



Hedgehog Welfare Society

Newsletter #53

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To protect the well-being of pet hedgehogs through rescue, research and education of the people who care for them.

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This photograph was taken on March 9, 2007, in Springburn, Canterbury, New Zealand. Photographer Maree Reveley says, "I couldn't believe how fast this hedgehog mum was going with her baby in her mouth." Used with permission.

GOOD Things for Hedgehogs

By Donnasue Graesser

How many times a day do you do an online search? Need to look up something for a research paper on flesh-eating bacteria? Curious to know who got kicked off last night on Dancing With the Stars? Interested in the total population of Zimbabwe?

Wouldn't it be great if each time you searched the Internet to satisfy your curiosity or to do your homework, you could also raise money for hedgehogs? Well, you can! It is incredibly simple. Just go to www.GoodSearch.com. This is a high quality search engine powered

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by Yahoo! There is no registration required, and no need to input any personal or contact information. There is a box that asks "Who do you GoodSearch for?" Simply type "Hedgehog Welfare Society" into this box and click the verify button. Voila! The HWS will be saved as your cause. Each time thereafter that you use GoodSearch as your search engine, between one and two cents will be donated to help hedgehogs. All proceeds from GoodSearch are donated to the general rescue operations of the Hedgehog Welfare Society.

Does it really work? Yes! Members of the HWS have been GoodSearching since 2005 and have raised over \$2500 for rescued hedgehogs. That's over \$500 per year. We can do even better! There are more than 1000 members in the HWS. If each member did only one search per day, we would raise at least \$3650 per year to benefit rescued hedgehogs. Imagine if each of us did three searches per day? Holy Hedgehog!

In 2007, GoodSearch also initiated a shopping feature, called GoodShop, which is similar to iGive with similar

store offerings. Every time you shop at a store through GoodShop, a percentage of the money from that sale is donated to the HWS, at absolutely no extra cost to you. All the typical online shopping sites are included: Amazon, Best Buy, Old Navy, etc. You will be surprised if you go to GoodShop.com and cruise through the stores that offer donations through GoodShop: swimming pools, contact lenses, cell phones, auto insurance, airline tickets, hotel rooms, and a plethora of other stores. I even earned a 6% donation last Halloween, purchasing my sons' costumes at a specialty costume store through GoodShop. Consider booking your flight and hotel for your next hedgehog show via a GoodShop site.

If you use Firefox or Internet Explorer as your web browser, you can upload a GoodSearch toolbar. Not only can you quickly and easily use GoodSearch with this toolbar, but you will never have to be reminded to go through GoodShop for your purchases. With the GoodSearch toolbar each time you visit an online store that offers a GoodShop donation, your purchase will automatically generate the donation—no need to go through the GoodShop site or be reminded.

Which should you use? GoodSearch/GoodShop or iGive/iSearch? Either one! I would suggest that you try both search engines and choose one or the other based on personal preference. For shopping, iGive and GoodShop are pretty much equivalent, but sometimes one site has a store that the other one does not, or one offers a better percentage for shopping. Both are simple avenues by which you can help hedgehogs in need. They do not cost a penny for you to use. Between the two we have raised thousands of dollars that have paid for hedgehog veterinary care, care packages, educational seminars and supported hedgehog shows. The sky is the limit! Just keep GoodSearching, GoodShopping, iGiving and iSearching!





Elaine Becker's Speedy shows off his tubing skills during a children's program at a library.



Margaret Campbell's hedgehog Oscar asks, "Can you see me now?"



Peaches Aprill models a shortened toilet paper tube.

Favorite Hedgehog Toy Faces Uncertain Future



Master tuber, Hawgy Goldbutt, was featured in Vicki McLean's local newspaper, *The Statesman Journal*.

According to Kimberly-Clark, a major manufacturer of household paper products, toilet paper tubes may soon become a thing of the past. Recently, hedgehogs throughout the nation were stunned to learn that the company has been testing "Scott Naturals" tube-free toilet paper at Walmart and Sam's Club stores in the northeastern United States. Depending on test results, tubeless toilet paper could then be introduced nationally and even globally! It is rumored that paper towel tubes could be next!

A spokesman for Kimberly-Clark said a special winding process is used to create tubeless rolls of toilet paper. A similar process is already used on products marketed to businesses. Current toilet paper tube production amounts to seventeen billion tubes per year.

Nationally, hedgehogs have expressed concern about the possible demise of one of their favorite recreational items. At least one radical organization of hedgehog athletes is said to be planning to picket Walmart and Sam's Club stores as well as Kimberly-Clark headquarters.

Information source: Horovitz, Bruce. "Kimberly-Clark rolls out tube-free Scott toilet paper." USA Today. USATODAY.com, 27 Oct. 2010. Web. 1 Apr. 2011. <http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/environment/2010-10-27-1Atube27_ST_N.htm>.



Sasha's hedgehog prefers paper towel tubes.



An exhausted Iggy Campbell naps after a strenuous tubing session.



Picket sign from undisclosed location.



Friends, Bob and Pepe, share their lettuce leaves. Viv Choi Photography. Used with permission.

iGive by Jennifer Plombon, Blaine, Washington

Ah, online shopping! Is anything easier, more fun, and more addictive? And when we're not shopping online, we're searching online. Now both activities can, at absolutely no cost to yourself, raise and donate money for your favorite cause. Of course, most dear to my own heart is the cause of The Hedgehog Welfare Society. There was an enormous outpouring of support from all of you, and from others who had never heard of the HWS, when we were in Texas rescuing hundreds of hedgehogs from horrific conditions. I know this cause is dear to the hearts of many.

How does iGive work?

Every time you do a web search through the iGive search engine, you raise a penny or more which is donated to the HWS. This costs you nothing! And every time you buy from a web site that participates in iGive, a percentage of what you spend is donated to your cause. The percentage is set by the store and varies from 0.2% to 26%. There are more than 897 stores currently participating. Some, such as Amazon.com, Nordstrom, eBay, Barnes & Noble, PETsMart, and JC Penney, are very well known and it's likely you already shop there. You can search for participating stores by store name, by category, and by percentage donated. In addition, you can search for specials and coupons which are frequently offered by participating stores. Not only does it cost you nothing to shop at your favorite stores through iGive, you may even save some money by using the coupons.

Where do the donations go?

The HWS iGive donations go to the HWS Care Packages Committee, which is chaired by Jennifer Plombon, a Board member and one of the founders of the HWS. The Care Packages project was formed early in the creation

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of the HWS. Anyone who rescues a needy hedgehog may ask for a Care Package to be sent to them free of charge. The package usually contains a handmade hidey hat, a snuggle sack, a selection of dry kibble-type foods, some dried insects, a bottle of Bach's Rescue Remedy, care and informational papers, and often extras such as bowls or hedgie toys. iGive donations are used to purchase fabric for sewing the hats and bags as well as purchasing many of the food and insect samples. We could not offer this service without the donations.

How can you use it for purchases?

A good way to learn more about iGive and their services is to visit this site:

<http://www.iGive.com/welcome/warmwelcome.cfm?c=19606&m=252286>

If you join, your purchases will immediately start going to the HWS. And if you make purchases within 45 days of joining, iGive will donate extra money to the cause! Once you join, you have the option of adding a separate window to your search engine which will shunt any store searches into iGive, if they are participants, thus saving time in determining the donation status of a store. Some security programs flag this window and try to delete it during scheduled check-ups and some people prefer to search without the added window. In that case, you simply go to www.iGive.com and search the online mall. Make sure that you have the Hedgehog Welfare Society entered as your cause before making that purchase.

How about searches?

To do an online search, simply go to <http://www.iSearchiGive.com> and make sure that the Hedgehog Welfare Society is listed as your cause.

How much can you make for the HWS?

Well, I may be a more dedicated online shopper than some, I truly hate taking the car out to look for things I can look for in my comfortable home! I've raised more than \$263 for the HWS since I joined iGive in September of 2001. Overall, the contributions from iGive searches made by myself and other members have raised more than \$1,600, all of which is used for the Care Packages project.

Why do iGive?

That's easy! It's easy to use, it's completely free, and it donates money to a cause that I know is close to you--the cause of helping our dear hedgehogs have better homes and lives.



May / June Birthdays

MAY

May 13 Lucy Denny

May 24 Brie Denny

JUNE

June 1 Quinn King

June 12 QE2 Fischer

June 20 Francesca Joy
Bennett

June 20 Nyarai Naomi
Bennett

Hedgehog Portraits by P.J. Mattus



Zoey

It all started about a year ago when P.J. Mattus's husband bought her a beginner's paint kit from Ebay. Although she had never picked up a paintbrush before 2010, she says she has been learning a little more with each painting.

Her first hedgehog painting featured a close up view of her female hedgie, Zoey, a re-home from a college student who left the country to study in France. When P.J. shared the painting with the folks at Hedgehog Central, several people asked her to paint personalized portraits of their hedgies.



Cholla

Soon Larry Thomason, of Carolina Storm Hedgehogs in Linwood, North Carolina, set up a page on his web site to display her paintings. You can visit the site at: <http://www.carolinastormhedgehogs.com/hedgie-art-by-pj-mattus.html>



Photograph of Cholla

Cholla, another one of P.J.'s hedgehogs, was 7 or 8 months old when the photograph on the right was taken. P.J. says her husband was holding him cupped in his hands

Cholla just sat there, looking up at Hedge-Daddy, with this Cute expression on his face. I let my husband choose the background color for the painting (because I didn't want to try to paint his hands) and he chose this blue. He was thinking of water (he loves the ocean)—but it turned out to look more like sky.

Pumpkin, the baby hedgie on the left, was rejected by her mom. Although her owner tried to raise her by hand, Pumpkin passed away when she was only six days old.

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Pumpkin



Spike



Spike 2

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Spike is a very sweet boy who was well loved by his previous owner. When she was no longer to care for him, he went to live at Hedgehog Grove. There he settled in nicely. He is now three and a half years old. He has a stubby upturned nose and cute little hedgie-hog crinkles. He enjoys his baths where he often falls asleep with his head resting in Yarazenka's spare hand while being scrubbed with the other!

Lancelot, otherwise known as Lancik, went to live with Kristina Lebedeva after he began showing signs of WHS. Kristina says:

At first shy and huffy, he gradually turned out to be the gentlest, bravest hedgie we have even known. He is always bright-eyed and loving, even though his motility has drastically declined since we got him. Lancik delights in yummy gut-loaded crickets, mealies, and a little bit of fresh corn. ...it is impossible to not feel fiercely overwhelming love for this courageous little boy.

Sadly, Lancik passed away on April 25 as this article was being written.

Colonel Mustard was originally owned by a child who soon became bored with her. She was just turning one year old when she was adopted by Susana who describes her as a lovable, cuddly baby doll. Susana says, "Mustard is so trustful and affectionate, she truly enjoys being petted. If she were a person, she would be a kind good-hearted one."

Pete went to live with Mustard and Susana after her owner moved to Hawaii. At two and a half she was shy and huffy. Susana learned that Pete had already lived in three different homes and had once lived in a small box on a porch! After such a difficult beginning, she still huffs at every word that is said to her. But now she is cared for and loved!

Phineas and Naomi were a week old when their mother began killing

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Kristina's Lancik



Colonel Mustard & Pete



Phineas & Naomi



Atticus



Atticus 2



Charlie

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her babies. They had health issues but thrived on bottle feeding. Phineas is now a "big fat monster" who enjoys cuddling but really prefers exploring the house. Naomi is very small and has a handicapped leg. She would rather be in P.J.'s hand than any place else on the planet. She and Phineas are best friends.

Charley, his wheel, and a gallon bucket of mystery food came from a pet store in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Immediately upon arriving at his new home, he began running his wheel and glaring at his new owners as though they were interrupting him. During the night it finally occurred to him that he wasn't in the pet shop any more! In a delayed reaction, he spent the next two weeks "impersonating a sea urchin with attitude!" His owner cuddled him mercilessly, gave him a wider variety of food, and eventually replaced his pet shop wheel with a cake pan wheel.

Nearly a year later, Charley's family learned that they would be moving back to the United States! About thirty days later, Charley was packed in a small cat carrier with a Snuggle-Safe disc and a hedgegie stocking from Nikki's Hedgegie Bedding. He boarded a flight in Frankfurt, Germany and, ten hours later, was safe in his owner's arms in Atlanta, Georgia!

Charley is a big boy who has weighed as much as 680 grams! He had a bout with mites last February and lost some weight and about 300 quills. He is now down to a svelt 615 grams. Although he can be a grumpus, he loves his new owner who rescued him from a life on display at a pet store.

Atticus is a hedgehog with an as yet undiagnosed neurological issue. The first portrait P.J. made of him was donated to the Hedgehog Welfare Society. It showed Atticus lying on his back with his hind legs sticking out. A second portrait of Atticus, also shown here, was donated to the veterinarian who has helped Atticus and his owner cope with his health problems.



"JUST HANGING OUT"

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARGARET MYHRE. USED WITH PERMISSION.

Eastern States Hedgehog Show

@ Etna Fire Department
Wood Rd, Freeville, NY

July 9th, 2011 9am-5pm



You're Invited

After attending the New York State Hedgehog Show in Schoharie, NY I thought I would give running a show a try. Ithaca, NY is centrally located between Syracuse, NY and Binghamton, NY. It hasn't been easy going, but it has been fun. The show will take place at the Etna Fire Department located within minutes from the hotel. A group block has been set up at the Econolodge of Ithaca (607) 257-1400.

Activities include:

Hedgehog Confirmation Show – Sanctioned & Square Pog
Hedgehog Sporting Event – Bomber Bowling
Seminars
Vendors



Sponsorships are GREATLY appreciated to help make this a successful event for the Hedgehog Welfare Society.



Sponsorship Levels

Bombers Bronze - \$10.00
State Theater Silver - \$25.00
Fingerlakes Gold - \$50.00
Taughannock Platinum - \$100.00
Cornell Star - \$200.00 or more

Sponsorship and Registration forms can be found in the yahoo groups, files, Heather Marshall – ESHS or contact Heather Marshall at

hedgehogmom @ gmail.com (remove the spaces)

Midwest Hedgehog Rendezvous Show Results

April 16, 2011

By Deb Weaver

Judge: Dawn Wrobel

Show Secretary: Deb Weaver

Conformation results:

Juvenile Male

No entries

Adult Male

Standard

Spike Mon Herissen (Diana Kavalor) – 1st

Albino

Kenmore (Linda Woodring) – 1st

Apricot

Stetson (Floyd Aprill) – 1st

Pinto

Gromit (Linda Woodring) – 1st

Arlington (Floyd Aprill) – 2nd

Samson (Lois Reetz) – 3rd

Adult Male Grand Champion

Kenmore – Grand Champion

Gromit – Reserve Grand Champion

Spike Mon Herissen

Stetson

Senior Male

Pinto

Bedhead (Laurel Sedgewick) – 1st

Quinn (Megan Frank) – 2nd

Senior Male Grand Champion

Bedhead – Grand Champion



KENMORE RECEIVED BEST IN SHOW & PERMANENT GRAND CHAMPION

Photo by Linda Woodring



GROMIT ACHIEVED PERMANENT GRAND CHAMPION STATUS

Photo by Linda Woodring

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Juvenile Female

Standard

Caliana (Floyd Aprill) – 1st
 Nyarai Naomi (Cyndy Bennett) – 2nd

Snowflake

Francesca Joy (Cyndy Bennett) – 1st

Pinto

Cocabean (Kathy Guzikowski) – 1st

Juvenile Female Grand Champion

Caliana – Grand Champion
 Cocabean – Reserve Grand Champion
 Francesca Joy

Standard

Cocoa Marie (Cyndy Bennett) – 1st
 Miss Pickles (Jennifer Hack) – 2nd
 Juniper (Lois Reetz) – 3rd
 Millie (Deb Weaver)

Apricot

Daisy Mae (Cyndy Bennett) – 1st
 Vail (Floyd Aprill) – 2nd

White

Fiona (Kristen Bongard) – 1st

Pinto

Lexie (Kristen Bongard) – 1st
 Samantha (Deb Weaver) – 2nd
 Dot (Kristen Bongard) – 3rd

Adult Female Grand Champion

Daisy Mae – Grand Champion
 Fiona – Reserve Grand Champion
 Cocoa Marie
 Lexie

Senior Female

No entries

Adult Female

Senior Female

No entries

Best of Show

Kenmore (Linda Woodring) – Best of Show
 Daisy Mae (Cyndy Bennett) – Reserve Best of Show
 Caliana (Floyd Aprill)
 Bedhead (Laurel Sedgewick)



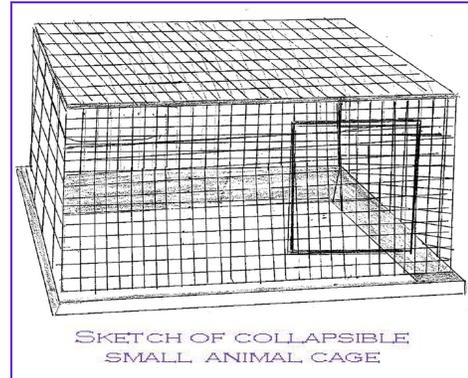
GROMIT, KENMORE AND THEIR RIBBONS

These Are a Few of my Favorite Things : Helpful Hints Gleaned from Years of Hedgehog Guardianship

By Jennifer Plombon, Blaine, Washington

Best Cage from Quality Cage Company

Why? Because the cage itself is wire (better air circulation and allows warm air from your warm room to enter cage) and sits down inside the cage bottom. This means that if you use fabric liners (greatly preferred by many hedgie guardians), you can make the liner larger than the cage bottom, set it in the bottom with the edges up over the 2" rim, then set the cage on top of the liner, keeping all liner edges under the cage edge. Then the liner is held down onto to the cage bottom, with no way for your hedgie to burrow under it! We've all had hedgies in other types of cage who try to burrow under the liner, lying against the cold bottom, half-



suffocated by the liner over them ... and let's not even go into the fun of cleaning up poo and pee from under the liner! Also, these cages come apart and store flat for storage and travel. Excellent. Where to get it? Go to:

<http://qualitycage.com/>

Enter CO-105 into the search box in the upper left corner, and look for the "30" x 30" Collapsible Small Animal Cage – cage Sets in Tray." It sells for \$67.00. It's 16" tall, which is tall enough for any wheel I've tried, but not so tall as to take up a lot of room. There are smaller versions, such as a 24" x 24" and a 24" x 30", but these are really too small, in my opinion, for a full-time home. Furthermore, the 24" x 30" cage costs only \$5.00 less than the larger; I'd rather pay \$5.00 for an extra 180 square inches of room. I do have a couple of the smaller ones that I use for travel. A few nights in a smaller cage, on the road, seems to be accepted well.

Wheel Additions

Whether your hedgies use bucket wheels, metal open-sided wheels, or plastic "Comfort"-type wheels, they may need something to either pad the wheels for sensitive feet or stumps, or to keep feet from slipping. I use bath tub stickies to prevent slipping. They are sold in stores such as Target, Wal-Mart, etc. The cutest ones, though, are available at <http://www.amazon.com>. Search "Home, Garden and Pets" for "tub tattoos" and you'll find adorable stickers—frogs, turtles, flamingoes, duckies, monkeys, etc. To apply, wash the wheel well, and wipe it with rubbing alcohol. When the alcohol is dry, press the stickers into place. I try to place one every 2 or 3 inches or so on the running surface. They stay on through many, many washings. But eventually, after many months, enough "stuff" gets under them to make the wheels smell. Simply get a fingernail under the edge of the sticker and it can be pried loose, with little to no remaining residue, leaving a fresh surface on which to apply new stickers.

I also like to pad the wheel for one of my Tweeds. Herb's leg was bitten off while in Texas. He was one of the few who didn't make it worse by chewing (what a good boy!) and the stump healed very well. Still, it probably hits the wheel surface when he's running so I want a softer surface for him. I also want to make sure he has traction so he doesn't slip off the wheel and hurt himself since his balance is off a bit. I used to line his wheel with adhesive craft foam. But when it eventually got stinky and I tried to remove it, it left lots of foam and residue on the wheel and new foam won't stick on it well. So now I use 3M foam tape. I use strips about 10" long or so (too long a strip and it's hard to deal with) lay it on the wheel surface. I press it down tightly, overlapping the tape both horizontally and vertically, and have the outer strip go over the edge of the wheel and stick down to the outer surface by about 1/2" to really hold it on. It washes up well if you stick it down firmly enough, and lasts for

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several months before needing to be replaced. It leaves no residue when removed. Get the widest you can, usually 4" wide. Some drugstores sell it but I have better luck buying it online at

<http://www.allegromedical.com/>

Search for item # 15284 "Microfoam 3M Microfoam Foam Surgical Tape 4" wide".

Cage UNDER-Liners

Why? Well, fabric liners are warm, washable, dust-free, easy to buy and sew, but not usually waterproof. So when your hedgegie "misses" the litter pan, the cage bottom may get soiled and while a plastic bottom is easy to wash up, it can still begin to retain odors if liquid seeps into the plastic. And a metal bottom (as in the Quality Cage described above) will quickly stain and rust if moistened. I used to use puppy pads under my cage liners, but then they had to be thrown away and they're not very biodegradable. Hospitals use these marvelous reusable, washable bed pads that you can now buy for yourself which work beautifully. They're extremely absorbent, come in many sizes, will not let liquids through, and are nice and soft under the cage liners. They're not so thick that they stop the heat if you have a heating pad or electric blanket under the cage. I find mine at

<http://www.allegromedical.com/>

Search for "reusable waterproof bed pads." The 34" x 36" is perfect for a 30" x 30" cage.

Playpen Panels

Why? Sometimes your hedgegie want to play outside the cage. Sometimes the playpen is the cage; my 4 girls live in a playpen which is about 36" x 80", made of 2 playpen panels hooked together. The usual 12" high playpen panels are not safe for this purpose; too many hedgegies are able to climb out of those. However, I've found that the 19" tall panels are just perfect; none of my hedgegies have tried to climb them. I place an electric blanket on the floor, then a plastic picnic tablecloth on top to protect it, then a custom-made corduroy liner (takes 4-1/2 yards of corduroy to make one) on top of that, then set



the playpen up on top of the liner and use pipe cleaners to reinforce the hooks which fasten the panels together (it's a bit too easy to unhook them).

These playpens are sold in a multitude of places and it's worth trying to find a low price. What you're searching for is the "Midwest Pets Small Animal Pet Playpen" item # 100-15. Go to

<http://www.midwesthomes4pets.com/>

and look for "Where to Buy" if you can't find them anywhere else. One panel is really pretty small in diameter, I recommend you get two.

Best Food Dishes

Why? Because they're heavy (can't be tipped); low (good for short hedgegie legs); wide (more than one hedgegie can fit around the dish for hedgegies who will share); and adorable (very important!) Go to

<http://www.brisky.com/>

Click on "accessories" (top of page) then on "Ceramic Dishes" then on "Specialty Dishes for Hedgehogs"



SKETCH OF
SPECIALTY DISH

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Best Water Dishes

Why? Because they clip to the cage wires (can't be tipped), are low and can be placed very low in the cage (good for short hedgie legs). They hold lots of water for their size and are easily removed and washed. To find stores and website retailers that carry this item go to:

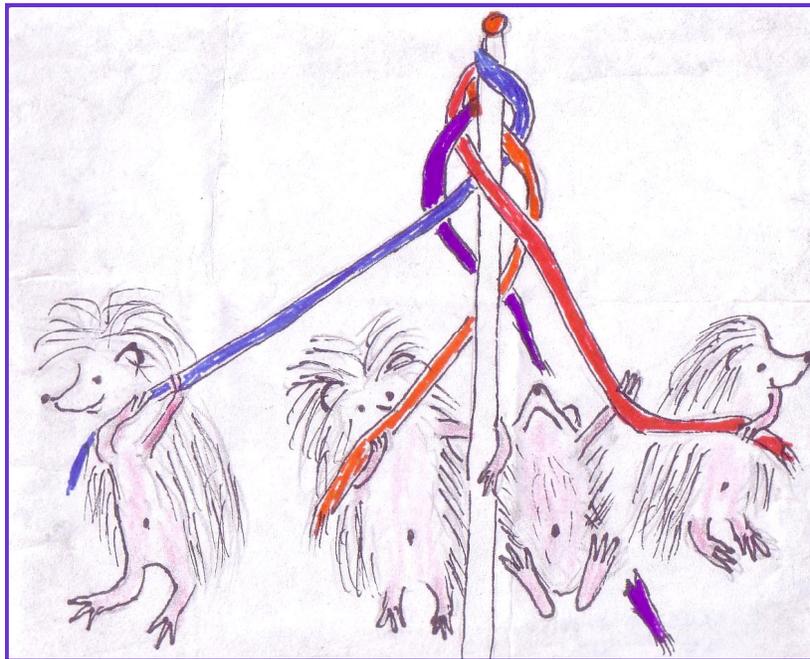
<http://www.lixit.com/distributors/search>

Best Way of Keeping Bugs Fresh

Why? Because if you use canned crickets and mealies, one can of insects, even if refrigerated as they should be, will spoil long before your hedgies can eat all the insects, unless you have at least 6 or more hedgies eating them every day. Freezing them will keep them from spoiling, but how to separate the frozen-solid mass of bugs? Separate them before freezing! Simply open the can, spread the bugs out on a plate or cookie sheet in a single layer, and place in the freezer. They freeze well enough to stay separate in about 30-60 minutes. Scrape them from the plate or sheet and immediately place back in the can

and freeze the can. They will stay separated and you can thaw the evening's worth of bugs in about 30 minutes; less if you hold them in your nice warm hand. Be sure to rinse out and dry the can before putting the frozen bugs inside, so they don't get wet and start to stick. And be sure to be REALLY careful of the sharp can edges when you do so.

Do have Favorite Things or Helpful Hints? Send them to our newsletter editor Margaret Myhre for future newsletters. Email to: newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org



Around the Hedgie Mag Pole

Thoughts from the CVO

By Deb Weaver



Is there anything more fun than a hedgehog show? I don't think so! On April 16th over 40 humans (many coming to a show for the first time) and 22 hedgehogs met here in Milwaukee for the Midwest Hedgehog Rendezvous Show.

We started the day with health checks (for the hedgies, not humans) and then moved on to the conformation show. Dawn Wrobel was the judge and 22 hedgehogs strutted their stuff on the show table. In the end, Daisy Mae Bennett (daughter of Cyndy & Mike Bennett) won Reserve Best of Show and Kenmore Woodring (son of Linda & Jim Woodring) won Best of Show.

Full conformation show results are posted in this newsletter.

Along the way, both Kenmore (Kenny to his friends) and his brother Gromit (a Texas tumbleweed) garnered enough IHA points to both earn IHA Permanent Grand Champion status. Congratulations to both these hedgehogs!

After lunch we heard talks from Dawn Wrobel (talking about basic care and answering audience questions), Kristen Bongard (talking about the Hedgehog Welfare Society), Linda Woodring (talking about pet insurance), and Floyd Aprill (talking about the International Hedgehog Association).

Three hedgehogs entered the costume competition. Here are the results: First place went to Miss Pickles Hack (hula girl), second place went to Quinn Frank (riding on a school bus), and third place went to Sammie Weaver (Easter basket). Sammie would like it noted that she thinks she would have done better if her Mom had not worn pink rabbit ears.

The day ended with a sprint race with Miss Pickles taking 1st, Cocabean taking 2nd, and Bedhead coming in 3rd.

If you couldn't make it to our show here, there is one scheduled in New York in July and another in Colorado in October. Check them out -- you'll have a blast!

HEDGEHOG TRIVIA : The Apple Myth

Sooner or later, those of us who are interested in hedgehogs are likely to come across a reference to hedgehogs carrying apples on their backs. Most likely it will be in the form of a picture. But there are also plenty of literary depictions of this unusual activity, including one in the current Literary Hedgehog column.

If you are a hedgehog owner, you have already realized that carrying apples in this manner is physically impossible for most pet hedgehogs. Not only that, it would effectively disable any hedgehog's most important defensive asset — its quills! Hedgehogs don't eat that much fruit nor do they hoard food for the winter, so why would they engage in such a foolish and dangerous undertaking?

Nevertheless, the rumor persists and it's been around for a very long time. Pliny the Elder is credited with the first written discussion of a hedgehog carrying apples on its back. In his book *Natural History*, written in the 1st Century AD, he writes:

To prepare for winter, hedgehogs roll on fallen apples to stick them to their spines, then taking one or more in their mouths, carry the load to hollow trees.¹

In the 7th Century AD, Isidore of Seville, made the following claim:

The hedgehog is covered with quills which it stiffens when threatened, and rolling itself into a ball is thus protected on all sides. After it cuts a bunch of grapes off a vine it rolls over them so it can carry the grapes to its young on its quills.²

Hmmm....grapes would be less cumbersome than apples. It might even be possible to impale one on a quill but aren't grapes and raisins known to cause renal failure in hedgehogs? Perhaps, Isidore never took the time to consider the effect of grapes on hedgehog health once they had been toted back to the nest and consumed.



Emmy decked out in her medieval costume.

Pictures depicting hedgehogs carrying apples, grapes and even mushrooms on their backs were created with some frequency during the Middle Ages. The website, *The Medieval Bestiary: Animals in the Middle Ages* (<http://bestiary.ca/>), has a gallery that includes eighteen medieval depictions of hedgehogs. In nearly all of them the hedgehogs are engaged in this unlikely activity. It seems to be a popular piece of European folklore which persists, at least in children's literature, to the present day.

¹ Plinius, Secundus G, and Harris Rackham. *Natural History*: 3. Cambridge, Mass. [u.a.: Harvard Univ. Press, 1983. Page 95. Print.

² Isidore, , and Stephen A. Barney. *The Etymologies of Isidore of Seville*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. Book 12, 3:7. Print.

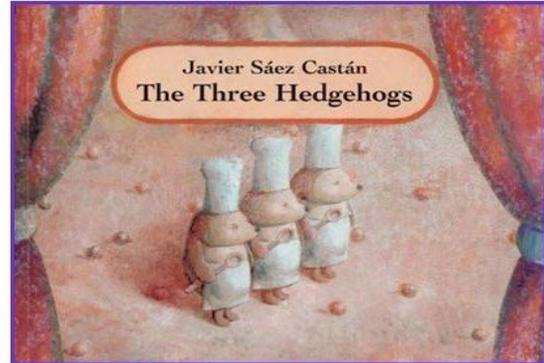


<http://clipart.m-y-d-s.com/>

The Literary Hedgehog : The Three Hedgehogs



Photograph by Margaret Myhre.



Every so often a book is published that defies characterization. *The Three Hedgehogs* by Spanish author and illustrator Javier Sáez Castán is just such a book. It is the size and thickness of a child's book and has copious illustrations which you would expect to find in a picture book. But somehow it seems a bit weighty for a child. For one thing, the pastel illustrations are stylized and formal. In addition, many of the illustrations are labeled with banners and signs containing words from five different languages: Chinese, English, French, Latin, and Spanish. Luckily, a glossary is included at the back of the book.

The book's subtitle, *A pantomime in two acts and a colophon*, is decidedly adult. How many children are familiar with the term "pantomime"? Then there's the word colophon, what's that? I happen to know but I'm a librarian and, besides, I looked it up. It refers to an inscription placed at the end of a book that gives facts about the book's publication. It can also be used to describe an emblem or trademark placed on the book's title page. How many kids would know that? Actually the word has a third meaning—"summit or finishing touch." That is the meaning Mr. Castán apparently had in mind. If you think of it that way, it makes perfect sense!

So here's the story:

Act One: On a crisp autumn morning three hedgehogs leave the house to look for food. They sneak through a hole in a hedge and discover an orchard. They roll around in the orchard until apples are stuck on their spines like hors d'oeuvres on toothpicks. Then they

head for home. As they exit the hedge a black crow screams at them, "This is pure robbery!" Undaunted, the three hedgehogs go home, picnic on their front lawn, eat every single apple, then go into their house and fall asleep for the winter. Meanwhile the farmer's wife, who is quite large and intimidating, discovers that there are no apples in her orchard. "I've been robbed!" she screams. A posse of three is dispatched to solve the crime. Finding no tracks, they return home.

Act Two: In the spring a larger posse sets out to find the thieves. This time they spot the apple trees that have begun to grow in the grass outside the hedgehogs' home. The hedgehogs become suspects! Luckily the charges are dropped when, by means of a conveniently placed banner, one of the apple trees proclaims: "It was the hedgehogs who planted me, why would you want to kill them?"

Ashamed, the posse drops its weapons and the hedgehogs celebrate with music. Hands are extended in peace and the hedgies are honored for the good deed of planting apple trees! All is well as the three hedgehogs dance in the twilight!

The colophon, or finishing touch, occurs the next autumn when the three lucky hedgehogs prepare apples for a celebration with the farmer's wife, the farmer, the posse and all of their friends. All live happily ever after.

The Three Hedgehogs by Javier Sáez Castán.
Groundwood Books, 2004. ISBN : 978-0888995957