echinocereus engelmannii*, has several common names including: Calico Cactus, Dagger-Spine Hedgehog, Engelmann's Hedgehog, Howe Hedgehog, Indian Strawberry Cactus, Munz's Hedgehog Cactus, Needle-Spine Hedgehog, Purple-Spined Hedgehog, Strawberry Hedgehog, and Varied-Spine Hedgehog. *Echinocereus ferreir-anus* is more commonly known as Hedgehog Cactus, Lindsays Cactus, or Lindsays Hedgehog Cactus.

The species *Echinocereus pectinatus* may be identified as Comb Hedgehog Cactus, Lace Cactus, Purple Candle Cactus, or Rainbow Cactus. The species *Echinocereus rigidissimus* includes plants commonly known as Arizona Rainbow Hedgehog Cactus and Sonoran Rainbow Cactus.

Hedgehog cacti are generally found in the south western United States and Mexico although some varieties may be found as far north as Wyoming and North and South Dakota.

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<http://www.answers.com/topic/hedgehog-cactus>

Ohr, Martina, and Andreas Ohr. [Echinocereus Online](#). 11 Apr. 2007. 12 Feb. 2008
<<http://www.echinocereus.de/>>.



MARCH

- Mar 3 Anastasia Beaverhousen Storm
- Mar 3 Emaeth Storm
- Mar 6 Cotton Marie Ophoff
- Mar 8 Tinks Muckenfuss
- Mar 10 Snuggles Hannah Bennett

- Mar 13 Kiana Shore
- Mar 20 Gypsy Rose Lamb
- Mar 22 Keegan Lamb
- Mar 22 Starla Storm
- Mar 23 Isabelle Muckenfuss

APRIL

- Apr 1 April Storm
- Apr 17 Julia Amelia Fitzpatrick
- Apr 21 Kokoma Pozder

What a Hedgehog Means to Me

By: Sheila Dempsey

A Hedgehog means love. Sure, I know they don't typically come running to you like the family dog does, although some do. But look in those inquisitive little eyes next time you are holding your hedgie and you will see a lot of love. They appreciate the things we provide for them.

A Hedgehog means companionship. That little ball of prickles can fit into an apartment lifestyle and keep you company. You can watch him play with a tube then when he tires himself out, pick him up for a cuddle session.

A Hedgehog means learning to handle mealworms. Squirmy wormies! This is not something I ever envisioned myself doing but I positively love my mealworm farm because it gives my hedgies a healthy pleasure.

A Hedgehog means interesting conversation. When people ask you if you have any pets, they never expect the answer "I have hedgehogs." Then you get to answer all kinds of questions and you might even make hedgehog fans out of them.

A Hedgehog means friendship. I have met some of the most wonderful people through HWS and its Yahoo Groups. Though I know most of them only through on-line friendships, I still count them among my friends and appreciate the common bond we have in the love of

hedgehogs and their welfare.

A Hedgehog means work. Scrubbing poopy wheels is not the most wonderful task in the world. But when I think of the pleasure a wheel provides, it is totally worth it and it doesn't really take that long after all. Cage cleaning is work, too, but compared to what I get back in terms of love, it is a small favor for a friend.

A Hedgehog means Poop Boots. What other critter can so fashionably display poop?

A Hedgehog means rescue at my house. Both of our girls are rescues and they have known some hard times before coming to live with us.

A Hedgehog means hospice. Mr. Prickles is with us for hospice due to WHS. He is a very determined little fellow and is holding his own against this dreaded disease. We have taken in several others before him and we have loved them all, helping them see more days and fight the good fight until the

Rainbow Bridge called their names.

Did I miss anything? You are welcome to write to me with your ideas of what a hedgehog means to you. Just send your emails to me at SexyTaxy@comcast.net and we will publish them in the newsletter once we get enough for another column.



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

Sophie Rose Houze
is ready for Easter to come.