



# 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 #35 July/August 2008

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## Introducing Our Newest Board Member



Kristen Zorbini-Bongard

I'm a 28-year-old hedgehog enthusiast who is excited to be lending her skills to the Hedgehog Welfare Society Board! Lawyer trained (practicing part-time) and with a particular interest in animal law, I hope to bring my expertise and advocacy skills to my new post. I've been a member of the Hedgehog Welfare Society since 2004 and a rescuer for nearly as long. Since then, I've had 7 hedgies in my life, and helped to rehome dozens others. I am newly married to Mike, a PhD candidate studying Plasma Physics who hopes to figure out that whole nuclear fu-

sion thing (if you're interested, he'll talk your ear off about it), and am currently the very lucky mom to two beautiful hedgie girls, Harriet and Bianca. Harriet, who appears in the picture with me, looks just like her sister, but is the smaller and more vocal of the two. They're lovely albinos and will be there to meet and greet anyone who comes to the Milwaukee show in a few months!

Besides hedgehogs and law, I \*do\* have some time for hobbies. I was originally a music major in college, and so from time to time the music bug still bites. Right now I'm feeding it with a cute little pink guitar that I play around with from time to time. I am also an avid reader, averaging 1-2 books a week (the benefit of working part-time). I enjoy doing things outside, keeping active, and eating healthy (sounds strange, but it really helps with the headaches). I also love to play with my Wii, especially Dance Dance Revolution. I am also an avid photo-taker (I'll leave the title of "photographer" to those with fancy cameras who take *good* photos!), and have most of my pictures up in my online gallery. You can see them at <http://gallery.kravlor.com>. There are plenty of pictures of my hedgehogs, for sure!

Again, I am honored to be a part of the HWS Board, and hope that my training can be of assistance in my new post!  
~Kristen

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## Our Hedgies and Their Medications: Prescription and OTC Medicines and Pet Hedgehogs

Gioia Kerlin

This two-part article is the result of an extensive May, 2008 interview with my veterinarian, Dr. Kenneth G. Coldwell at VCA Veterinary Medical Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dr. Coldwell has significant experience with hedgehogs, as well as with a variety of other exotic animals, including serval cats, skunks, raccoons, coatimundis, reptiles, birds, tenrecs, etc. I would like to thank Dr. Coldwell for taking the time to do this interview with me. I am sure it will prove very helpful to many hedgegie guardians.

The first part of the article deals with common over-the-counter medications and some prescription steroids. The second part will deal with narcotic and non-narcotic pain relievers, anti-nausea medications and others.

Q: Let's start with some of the common OTC medications that most people will have easy access to. How about aspirin? Can we give aspirin to hedgehogs?

A: There are better choices than aspirin. Aspirin, for dogs and cats (which are our base organisms we think about for veterinary care) even one dose causes mild erosions of the stomach mucosa. So although it can be given, there are better non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines, namely Metacam (Meloxicam), which is easier to give because of its liquid formulation anyway, and there's more information about giving it to hedgehogs as well. It's much easier than trying to grind up aspirin which tastes nasty. Nobody likes that!

Q: And Ibuprofen? I bet that's about the same thing?

A: Yeah, although you can use it in dogs, normally we don't use it in either cats or dogs because it can cause liver and kidney issues like many other anti-inflammatory medications. Given this and the fact that I don't know of anyone who is using this with hedgehogs or tenrecs, I go with the safer products we have out there. And once again, since Meloxicam is a liquid, it's much easier to give anyway.

Q: And Pepto-Bismol?

A: Pepto-Bismol, although it has salicylates in it which is the base for aspirin, which is where some of its pain medication comes from, we do use it sometimes since it has some benefit for soothing the tummy mucosa, helps with pain, and can coat some inflammation. But in the long run, it's something I rarely recommend. One, because a lot of times they vomit it back up, and the taste is not very good in the first place, so I think there are better products like Carafate or Famotidine. That we can use to get the

same types of benefits..

Q: How about Pepto-Bismol with some of the prescription medications like Prednisolone and Prednisone?

A: There is a minor chance for an interaction because of the salicylates in it and the Prednisone. You never want to give non-steroidal anti-inflammatories and corticosteroids. You are asking to cause an ulcer if you give both of these at the same time.

Q: So that's why we don't use Meloxicam and Prednisone at the same time?

A: Absolutely.

Q: How about Kaopectate?

A: It's actually not a product I use. It's more of an intestinal protectant, a soothing agent, it's just not something I use in exotics or other animals. It's something that just comes down to a preference. I know veterinarians who use it, I just have other things I use for the same situations.

Q: And are those things mostly prescription products?

A: Well, prescription and over the counter. Carafate and Sucralfate is too, but Famotidine isn't.

Q: That's what Pepcid is, right?

A: Yeah. They are not the exact same thing by any means but they can have similar benefits for the same conditions.

Q: For diarrhea you mean?

A: Not so much diarrhea. Kaopectate is more of a soothing agent for the intestinal tract. Rather than give this medication for any length of time, I'd be much more inclined to figure out what the problem is and approach it from another angle.

Q: How about psyllium? I know I have used that in hedgehogs before and it's worked really well.



*Continues on page 3...*

A: Yeah! I mean, it's hard to give too much fiber. It can be really beneficial for bulking stool up, for intestinal bacterial overgrowth. It can help correct that by having higher amounts of fiber in the stool, which can help hinder the growth of the bad bacteria. So it's always beneficial in that respect.



Q: And so it hinders the growth of the bad bacteria because it gives it (the bad bacteria) a not-so-friendly environment in which to proliferate?

A: Yes. Exactly right.

Q: Children's Benadryl is something some of our hedgehog people have tried.

A: Yes, and really, antihistamines in general. Benadryl is diphenhydramine, there are a lot of other ones. They're one of the most used over the counter drugs because allergies are so rampant in dogs and cats, whether it be food allergies or inhaled allergies. So they may be of benefit although it's really hard to decide whether or not a hedgehog or tenrec has allergies. There's no real good way to test for it and a lot of times it's just a matter of ruling everything else out and then going with that. Most of the time, I think their allergies are associated with food intake.

Q: Instead of environmental allergies?

A: Right, instead of environmental. Benadryl isn't necessarily going to help as much with that. It's really a matter of getting rid of the source that's causing the reaction. Usually, for animals it's an environmental thing. Either their environment is too dusty, or it's their bedding that's irritating them, who knows. But it's more of an irritant rather than an actual allergy. So I'd be more apt to look for the source than to treat it symptomatically.

Q: This is pretty much the list of OTC medications that I

have so let's talk a little bit about prescription medicines. We've already briefly discussed Prednisone and Prednisolone, what exactly is the difference between these two?

A: Prednisolone is the active form of the corticosteroid. When you take Prednisone, it gets metabolized by the liver into Prednisolone. The reason we have both available is that some cats lack the ability to utilize Prednisone appropriately--they can't metabolize it into Prednisolone--so you have to give them Prednisolone to get it to work. We don't have the information for a lot of other exotic species, whether that's the case for them or not, so in general I think giving Prednisolone is probably better because you're not so dependent on hepatic metabolism to make sure they get it in the active form.

Q: We already discussed that you can't use Prednisone or Prednisolone with Metacam.

A: Right--or any steroid. Neither Depo-Medrol, nor Triamcinolone, which is like Kenalog and other corticosteroids. None of that stuff should ever be used in the same time period as non-steroidal anti-inflammatories like Metacam.

Q: Right. Now speaking of that, should someone try, if they can, to wait 48 hours before they give a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory after they've given a corticosteroid or visa-versa?

A: Yes, at least that long. It's very dependent upon how long they've been given the steroid. The other aspect is that you can't, or don't want, to stop it abruptly, because there are withdrawal aspects. You give Prednisone and it suppresses the adrenal glands which are always making natural corticosteroids in the body, and if you give exogenous (extra) steroids, it tells the adrenal glands "OK--Stop producing." Well if you give corticosteroids for long enough, the adrenal glands have atrophied and aren't producing. Then you take away the steroids and the adrenals aren't there to start producing again and the animal dies. It's the same as Addison's Disease, only that's a lack of steroids in the body, and that's a life-threatening disease. So that's why we always do decreasing doses when we're stopping Prednisone. So that's something to consider if you want to give Metacam. If you've been giving Prednisone for a long time, you want to make sure to decrease it and then wait for a while after the last dose. You know, it'd be best to wait three or four days but two days for some types of things is probably a fair amount of time.

[This concludes part one of our two-part series on prescription and OTC medications in hedgehogs. In the next installment we will continue our discussion of pain medications, anti-nausea medications, and others.](#)



# The Pinelope Project

Elizabeth Hatch Reichert

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*I came to envelope thee, please just remember me.*

*~ Pinelope*

The words above, written to me as a private memorial for Pinelope by my friend Bonnie Stubbins of Sir Snuffy's Hedgehog Sanctuary, somehow managed to pierce the fog of pain and disbelief that I had been living in during those initial days following Pinelope's death. And then, I began to see and hear and feel that her loss had not only been mine but also a loss to others in the hedgehog community. Pinelope was loved by so many. Heartfelt condolences filled with concern were in every post, email and phone call I received. Some were filled also with pain, those who were remembering their own losses to similar conditions, and those whose little girls were even then experiencing similar conditions. Some were filled also with the same questions that were screaming in my mind. Why did this have to happen? Why do so many of our little girls have these problems? What should be done? What shouldn't be done? I was almost relieved when the call for someone to take on a research project regarding the use of spaying as a preventive measure against ovarian and uterine diseases in female hedgehogs was posted. I knew then that I had found the way to remember her.

The Pinelope Project will first document existing research and compile statistics from other caregivers of female hedgehogs. I also will create a controlled study group for long-term monitoring and tracking of these health issues. A report of initial findings as well as updates to the report will be posted on The Pinelope Project website ([www.thepinelopeproject.com](http://www.thepinelopeproject.com)) and submitted to the Hedgehog Welfare Society for their files.

To those who have already submitted a survey, thanks! To those who **currently have, or have had**, a female hedgehog **with or without** ovarian and uterine diseases, and who would like to help, please visit the website or e-mail [me@thepinelopeproject.com](mailto:me@thepinelopeproject.com).

Maybe we will all find some of the answers to the questions, and question some of the answers.

## To the Rescue!

**Welcome New Rescue Contacts!**

A hardy welcome and thanks to Beth Reichart for becoming our newest rescue station. Beth is located in Deltona, FL and is already quite active in rescuing unwanted hedgehogs and giving them a loving new home. Thanks, Beth!

If you are interested in becoming a rescue contact, simply write to Sheila at [SexyTxy@comcast.net](mailto:SexyTxy@comcast.net) for an application.

**Thank you for your support!**  
**Sheila and Cyndy**

## Palm: A Handful of Fun

Margret Myhre

As an elementary school librarian with a pet hedgehog, I often receive little pet-related gifts from students—a sparkly pink plush hedgie for Valentine's Day, the mini hedgehog poster that recently appeared in *American Girl* magazine, little sketches and drawings, etc.

Recently, Paglia, a second-grader at one of my schools, brought me a tiny, plush hedgehog that she found during a spring vacation trip to California. "I call him Palm," she whispered, "because he fits right in the palm of my hand!"



Palm is about two and a half inches tall. He has longish, rust-colored plush where his quills should be, a wreath of white plush around his face, a sort of terry cloth tummy and paws, a shiny black nose, embroidered eyes and smiling mouth. And he does fit comfortably in the palm of my hand although I'm sure it's not as cozy as Paglia's eight-year-old sized hand.

Palm immediately moved into the tiny cubicle that serves as my office in the library. He is a very curious hedgie and especially enjoyed sitting on my computer keyboard where he could observe who was borrowing what and who was on the overdue list for the week.

When school let out for the summer, Palm moved to my home where he now presides over all computer-related tasks. He does miss the library, though, and when school reopens in the fall I know he will resume his rightful place as library supervisor.



If you have suggestions or ideas for items you would like to see in the newsletter, e-mail the editor at [newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org](mailto:newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org)

# Hedgehog Trivia

Margaret Myhre

## Hedgehog Trivia: *Hydnum repandum*

In previous *Hedgehog Trivia* articles we have seen that hedgehogs have loaned their name to many items including cucumbers, cactus, and sea urchins. It should come as no surprise that there is also a hedgehog fungus!

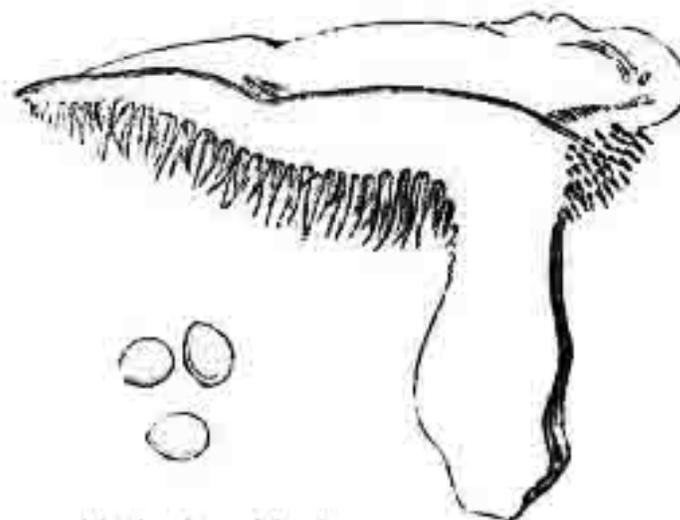
*Hydnum repandum*, or *Dentinum repandum*, more commonly known as the hedgehog mushroom, may be readily identified by its orange-tan color and the teeth or spines on its underside. The irregularly shaped cap is approximately eight inches wide. The stipe, or stem, may either be white or of the same color as the cap. The stem is quite short.

Hedgehog mushrooms are usually found in woodlands among coniferous or deciduous trees. They may appear in groups or, in true hedgehog form, singly. They are found throughout North America and Europe.

Mordecai Cubitt Cooke, an English botanist and mycologist, compared the fungus with the chanterelle in 1879 in his book *The Woodlands*:

In company with this last [the chanterelle], or in similar situations another fungus, usually larger and more irregular in form may be found, it is of a dull pinkish-white colour of a rather peculiar tint, with a very short, thickish stem and brittle substance. This may be recognized at once by the underside of the cap consisting not of gills or veins, but being covered with little teeth or spines, packed close together, like the spines of a hedgehog, so that this has been called the "Hedgehog Mushroom." It may be cooked and eaten, but the flavor is rather strong, which to some palates would be unpleasant. (page 108)

Cooke's book included the drawing of the hedgehog mushroom which is shown here.



Hedgehog Mushroom.

*Continues on page 7...*

In 1897 an article in *Godey's Magazine* titled "Mushroom Hunting as a Passtime" had a less favorable description of the Hedgehog Mushroom's flavor: "The taste was acrid and the odor slightly unpleasant. As an article of food they were hardly desirable, but they contained no injurious principle." (p. 525) The article also included the photograph which is included here.



Hedgehog Mushrooms.

In spite of these discouraging descriptions of its flavor, the hedgehog has developed a contemporary reputation as a delicious mushroom. *Wild About Mushrooms*, a cookbook published by the Mycological Society of San Francisco, offers several recipes featuring hedgehog mushrooms. These include recipes for Vegetarian Pickled Herring, Hedgehogs and Vegetables, Scalloped Hedgehogs, and Breast of Veal with Hedgehog Mushrooms. The recipes may be accessed at the Society's web site:

<http://www.mssf.org/cookbook/hedgehog.html>

Bon appetit!

Sources:

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Flint, Lillie C. "Mushroom Hunting as a Passtime." *Godey's Magazine*. New York [etc.]: The Godey company [etc.], 1897. Pp. 520—527.

Freedman, Louise. *Wild About Mushrooms: The Cookbook of the Mycological Society of San Francisco*. Berkeley, Calif: Aris Books, 1987. Retrieved from the Mycological Society of San Francisco Web site: <http://www.mssf.org/>

Kuo, M. (2003, August). *Hydnum repandum*. Retrieved from the *MushroomExpert.Com* Web site: [http://www.mushroomexpert.com/hydnum\\_repandum.html](http://www.mushroomexpert.com/hydnum_repandum.html)



### The Hedgehog

On the 1st of July,  
We got a hedgehog.  
On the 2nd of July,  
We made her tame.  
On the 3rd of July,  
We fed her mealies.  
On the 4th of July,  
We were asked if we'd keep her.  
On the 4th of July  
And two seconds, we did.

By A.ndrew Sierra, 1998

The following poem was written by my son, Andrew, when he was in the sixth grade.

We were asked to babysit a family's pet hedgehog while they went on vacation.

The hedgehog was grumpy and overweight but Andrew bonded with her immediately.

When the family returned from vacation, they asked Andrew if he would like to keep the hedgehog since the kids never played with her.

Snuffy lived with us for the next six years and became one of the most friendly hedgehogs I've ever met.

~~ 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
- 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 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.

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

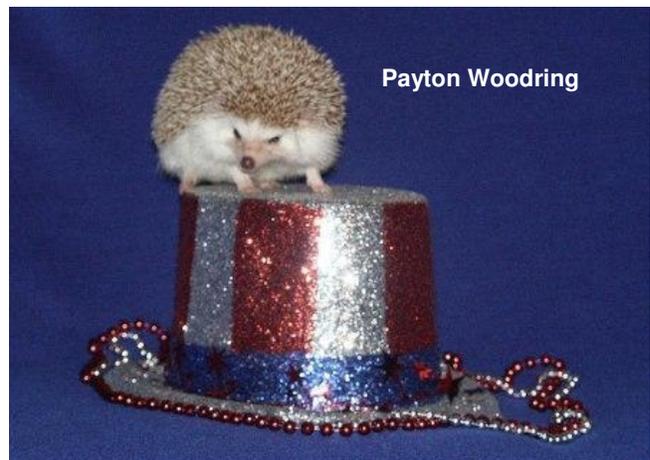
Send your pictures to [hedgiemom@comcast.net](mailto:hedgiemom@comcast.net)



Molly Weaver

Want to see your Hedgegie in the newsletter?

Send your photos in now so that they can be used in future issues.



Payton Woodring

# Safely Transporting Your Hedgehog: An Argument for Hard-Sided Carriers

Laura Dunklee



I am sure we've all seen them – maybe even purchased or used them – but have you ever thought about the hazards posed by transporting your beloved hedgehog in a soft-sided or fabric carrier? I'll be honest here – I've both purchased and used them myself. They are cute, they look comfy, and they are easy to store. And, I will admit, the hedgehogs seem to enjoy them. But I had never really considered whether or not these soft-sided carriers would protect my hedgehog in the event of a car accident.

But last summer, I was on a road trip and had several hedgehogs along in soft carriers. The carriers were secured in my back seat, nicely buckled in, and protected from direct sunlight coming in through the windows. There we were, tooling down the interstate, nary a cloud in sight, when someone drifted into our lane.

I immediately swerved to avoid them and this caused everything neatly stowed in the back seat to shift. I glanced over my shoulder and saw that a stack of wheels had toppled over and were now ON TOP of the soft carriers, crushing them down.



I immediately pulled over into the median, hit the hazard lights, and leapt from the car, dashing around to the passenger side door and yanking it open. I started grabbing and tossing the toppled wheels into the front seat and hurriedly opened the carriers. Thankfully, all of my hedgehogs were safe, though understandably grumpy at the erratic driving, the tumbling wheels, and then me yanking open their carriers. I tucked them back in, moved the wheels to the front seat, and got back into the car myself.

Then I sat there, lost in the adrenaline rush, horrified at what might have happened to the little ones in my care. I resolved that, from then on out, I would only transport my hedgehogs in hard-sided carriers.

So what, exactly, are the advantages of hard-sided carriers?

- Better protection for the animal inside the carrier,

should something fall or shift during transportation.

- Easier to secure using a seat belt.
- Easily identified by emergency personnel as being an animal carrier, in the event that you are unable to respond.
- Easy to clean, should your hedgehog choose to go to the bathroom while being transported.
- Easy to disinfect, should you have a hedgehog who is in quarantine or has a communicable disease, parasites, or mites.

Yes, I'll freely admit that the hard-sided carriers aren't nearly as cute as some of the soft-sided carriers. But I think that is a small compromise to make in the name of safety for your hedgehog. You can also decorate a hard-sided carrier with stickers or stencils or other crafty-things, should you be so inspired. Or, if you really want to use the soft-sided carriers, you could transport your hedgehog in a hard-sided carrier and then move them into a soft-sided carrier once you reach your destination.

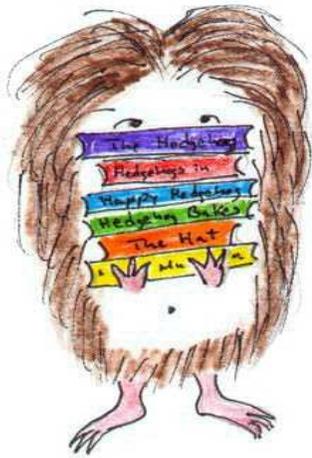
Here are some things to look for, when shopping for a hard-sided carrier:

- You will want it to be easy to assemble and disassemble so look at how the top and bottom latch together.
- You'll want something that is easy to reach into, in case your hedgehog is not interested in leaving the carrier once you reach your destination (like at the vet's office!). For these reasons, I like the carriers with a door or grate on top so you can reach down into the carrier to get your hedgegie.
- You'll want it to be easy to store. The top should nest into the bottom for stacking purposes.



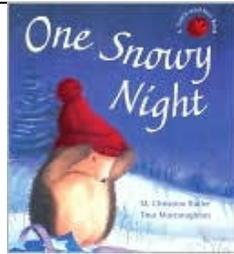
Yes, some hard-sided carriers are a little more expensive than soft-sided carriers but the cost difference is minimal. and it seems to be a reasonable investment in the safety of your hedgehog. After all, you feed your hedgehogs expensive, high-quality foods, provide them with spacious living areas and a myriad of toys – shouldn't you make the same investment for their travels?





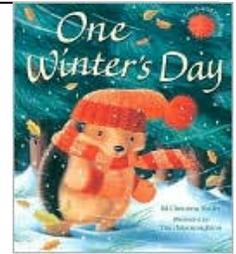
# The Literary Hedgehog

Jennifer Plombon &  
Margaret Myhre



## *One Snowy Night and One Winter's Day*

Written by M. Christina Butler  
and illustrated by Tina Macnaughton  
Reviewed by Jennifer Plombon



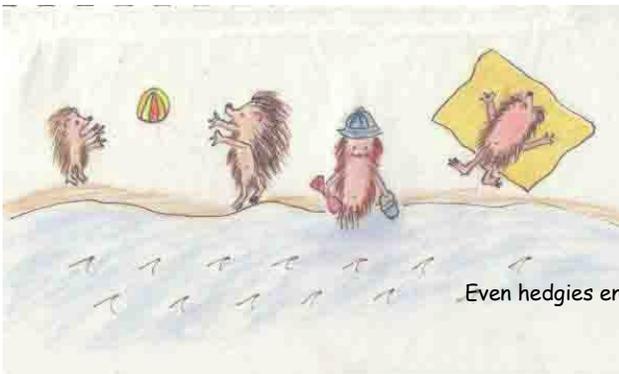
Dogs like to sniff things to experience them, hedgies like to lick lick chomp them, and children like to touch them. These two books will be very popular with children since they have touchable felt on almost every page.

Ms. Butler was born in England, and Miss Macnaughton in Scotland. Clearly they are familiar with hedgehogs, their behaviors, and their adorable appearance.

*One Snowy Night* tells the story of Little Hedgehog's Christmas gift: A bright red soft "wooly hat ... hedgehog size" which drops from the sky for him. Unfortunately, by the time he pulls and yanks and pulls again to get the hat over his prickles, it has become too large for him. He rewraps and relabels it and gives it to Rabbit. Rabbit's attempts to fit the hat over his ears stretch it even larger so he offers it to Badger. Badger finds that it obstructs his hearing and offers it to Fox. Fox, being the craftiest animal, makes ear holes in the hat and wears it. While exploring, he finds Little Hedgehog under the snow, cold and unmoving. In great sympathy, Fox tucks Little Hedgehog into the hat and brings him to Badger's home to be warmed up. So the hat finds its way back to him and turns out to be useful after all!

*One Winter's Day* is a lovely story of altruism and kindness. The bitter winter wind blows Little Hedgehog's leafy winter bed away. Putting on his hat, scarf and mittens, he sets off to find better shelter. Along the way he gives his hat to a family of cold mice whose home has also blown away, his mittens to an otter with cold paws, and his scarf to a shivering fawn. Cold and shelterless, Little Hedgehog becomes rolled up in snow and bumps his way into Badger's warm house where he is given tea and a warm cushion to sleep on. The illustration of the hedgehog curled on the cushion will melt your heart. After the storm, Badger walks Little Hedgehog back to where his home had been. Little Hedgehog worries over what he will use to build a home since everything has blown away. Imagine his delight when he finds a beautiful shelter made by his friends the mice, the otter, and the deer, using the warm clothing he had kindly given them.

The books' illustrations are absolutely adorable. They remind me of how and why I fell in love with hedgehogs, looking at those sweet little feet, that pointy little nose, that soft little tummy, those button-bright eyes ... Little Hedgehog, trudging through the snow with his scarf around his neck, will just melt you with cuteness. It is interesting that the author has turned enemies (or at least adversaries) into friends. Having visited St. Tiggywinkle's Wildlife Hospital in Aylesbury, England (<http://www.sttiggywinkles.org.uk/>), I know that foxes and badgers are among the greatest threats to hedgehogs; yet in these books, they are sources of great comfort and kindness to Little Hedgehog.



Even hedgies enjoy reading a book while sitting by the beach.

Artwork by Margaret Myhre

Both books are available from *Barnes & Noble* and I recommend adding them to your library of hedgehog books. You and any lucky children who can sit on your lap and stroke the "touch-me" pages will enjoy them.

*Continues on page 11...*



# THE CIRCLE OF LIGHT CEREMONY

Jennifer Plombon

Each month to commemorate our loved ones' lives, members of the Hedgehog Welfare Society convene a Circle on the date of the New Moon. Each participant lights a candle at the same time of day or night wherever they might be on the planet. Any loved one may be remembered-- any animal, any human. With the energy and spirituality of many loving souls simultaneously joined in a moment in time, each loved one's life is celebrated and remembered with love and joy.

Carol Fish Kregear and Judie Peters organized the Circle of Light in 2002 and it has been a loved and vital part of the HWS membership since that time. Anyone can request that a name be added to the Circle of Light Ceremony by posting a request on the Yahoo Welfare list or sending a request privately to [advohws@aol.com](mailto:advohws@aol.com). Be sure to put "Circle of Light" in the subject line. The list of names, and time and date of each month's Ceremony will be posted throughout the month on the Yahoo Welfare list.

Please join us in lighting a candle and sending loving wishes for a safe journey across the Bridge for our animal and human companions and sending healing wishes to the hearts of their human caretakers. For those new to the Ceremony, please just light a candle at the time listed and know that all around the world, other people are lighting candles as well, and sharing prayers and memories with you. Some people leave their candle lit for an hour, some for the evening but be very sure to blow it out when you leave the room. We want you to be safe! We are all so deeply sorry at the loss of such beloved companions and thankful for our lives with them.

Below are names from the most recent Ceremony, which took place on Tuesday, June 3, 2008.

- Amy, Tasha, and Danya (guardian Laura W)
- Heather & Blossom (guardian Carl D)
- All the people and animals in China who lost their lives in the earthquake
- All the people and animals in Burma/Myanmar, who lost their lives in the cyclone
- Quillie Nelson (guardian Elaine B)
- Majesty McMinn, chocolate point long-haired Siamese, (guardians Sonia & Michelle)
- Dick Robinson, beloved father-in-law to Chris H
- Fannie O'Dell, beloved Grandmother to Christina & her family
- Wanderlust, cat (guardians Katie and Eric)
- Vernon Kenneth Watson, beloved husband of Donna



**JULY**

- |        |                          |        |                      |
|--------|--------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Jul 4  | Pugsley Fleming          |        |                      |
| Jul 4  | Quinton (Q-Ball) Fischer |        |                      |
| Jul 7  | Sonata Storm             | Jul 23 | Steve's Spirit Storm |
| Jul 7  | Quilliam Ernst           | Jul 24 | Henry Muckenfuss     |
| Jul 9  | Spooky Wallenda Fleming  | Jul 25 | Oliver Storm         |
| Jul 12 | Eryika Storm             | Jul 26 | Molly Weaver         |
| Jul 23 | Suzi Que Storm           | Jul 27 | Emmy Myhre           |

**AUGUST**

- Aug 1 Thornberry Muckenfuss
- Aug. 1 Jupiter Muckenfuss
- Aug. 1 Mouse Muckenfuss
- Aug. 1 Prickles Muckenfuss
- Aug. 1 Holly Muckenfuss
- Aug 5 Maxx (chomp chomp) Christopher
- Aug 6 Mini Mee Christopher
- Aug 6 Jady Lamb
- Aug 15 Pepsi Storm
- Aug 16 Portia Rake
- Aug 23 Baxter Woodring
- Aug 23 Princess Chloe Bennett
- Aug 23 Milani Brown
- Aug 25 Keilik Pozder

# The Craigslist Project

Elaine Becher

It all started when I was looking for a bigger cage for Q-ball, my very spoiled hedgegie. I saw hedgegies being bought and sold on *Craigslist* with little or no information on caring for them. Some were even posted with misleading information such as "just like a Guinea pig." There were LOTS of hedgegies trading hands that had never been listed on *Petfinder* and so were not showing up on the HWS radar.

I started emailing people who posted that they wanted a hedgegie, giving them the HWS link and telling them about our care sheet, FAQs and such, as well as the chat group. I also emailed people who were selling hedgegies and sent the "For the New Owner" information sheet hoping it might help them too, just in case they were giving their hedgehogs up because they were ignorant of proper care techniques.

Then one day I saw a post for an online chat group "Just for Fuzzies" (<http://www.justforfuzzies.com/forum/>). I figured if they could post on *Craigslist*, so could we! Instead of just targeting the individual posts, we could do wide-spread information blanketing. We could find lots of hedgegies and hedgegie people out there! I started by talking to Donnasue and Sheila about wording. Donnasue came up with a detailed post that covered everything and put it on the New Haven, CT *Craigslist*. I tried to copy it and put it up in Houston but for some reason it was flagged (we have a lot of very energetic flaggers here). I tried a shorter version and it stayed up. Both versions are included below.

We are now asking everyone out there who is interested in taking in rescues, or just wants to find information about hedgegies, to please post some version of our Hedgehog Welfare Society posts on their area *Craigslist*. These are also available on the chat group, so they are easy to cut and paste. Feel free to edit as you see fit. We hope to reach and help, a lot of hedgegies this way!

## Attention Hedgehog Owners (and would-be owners) HWS Message #91170

If this got your attention, it might get other people's too!

In an effort to get information out there about our organization and promote hedgehog well-being, we're asking members to post some version of the following on their area *Craigslist*. You are welcome to edit as needed and add or not add your contact information.

<http://newhaven.craigslist.org/pet/693184116.html>

<http://houston.craigslist.org/pet/705361617.html>

Also you can contact area shelters and adoption fairs with the Hedgehog Welfare Society link and care sheet. The more people learn, the more we can help our little quilled friends!

### \*\*\*\*\* Short version:

Attention Hedgehog Owners (and would-be owners)

Reply to: your anonymous *Craigslist* address will appear here (or use your email if you wish)

Get a free, easy-to-download care sheet for your hedgehog. Check out our FAQs. Find an experienced vet near you. Chat with experienced owners for any questions you have about caring for hedgehogs:

<http://www.hedgehogwelfare.org/>

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

We also have information on rehomed and rehoming hedgehogs

### \*\*\*\*\* Long version:

Attention Hedgehog Owners (and would-be owners)

Reply to: your anonymous *Craigslist* address will appear here (or your email address if you wish)

The Hedgehog Welfare Society is a nation-wide and international non-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers many services for hedgehogs and their guardians.

The following is a partial list of FREE services that we can provide to you and your hedgehog:

- \* Downloadable hedgehog care sheets.
- \* List of hedgehog-experienced veterinarians in your area.
- \* Free bi-monthly newsletter.
- \* Local rescue/rehoming centers to care for your hedgehog if you are no longer able to for any reason whatsoever. The HWS provides a network of rescuers/rehomers throughout the United States and Canada, who are willing to take in, foster, and adopt hedgehogs. Our "Rescue Contact List" consists of approximately 60 individuals who have experience in caring for hedgehogs and have passed our rigorous screening process.
- \* Care packages for rescued/rehomed hedgehogs, with samples of hedgegie food, treats and hedgehog-specific supplies
- \* Financial help with veterinary bills for rescued/rehomed hedgehogs
- \* Educational seminars on hedgehog health, care, and ecology
- \* Hands-on workshops for veterinary professionals
- \* Transportation services to bring rescued/rehomed hedgehogs to their forever homes
- \* Online support network for hedgehog guardians:

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

\* To learn more about the Hedgehog Welfare Society, see our web-site, join our online discussion group, or contact your local HWS representative: (insert your name here if you wish to be contacted)

HWS web-site: <http://www.hedgehogwelfare.org/>

HWS online support/discussion group:

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

