



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 #42, Jul/Aug 2009

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Introducing Quill—Phileas Hogg II's Cousin



Many people are waiting in line to take Phileas Hogg II on trips. So to add to the fun and adventures, we would like to introduce Quill, Phileas' cousin. Quill will be going on many adventures this year, including attending the hedgehog show in Colorado Springs. His big kick off event will be the return of the Great Circus Parade being held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 12th. Stay tuned for more adventures of both Phileas Hogg II and his cousin Quill!

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Rescue Spotlight

Jan Ernst, Port St. Lucie, Florida

By: Sheila Dempsey

1. How did you get your first hedgehog?

In 1997 my oldest son, Kurt, rescued two hedgehogs, a male and a female. When I went to see them, the female was in a prickly ball. When she unrolled enough to show me her adorable face, it was love at first sight. The female gave birth to a little snowflake girl which Kurt gave to me as a Christmas present. I named her Holly and she became the love of my life. Unfortunately, when Holly was just over a year old she developed WHS (Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome), as did her mother who also came to live with me. So my first hedgies introduced me to caring for WHS hedgehogs.

2. What made you want to rescue?

Love for hedgehogs made me want to rescue them. My first rescue was a male who was found outside with his leg entangled in Virginia creeper vines. His leg had become infected and had to be amputated. Blessings was a big, happy hedgehog who I really enjoyed helping. Caring for him was so rewarding that I wanted to rescue as many hedgies as I could.

3. What was your career?

As a child I wanted to be a veterinarian. I worked for a vet in Ft. Lauderdale and helped take care of some of their animals including a new-born boxer puppy who the vet didn't believe would survive. I took him home, fed him and kept him in a warm oven (door open) that served as an incubator until he recovered enough to be given back to his mother.

I was always caring for needy and injured animals. There was the seagull who couldn't fly; the snake I kept in the bathtub until he could be released; the maggot-covered, Woolly monkey baby that I persuaded the pet store owner to give me; and many more animals who needed help. Instead of becoming a vet, I got married and became a housewife and mother. The desire to become a vet has stayed with me and I open my home to animals of all kinds. I can't say no to an animal in need. Right now, I am working with a wildlife center taking in orphaned opossums and squirrels.

4. Tell us something great about where you live:

I grew up in Illinois and Wisconsin but never liked the ice and snow of the winters. Florida was the place for me. I



Jan and Sari

moved to Port St. Lucie, which is on the east coast, two hours south of Orlando. I love water and have a beautiful view of a small lake from my house. I'm only 15 minutes from the ocean and go there as much as I can.

5. Tell us something about your family:

I'm a widow and have three children. My daughter, Lisa, lives in Illinois, on what used to be a farm, and has many dogs and cats. She works at a school for children with emotional problems. My son, Kurt, lives in Buffalo, New York with two golden retrievers and two cats, a tabby and a Maine Coon. Kurt has a master's degree in business and works at a large bank. My other son, Justin, lives at home with me. He works for a large grocery chain and enjoys bowling and movies.

My family always includes animals. Right now I have a 12-year-old dog, a Shih Tzu named Cassie, and 2 hedgehogs, Quilliam, who will be 2 in July, and Misty Rose, aged 1 ½. She is an albino with adorable big ears. Because of my wildlife rescue work I often have orphaned baby opos-

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sums and squirrels in my house.

6. Tell us your favorite rescue story:

Mokee tops the list as one of my favorite rescues. He was originally with a person who kept him, and a female hedgehog, outside in a cage in the heat of summer and in the winter which occasionally reaches freezing temperatures in Florida. The female died before a caring neighbor found out about them. The male, who I named Mokee, was brought to me. He was a ball of prickly quills when I first got him. But who can blame him after all he had been through? After months of being loved, he started to unroll when I held him. Before long his true personality emerged and he became the sweetest, calmest hedgehog I have ever had. He loved being talked to. He would hold my gaze and look me straight in the eye as though he understood every word I said. Because he was so easy-going, I took him out to meet people and educated them about hedgehogs. Mokee would let anyone pet him and won over many a heart. He even met author Jan Brett and showed the crowd who came to see her what a real live hedgehog looks like. He charmed everyone. I called him my hedgehog ambassador. After I had had him for about a year he started to show signs of WHS. Mokee stayed with me as long as he could but after about 6 months of steady decline I helped him cross the Rainbow

Bridge. He will forever hold a piece of my heart as do all of the hedgehogs I have had.

7. Tell us about ethics and breeding:

Because of my WHS hedgies, Holly, Honey, Beauty Rose, Mokee and Munchkin, I know how important it is to breed only hedgehogs with clean, healthy lines. If every breeder could watch a hedgehog suffer from the horrors of WHS, I believe it would help them become more concerned about checking the health histories of all their breeding pairs. There are too many breeders who breed irresponsibly, not caring about genetic lines or inbreeding. If I could have one wish, it would be that all hedgehogs could live healthy, happy lives without the threat of WHS, cancer and other debilitating diseases.

Other Interests:

I have been involved in the hedgehog Christmas ornament exchange since 2001 and have taken part in the hedgehog quilt exchange three times although I have yet to put a quilt together. Maybe this will be the year I do that! I also enjoy watercolor painting especially when I am painting hedgies! As you can tell I adore hedgehogs.



Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show

Teresa Johnson

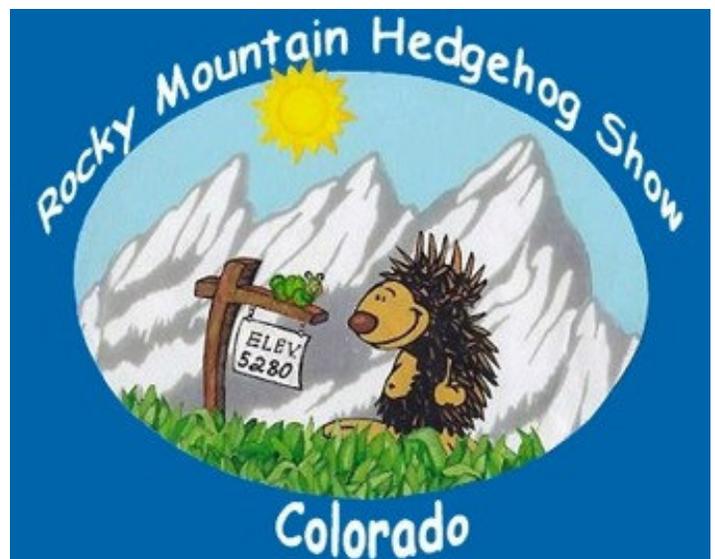
Although to my knowledge no official studies have been done, I would guess Colorado has one of the largest populations of "hedgehog people" in all North America. It should come as no surprise then, that there is a bit of history centering on hedgehog shows here in the state of purple mountains' majesty. Colorado has been hosting hedgehog shows since 2001, with locations alternating between the Denver and Colorado Springs areas. What started as a "one person endeavor" has grown to a dedicated planning committee of folks willing and eager to present the best possible hedgehog show west of the Mississippi!

Because the show's location was alternating between Denver, the Mile High City (hence our original name *The Mile High Hedgehog Show*), and Colorado Springs, with always a chance of adding other locations for future shows, changing the name to *The Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show* seemed more suitable. Thus the 2007 *Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show* was held in Denver with all the grandeur of past shows. A true highlight of this event was guest speaker Hugh Warwick from the United Kingdom. Hugh was a very active catalyst to stopping the culling of the Uist Island hedgies. I doubt many of us attending the show would have an opportunity to travel to the UK to meet and speak with Hugh. His presence was delightful, informative and educational, with a dash of humor throughout.

At this printing, plans are still underway for the 2009 *Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show*. It will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Colorado Springs, October 2-4, 2009. Those who attended our last show at this location (2005) will be pleasantly surprised at the changes and up-grades to the facility. The host of activities and events will not disappoint you. Beginning Thursday, October first, early arrivals will have plenty of sites to see, local cuisine to taste, and the wonderful shops of Old Colorado City and Manitou Springs. Our hospitality room will offer snacks and socializing within the confines of the hotel, hedgies are welcome as always! The show will feature two IHA sanctioned conformation events. Speakers from within the hedgehog community will offer informative

and fun topics. Floyd Aprill will talk about the IHA show point system and the process of achieving Permanent Grand Champion status. Jeanne Robtoy will address the importance of hedgehog registry for all--individuals, rescuers, and breeders alike. Narciso Sandoval will offer a wheel-making workshop for those feeling crafty. Additional topics and activities are still being discussed and planned. We have invited local radio personality and animal lover "Coyote" McCloud to serve as MC at our banquet. Our silent and live auctions will feature some unique items from Colorado local artists as well as other "hedgie" items. We will also hold a Rainbow Bridge memorial ceremony. As with the early arrivals, those wishing to stay over will have opportunities for post-show gatherings, socializing, and local activities. As the show is scheduled a bit earlier in the month than in past years, you should be able to experience the aspens in all their golden glory.

Begin planning now to join us. Visit our web site at www.rockymountainhedgehogshow.org. We hope to see you in October!



Welcome to Pog-Chit-Chat...

Where hedgies tell it like it is.

Hi all. I know it's been a long time since I wrote anything, but I just had to let everyone know about Wizzy's birthday party.

Wizzy invited us all to fly up in the shuttle to help him celebrate his birthday. As planned, Bailee and Legend, Toliary and Umbutu, Vlad and Katerina, me and Boss Hogg, accompanied by Maggie Mae and special stowaway, Sahara awaited the landing of the shuttle.

It was so exciting to watch it circling overhead, preparing to make its spectacular landing. It came in at the far end of our road and made the stop just in time right in front of the house. We all cheered, grabbed our little bags and blankies and ran to get on the shuttle. Ivan and Maddy followed us pulling a little wagon with the big box wrapped up special for Wizzy. We found paper with a Disney Fantasia theme. Mickey Mouse as the wizard reminded us so much of Wizzy, we just had to have it for his gift-- a huge box of specially chosen gourmet mealies! We topped the pretty paper off with a big gold bow. We all helped get the box into the cargo area, then jumped on board. We were still waiting for Maggie Mae to come out from the house.

Soon Maggie Mae joined us on board with her blankey. She didn't say anything to anyone until we had taken off. That's when she spit out her cargo.



Sahara



Bindi Sue

She had been hiding Sahara, the baby sulcata tortoise, in her mouth! It really didn't surprise us that much, I guess, since they're good buddies. All of us had a date, so she brought Sahara as her date. He didn't need much room and was very well behaved, sleeping in his shell most of the way.

The flight was smooth and much quicker than we expected but the landing was a little rough. I think Baxter needs more practice but we all got here in one piece. Sahara had come out of his shell to visit during the flight but the landing had him back hiding in his shell yelling, "We're gonna die, we're gonna die!" Maggie Mae assured Sahara that some landings are rougher than others and everyone was going to be just fine.

After we were finally done taxiing, Baxter came on the PA and told us all to stay seated until he shut down and left the shuttle. Wizzy and Archibald would get off the shuttle to make sure the house was ready for us but it wasn't safe for the rest of us to get off until Baxter had the whole thing shut down. So we patiently waited, sorta. Finally when Baxter announced that we could line up to get off, we forming an orderly line, until Maggie Mae pushed herself up

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to the front. How rude!

Anyway, Baxter opened the door and went down the steps. He waited there to help hand some of us down. Too bad he wasn't ready for Maggie to bound down those stairs. She wasn't watching where she was going, she saw Wizzy by the gate and was in a rush to give him a birthday kiss. Well, she tripped over Baxter. She did pick him up and brushed him off telling him she was sorry. But I don't really think she was sincere. I heard the giggle. It really was an accident, but I think it tickled her to fall over poor Baxter. When she finished brushing Baxter off, she took off to see Wizzy, stepping on Baxter's tail, which didn't go over well with him, of course. I don't think she even noticed, if she did she was too excited to stop again and ran to the waiting Wizzy.



Bailee

Wizzy saw her charging his way. He knew she was kinda clumsy, so he rolled up in a defensive ball, just in case she didn't stop in time. He didn't want to be steam rolled. But Maggie Mae slowed down by the time she got to the gate and didn't run over him. When he opened up, she showered him with kisses. Boy was he all wet. He shouldn't need a bath for a long time, as long as he doesn't mind smelling like Maggie Mae's mouth!

The rest of the gang had to get Wizard's gift out of the cargo hold. Maggie Mae came galloping back to catch Sahara who was coming slowly down the stairs. She scooped him up and ran him over to meet Wizzy. Some of the passengers were surprised, they didn't even know Sahara was on board since he was so quiet. I hear that Maggie filled Wizzy in on all about Sahara, where he came from, (Africa, like the hedgehogs) and how big he was go-

ing to get, someday (over 100 pounds). She told Wizard that Mum calls Sahara her little lawn mower. Right now, he sure don't eat much. But at the rate he's growing, he will soon be a big help keeping the weeds down in the yard!

We placed Wizzy's gift on the little red wagon and Ivan took it upon himself to pull the wagon. Me and Bailee saw that the box wasn't too steady, so we took positions on each side to make sure it didn't tumble off the wagon. Maddy brought up the rear to make sure it didn't slide off the back. Wizzy was all smiles when he saw his package. And I'll bet he'd already guessed what was in it. They sure were a noisy bunch of wormies, must have been having their own party during the trip.

Baxter caught up with Wizzy as he lead us all to the house. I reckon he was telling Wizard about what happened with Maggie Mae. If he did, Wizzy did a good job of smoothing it over as an accident since Maggie said she was sorry. From the way he was walking, Baxter seemed to be trying to protect his tail from being stepped on or touched.

When we got to the house, Auntie Linda was waiting for us all with snacks for everyone. She had to hurry the boys along to eat so they could get going to make their second pickup of guests. Most of us curled up in our blankets to take a nap while the boys were gone. Auntie Linda sat down to her computer. She was shocked when a small tortoise came crawling out from under her chair, nestling between her feet. She scooped him up and asked where he



Umbutu and Katerina

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came from. Sahara is shy, so he pulled everything into his shell and didn't answer. Auntie Linda was about to put him outside when Maggie Mae came to the rescue and explained all about Sahara.

It's a good thing Maggie didn't try to smuggle the horse on board. I reckon the weight shift would have made the shuttle a little difficult to handle. Maybe Renegade could have been put on one side, the rest of us on the other, to try balance things out. Nope, it was a good thing she didn't think about bringing Renegade!



Before they left for the second trip Baxter was looking for some duct tape. I wonder if something needs fixing? I hope it's not the shuttle. Anyway, they took off on time. Maggie Mae must have been helping fix whatever because she walked by with some duct tape

on her butt. Auntie Linda helped her remove it. She thanked Auntie Linda then walked away to await the shuttle's return. I guess she was anxious to see that what she helped Baxter fix worked okay.



Maggie Mae

The second shuttle woke us from our naps when it arrived. Maggie Mae ran in to tell everyone that they were arriving. We all ran out to meet the new arrivees. It was so romantic when Q-Ball carried Bell across the threshold.

The party got started with music and all of us dancing. Baxter even danced with some of the doggies here, but not with Maggie Mae. Those two look like they're at it again. I just don't get it. Must be a personality conflict. In spite of all that, we all had a

great time. Even Sahara got to do a funky dance where he rolled over and spun around on his back. Talented little fella. And of course, Sammie had to don the coveted lampshade hat. The girls had decorated it, so it was a lot different from the last party. Nestle gave lessons on how to empty out the dreaded bath water but some of us knew that method didn't work. Some of our bath tubs don't have a plug! Baxter complained that Nestle's method made you get wetter than the bath did and it wasn't worth the energy. When we were all done with the lesson, well I gotta say, we left a mess of towels for Auntie Linda to clean up. I guess she was happy that we were taking our own baths, little did she know we were actually plotting how to get out of taking a bath!

Wizzy thought he heard fireworks but it turned out that a storm was brewing outdoors. Baxter tried to get someone to tell Maggie Mae that there was a bone out in the yard and to go get it. Then everyone could watch her light up, hoping she would be struck by the lightening! Yeap, looks like the feud is back on. Anyway, no one would do it. We all wanted to stay out of that feud. I did notice that Baxter was wearing a piece of duct tape on his tail. Maybe that's why they needed the tape!



Wizzy

Those two stayed in different parts of the room so usually there was no bickering. But when Baxter blamed Maggie Mae for stepping on his tail TWICE, the bickering started again and went on until Archibald came forward to break it up. He sent them to

(...Continued from page 7)

different parts of the room, again. I know Maggie was trying to behave herself but I could also see the dagger looks she was throwing at Baxter from across the room. I think he noticed. He tried to keep his back to her. That seemed strange. I would have thought Baxter would have worried that his tail might get stepped on again.

When Wizzy opened his present from us, he was gracious enough to share his gourmet mealies with anyone who was interested. Sahara said, "No thanks, anyone got a dandelion?" And the dogs were all treated to a variety of kibble so they could choose what they liked best.

We partied late into the night until Auntie Linda said it was enough. She worked out a sleeping schedule for us all and warned us to stay put, no mixing during the night! I wonder if Auntie Linda got much sleep with the dogs in her room. Maggie Mae snores like a wood chipper on high gear. Baxter was complaining that his blanket smelled like a dog and refused to sleep with it. Auntie Linda had to give him a new one so he'd stop making so much noise about it. If it did smell like a dog, I don't think it was Maggie Mae. She brought her own blankie, but since the feud was starting up, you just never know. I think Maggie might just sleep on Baxter's blanket to upset him. But I sure didn't see her do it. She was too busy dancing and eating, taking care of Sahara and eating, eating and eating. I was glad that she wasn't sleeping in our room. She can get pretty windy, sometimes, if you know what I mean.

I don't know about the boys, though. I asked Boss Hogg how they slept but us girls talked and giggled almost all night. We took turns on the strategically



placed wheels so we didn't get much sleep until the sun was coming up. Boss Hogg said there was a lot of boy talk going on and said I wouldn't be interested. Knowing what us girls were talking about, maybe it's best that we DON'T compare notes, if you know what I mean!

Morning came and we had to get up to get ready for our trips home. Some of the girls were already up and playing hide n seek with the doggies. We all had a great breakfast before we had to board the shuttle. After eating we packed up our blankies and waited to go out to the shuttle.

Baxter and Maggie Mae ignored each other, I guess that's better than all the bickering. Baxter's tail had a band-aid on it, and his walk was still a little funny. Baxter was no where around when Maggie Mae boarded the shuttle but he was there with Wizzy to say goodbye to all the others as they boarded.

It wasn't long before we heard the shuttle starting up and getting ready to take off for our trip home.

When we got home we were all telling Mum about the party and how much fun we had and how many wormies Wizzy got. It seems that almost everyone had the same idea. It'll be a long while before he runs out of wormies, even though most of us helped him eat up quite a few.

All was fine with Mum until Sahara mentioned that he had a brewski with Wizzy! He told her how good that stuff worked in helping him to break dance with the group. Mum said she'll have to put a postie on his back for the next party he attends, NO BREWSKI'S FOR THE TORTOISE. She did notice the shiny spot on his back where he must have been spinning!

We all had a wonderful time, Wizard. Thanks for having such a great Mum to let you throw such a great party.

At least the landing here in the desert was a little better than that in Naperville. Maybe the long dirt roads made for an easier landing, or Baxter is learning to smooth things out.

Thanks, and Happy Birthday again, Wizzy.





The Literary Hedgehog

Margaret Myhre



Hedgehogs by Nigel Reeve

If you attended the Eastern States Hedgehog Show in June, you are no doubt familiar with Nigel Reeve who was a featured speaker at the event. Reeve studied Zoology at Royal Holloway College, University of London. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree, with honors, in 1976 and received his PhD in 1980. His dissertation, *A field study of the hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus) with particular reference to movements and behavior* was supervised by British hedgehog authority Dr. Pat Morris.

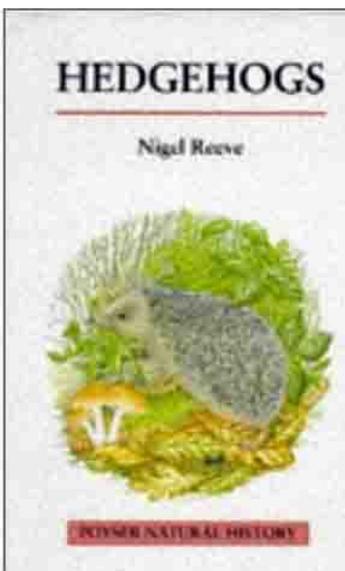
In 1994, Nigel Reeve's book *Hedgehogs* was published by R. and A.D. Poyser as part of a natural history series. This book offers a very thorough discussion of various hedgehog species and their natural history.

Hedgehogs are classified as insectivores, but as Reeve explains:

The insectivores do not really represent a proper taxonomic unit but are a 'ragbag' group containing a miscellany of families which have only been included among the insectivores for want of a better place to put them. More logically the living insectivores divide into three orders, the Scandentia (tree shrews), Macroscelidea (elephant shrews) and the Lipotyphla—which embraces the hedgehogs and moonrats, solenodons, shrews, moles and desmans, golden moles, tenrecs and otter shrews.¹ (pp.1—2)

Although many hedgehog-like animals are now extinct, the family *Erinaceidae* continues to survive today. The family probably originated in Asia during the Eocene era and colonized Africa and North America during the Miocene era. Unfortunately none now survive in North America.

The book describes some of the distinctive features of hedgehogs, most notably their spines, defensive behavior, sounds and hearing, and how they use their senses to communicate and navigate. Although hedgehogs fit the model of animals with a low level of brain development, they are able to forage widely and navigate accurately. The mothers provide a high standard of care to their young. Although the period of maternal care is brief, it is not necessarily less complex than the care provided by mammals that are considered more advanced.



Reeve devotes chapters to hedgehog diet and feeding habits; home range, territoriality and social behavior; nest construction and use; hibernation and metabolism, nocturnal activity rhythms and behavior; reproduction and demography, and disease and death.

The book's tenth and final chapter *Hedgehogs and Humans* outlines the ways hedgehogs have been used by humans. One way is as food. Hedgehogs or *Hyrchouns* were a delicacy at feasts in Britain in 1425. They also appear in traditional Mallorcan, Nigerian and gypsy cuisine. Hedgehogs and their various body parts also had medicinal uses in treatments for boils, leprosy, colic, balding, urinary stones, and the enhancement of night vision! As if this weren't enough,

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there are many superstitions involving hedgehogs: They can predict the weather, bewitch cows, and serve as fertility charms. They served more pleasantly in the He Bei Province of ancient China where they were considered sacred.

The dried, prickly skins of hedgehog were used by the Romans to card wool and as clothes brushes in medieval Europe! Coachmen tied hedgehog skins to carriage poles to keep tired horses from leaning against them. Hedgehog skins could also be tied to the muzzles of calves during the weaning process and were also fixed to the top rails of orchard gates to discourage those those who wished to climb over the top of the gate!

This compendium of hedgehog information is illustrated with color photographs, diagrams, charts and maps as well as drawings by Ruth Lindsay. Back matter in the book includes an appendix of veterinary information for the treatment of parasites and diseases in wild hedgehogs, a list of words for hedgehog in various languages, references, a species index and a general index. Unfortunately, the book is now out of print. Used copies are difficult to find and can be quite expensive. Used copies from *Amazon* start at \$84.15! If you wish to read this wonderful book, I would recommend requesting it through Inter-Library Loan at your local library. According to *WorldCat*, a world-wide catalog of library catalogs, there are 81 libraries which currently own a copy of this book. Many of them would be happy to loan it to your local library where it may then be checked out to you.

Reeve, Nigel. *Hedgehogs*. London: T. &A.D. Poyser, 1994. Pp. 1–2.



Coming soon to the Hedgehog Welfare Society Web Site

Margaret Myhre

Has this ever happened to you?

You recall that at some point in its history the *HWS Newsletter* featured an article about treating hedgehogs with spider bites but you can't remember when.

Or you know this really cool picture book about hedgehogs was reviewed in the newsletter but you have no idea who wrote it or what the title might be.

Or what about this: You have a spiffy new hedgehog tat on your ankle and you want to know if anyone else in HWS has one.

What can you do to answer these important questions???

Up until now you have had two options: 1) Skim through every issue until you find the article or 2) Scan the newsletter summaries posted on the HWS site. But soon, perhaps by the time our next issue is published you will be able to find this information quickly and easily by consulting the INDEX to the *Hedgehog Welfare Society Newsletter*. Searchable by author, keyword or subject, the index should make it possible for you to quickly hone in on the information you need perhaps in less time than it has taken to read this article!



Hedgehog Trivia

FLYING HEDGEHOGS!

Margaret Myhre

Depending on your point of view *Juncus ensifolius* could be described as a weed or as an ornamental grass. It is known by several common names including Swordleaf Rush, Flying Hedgehogs, and Swarm of Hedgehogs. Two of the plant's common names refer to its seed heads which, when seen from a distance, are said to resemble a swarm of tiny hedgehogs flying around the plant's smooth round stems!



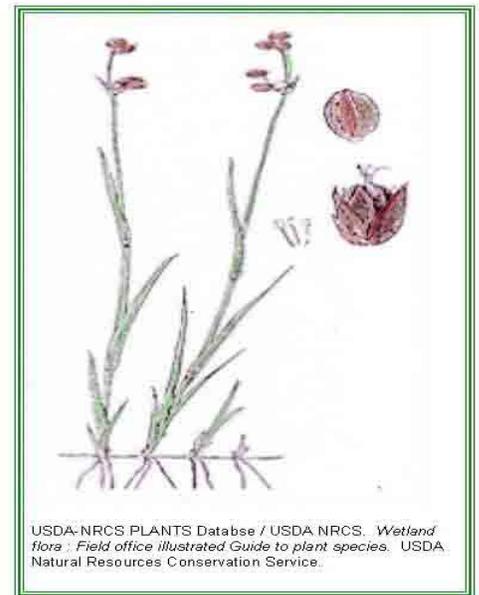
Juncus ensifolius
© 2002 Dean Wm. Taylor

A rhizomatous perennial herb, *Juncus ensifolius* grows in clumps of stems ranging from 20 to 60 centimeters in height. A dwarf variety is also available. Flat, curving, iris-like leaves are located mostly at the plant's base. The flowers, which are greenish brown to dark brownish purple in color, bloom in clusters at the stem tips. The tepals, or segments of the outer part of the flower, are a few millimeters long and range from dark brown to black. Three small stamens are enclosed between the tepals. The plant bears an oblong, capsule-shaped fruit tipped with a small beak.

The plant is native to eastern Canada and western North America from Alaska into central Mexico. It also grows in Japan and far eastern Europe and has been introduced to Europe, New Zealand, and Australia. It is hardy in zone 4 and enjoys full sun or partial shade.

According to Moerman's *Native American Ethnobotany*, Indian tribes found many uses for this plant. The Piute, two related groups living in Arizona and southeastern California, Nevada, and Utah, used the plant to feed their livestock.

Little girls in the Karok tribe in northwest California used the plant's fibers when they learned to make baskets. The Hoh tribe and their neighbors the Quileute, who live on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, had medicinal uses for it. The Swinomish, who now live on Fidalgo Island in the San Juans of Washington State, used the bulb of the plant as food.



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA NRCS. *Wetland flora : Field office illustrated Guide to plant species.* USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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Robson, Kathleen A., Alice Richter, and Marianne Filbert. *Encyclopedia of Northwest Native Plants for Gardens and Landscapes*. Portland, Or: Timber Press, 2008. P. 229c

USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA NRCS. *Wetland flora : Field office illustrated Guide to plant species.* USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Thoughts from the Chief Volunteer Officer

Deb Weaver

I recently returned from a much-needed, one week vacation away from Milwaukee. My Samantha could not go with me so a friend volunteered to look after her. Sammie is an independent little soul who requires no "extras," and was in great health. I dropped her off at my friend's house with a duffel full of her things and one page of instructions.

Upon my return Sammie looked and acted fine. My friend reported that she had eaten well, drank water, and ran her wheel "like a mad woman". The comment "Boy, they sure can make a lot of poop!" followed. I took Sammie home, gave her the once over, tucked her back into her condo and we went back to our normal routine. Or so I thought. (Notice what I didn't do?)

After a day or two, I noticed Sammie hadn't eaten her usual amount but I didn't think much of it. Our weather here went from the 60s to the 90s and then back to the 60s. Another day or two passed and I again noticed a drop in food intake. This time I paid attention. The next day, food intake was down again, and her poops were faintly green. And she'd hardly been on her wheel. It was time for a vet visit.

The next day we were at the vet. The good news is nothing serious appears to be wrong (heart/lungs sounded good, ears/eyes/nose/teeth OK, ultrasound showed no internal issues). The vet weighed her and I discovered she had lost 20 grams! The one thing I didn't do when I got her back from the babysitter was weigh her. The vet's opinion was that she "had picked something up" and put her on Bayatril. After only two doses, she is eating and wheeling again.

The moral here - - always do a thorough check of your animals upon being reunited with them. Knowing that Sammie had lost 20 grams that week would not have made me run to the vet that day but I would have kept a closer eye on her those next couple of days. I guess it never hurts to be reminded that we have to be ever vigilant with our wee loved ones.

Sammie and I hope everyone enjoys the 4th!

Hedgehogs and Temperature, an Observation

by Karen Weiss

We live in Washington State where the weather can change quickly, this is especially so in our area which is between two mountain ranges. Recently, I was surprised when my hedgehog, Henry, awoke one evening and was not his usual self. He would not eat, was shaky and felt cool to the touch. Our hedgehogs are kept at a constant 73 degrees. At this temperature, Henry, our oldest hedgehog, would usually be outside his pigloo splatting on his liner. We had had very warm weather a few days earlier and Henry had been eating well, playing, and running on his wheel. Then a heavy rain storm moved in and the outside temperature and barometric pressure dropped considerably.

I called Henry's breeder because it was late in the evening and the vet's office was not open. Per her suggestion, I gave Henry warm chicken broth every 2-3 hours throughout the night, keeping him warm with hand warmers and my body heat. The next morning I took Henry to the veterinarian. I put a hand warmer in his carrier along with two fleece pillow cases which had been warmed in the dryer and off we went. Henry let Dr. Sodhi give him a thorough exam and it was concluded that he was cool and dehydrated. Henry was started on probiotics and a dietary supplement called *Nutri-Cal*. I was told to keep him warm so I raised the tempera-

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ture of the hedgehog room to 75 degrees and put Henry in his pigloo with a hand warmer. He ate some supplement and almost two teaspoons of *Beechnut* chicken and gravy baby food and chicken broth with his probiotic.

At this point, he is doing much better. He is not wobbling when he walks and he is starting to put up a fuss when I try to syringe feed him. Kim Miller, Henry's breeder, suggested that I write about this experience as a gentle reminder to all who love and keep hedgehogs, that it is still possible for them to get chilled when it is warm inside.



Contributed by
Margaret Myhre

Lucy Laughs

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

Can you help these hedgehogs find their way to Denver ?

This lovely hedgehog couple left the Eastern States Hedgehog Show in Schoharie several days ago. They are trying to find their way to the Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show in Denver but they have lost their way. Can you help them? They can not cross over any of the Red Lines (black lines which show state boundaries or rivers are OK).

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