



The Hedgehog Welfare Society

Mission Statement: The Hedgehog Welfare Society exists to protect the well-being of pet hedgehogs through rescue, research and education of the people who care for them.

Hedgehog Welfare Society Newsletter #6, June 2003

The Hedgehog Welfare Society

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Saluting our Euro-cousins!



Photo © Les Stokker M.B.E.

This issue of the HWS newsletter is devoted to our quilly counterparts across the pond. European Hedgehogs face different challenges than African Pygmy Hedgehogs. They live out in the wilds of nature, and must combat automobiles, dog-bites, lawn/gardening tool accidents, maggots, sewer drains, and even being abandoned by their hedgehog moms. Thankfully, there are many fine rescue and rehabilitation establishments for hedgehogs throughout Europe.

The HWS is a *HEDGEHOG* welfare society, and we believe that European hedgehogs fall under our wings too. So, we are devoting the month of June to do our part to assist European hedgehog caretakers in several ways. We hope to bring attention to the European hedgehog rescue and rehabilitation organizations through this newsletter. Several generous individuals have taken time away from their busy days of caring for sick hedgehogs to share their stories with us.

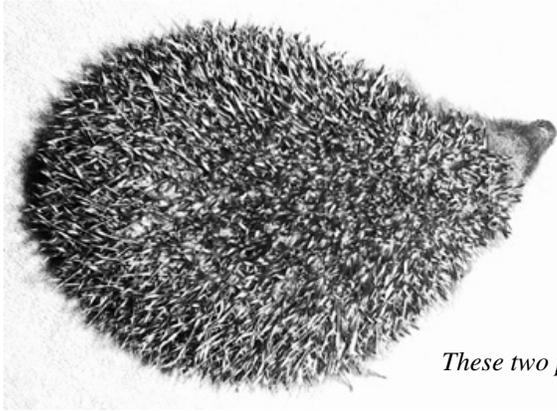
They have also taken time to share their hedgehogs with us through our "European Hedgehog Adoption" program. Through this program, HWS members who donate a

\$10.00 adoption fee receive stories and photos about their special hedgehog. The "adoptive" parent chooses a special name for their little one. In addition to the adoption fee, the HWS will send a comfy, extra-large Euro-sized sleepy hat or bag to the European hedgehog organizations. Check out the photos of these spectacular hats and bags, stitched with love by Jennifer Plombon.

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These two photos show the clear difference between a normal, healthy Euro-hedgie and one suffering severe dehydration.

A Sunny Spring Day in May

KIS VAN OOSTERHOUT

VEJEN, DENMARK – I love the month of May. Nature is slowly waking up and that means it is time to give all my little “winter friends” their freedom. Though I must admit it is with a little sad heart I let all my “babies” out in the cruel world on their own. But seeing how their noses wiggle when they get all the exciting smells of nature in their noses, it makes me smile and I *know* in my heart: This is their home, *nature* is where they belong.

Normally May is a quiet time of year for me. But this year spring has been very dry. That means there is not enough to drink for the hedgies waking up after hibernation. The result is many skinny, dehydrated hedgehogs running around in daylight in desperate search for water. BUT even if people put water *down* right in front of them, they are too weak to drink by themselves.

Well a little about my day today: Paul woke me with a nice cup of strong coffee (very wise man).

The first little patient had arrived. It was a terrible skinny boy who was walking in circles. He was very dehydrated... no sign of any eyes. But as soon as he had drunk 30 ml (!) camomile tea the loveliest dark eyes popped out. An antibiotic cure for inner ear infection was started. That is often the reason they walk in circles. I got him installed in a box and after a few hours of sleep he started eating and drinking.

A new mouse poison is on the market in Denmark. It seems mice are now resistant to the old-fashioned mouse poison. Now they make some that has the same effect as rat poison: It causes

inner bleeding. I promised to write about the poison and treatment to our *Rescue News* which had its deadline today.

While doing so a woman phoned. They had driven past a hedgie, laying in the middle of the road.



Was it sleeping there? It was a nice woman and she drove back to pick up the hedgie right away. Phoned me: It was bleeding from the nose. As the very nice and kind person she was, she agreed to bring it to me right away. My second little boy today. He was hit in the head (my guess is by a car) – his left eye was badly damaged and he was bleeding from his nose. He got a nice bath to clean the eye and nose for the dried blood. I was happy to see he could stand pretty well... and positive when he was accepting some Hills a/d. The next hours will show if he has inner bleeding.

Phone call: An older lady. She asked if I could help. A company that sells wood had put down slug poison in little boxes, open for any animal or kid to take (the nice light blue color on the little corns sure could make children think it was candy!). I asked her to phone the department at town hall that deals with such things. She

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(Kis does an amazing job with foreign languages – here is a taste of her ‘everyday’ language...) “Og sådan ser et pindsvin ud efter det har fået en tur med en kant-trimmer (et eller andet åndssvagt elektrisk haveredskab som nogen har opfundet så deres haver kan være SÅ pæne” :-)
Translation: This is what a hedgie looks like after an encounter with an electric garden tool designed so people’s yards can look SO pretty.



“Her er et par billeder af to moderløse unger jeg havde sidste år. Den ene vejede 12 gram, den anden 14. De er begge blevet store glade frække grise som er sat ud.” ;-) Translation: Here are a couple photos of two motherless babies I housed last year. One of them weighed 12 grams, the other 14. They have both become big, happy, cheeky hedgies that were released.

SPRING DAY IN MAY...

(...Continued from page 2)

phoned back: They were way to busy to deal with such *small* (!) problems. Could I please look into it? I will – tomorrow. It is in a place 10 km from here. If they do not take them away after a “nice” chat, I will. If they put new ones out, I will take them as well ;-)

More phone calls... small and big problems, and questions about hedgehogs.

Then a loud clear voice (I was still trying to write my stuff about the new mouse poison):

“MORMOR (Grandmother)... come and have a look. I can drive without support-wheels.” What a big day! Granddaughter Christina and dad came on bike with only two wheels!

Phone call: 3 small kittens were found at the side of the road in a box. Could I take them?

Of course... just bring them (knowing our former wildcat would not like this at all). But, all 3 kittens were dead from hunger when they arrived. Go figure how people can be so cruel!

Knock at the door (while I was grabbing a quick sandwich). A man with a box in his arms. “Eh, I found this.” “This” appeared to be a hedgehog, a lovely, dark brown big girl – a few years old –

who had a part of her left front paw cut off by some electric garden tool. The wound was cleaned and painkiller was given while I had a nice chat and a cup of coffee with the man who brought her.

He had found the poor girl on the pavement on his way home from work.

Phone call: A man wanted to donate 25 kg. of honey to me. WOW! Amazing. People are so kind.

Phone again. It was an older lady who lives about 12 km. from us. She and her husband somehow think it is their ‘mission’ in life to catch ANY hedgehog, and bring it to me so I can look if it is healthy. Big or small. I have to look at it. I have known them several years, they are *lovely* people, but I learned – when they say, “We found a *small* hedgie” it does NOT have to be *small*! In this case the weight was 1245 grams (!). I asked them to put out the hedgie where they found it and if they saw it in daylight to phone me.

Time to have another look at the poor big girl. The bleeding has stopped, and it looks as if she has two toes remaining on the foot.

Time to put down food and water for the free hedgies in the garden. Yeah! Only healthy poop was found, and all food eaten.

It is now 9 pm – time to take my rounds to clean boxes and give medication. And after that I will relax and enjoy reading my list mail. If the phone will let me.

Thank you all for your support and help.

Frugtpindsvin – Fruit Hedgehog

This fun and fancy recipe idea was submitted by our hedgehog friend in Denmark, Kis van Oosterhout. This is the healthy-vegetarian option, but you might also choose to do it with candy instead. The body is a honey-dew melon. The eyes are raisins. The quills are just toothpicks, handy holders for the grapes. The little beauty is lying on lettuce leaves, with sunflower seeds, different nuts, raisins, slices of carrots, and grapes. The Danish flags are optional!





A couple Finnish hedgehog 'locals' check out the first-class accomodations built by Tiina Kuuteri's husband.

The Finnish Hedgehog Society

In Finland the European Hedgehog is the most popular wild animal according to many questionnaires. That's why it was not surprising that also the African Pygmy hedgehog became popular when the law allowed us to keep this animal as a pet. However, It was surprising how little people knew about the hedgehogs, their nutrition and behaviour. We have been able to observe wild hedgehogs every summer, but for too many it was a surprise to find out that

hedgehogs are insectivores and they are active at dawn and night. It was also unknown to many that you can't give milk to a hedgehog. So our the Finnish Hedgehog Society has had much to do with the new owners of the pygmy hedgehogs. I believe this has also has benefits for wild hedgehogs as well.

The Finnish Hedgehog Society has been represented at several animal shows and events all over the country telling the people



Time to check out today's menu options at the local eatery!

about hedgehogs. These events have been a great success. I could probably say that every pet shop and veterinary hospital in Finland knows us. We receive about 20 contacts every day, which is a lot considering the population in Finland is 5 million. We only have about 400 pygmy hedgehogs in the whole nation of Finland.

The most difficult problems we have had are with the pet shops. We believe that they are importing pygmy hedgehogs from Africa, because they seem to suddenly get large numbers of hedgehogs, when it seems impossible to find any breeders. We could not locate the breeders to USA or Canada either, so we assume they may be importing from Africa. In many pet shops, we see hedgehogs in poor condition. In one cage were even 15 hedgehogs together. You can only imagine what is happening in that kind

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SALUTE...

(...Continued from page 1)

This adoption opportunity will only be available during the month of June, so adopt your hedgie today by contacting 'Adoption Coordinator' Donnasue Graesser by email at donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu

We will also be raising funds for Euro-hogs via auctions and raffles. Keep your eyes open on e-bay for fabulous Euro-themed gifts during the month of June! And,

if you are lucky enough to be attending the Mighty Niagara Hedgehog Show, there are lots of raffles and auction items that have specifically been designated to raise funds for European hedgehogs.

Finally, European Awareness Month will wind up with **RUBY TUESDAY 2003!** On Tuesday, July 1, 2003 Ruby's Rescue Shop (<http://www.hedgehogwelfare.org>) will be offering free shipping for any orders placed that day. In addition, our first 25 customers will receive a car sticker featuring a whimsical cartoon of a hedgie from Kis's rescue

in Denmark. This is a unique must have item! And, Ruby Tuesday is your only opportunity to get it here in the USA! Check out the sticker in the photo in this newsletter. Isn't it precious? To order from Ruby's Rescue Shop on Ruby Tuesday, contact donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu. ALL the profits from Ruby Tuesday sales will be donated to different European Hedgehog rescue and rehabilitation organizations. You may learn more about these wonderful organizations and the work they do by visiting their web-sites.



Finland's African Pygmy Hedgehog population recently increased with the birth of these two little cuties!

FINNISH HEDGIES...

(...Continued from page 4)

of cage at night! Injured and pregnant hedgehogs were sold to credulous people.

Some buyers have been told by the pet shops that hedgehogs will not cause any allergies. So, we got opportunity to practise to find new homes for hedgies! So far re-homing has not been difficult. We have so many people waiting a pet hedgehog.

We have been in co-operation with the association of the pet shop keepers, and we have had an opportunity to be present in their meetings, where we have really had a chance to deliver our information about hedgehogs. We have just made directions for keeping hedgehogs in a pet shop and this has been delivered to *EVERY* pet shop in Finland. We do hope this will help the hedgehogs. Our members are continuously

visiting the pet shops so we get information about what is happening to the hedgehogs they are selling.

The Finnish Hedgehog Society is quite a new. It was founded a little more than one year ago. At that time, it was nearly impossible to find someone who with knowledge about African Pygmy Hedgehogs, and that included the veterinarians! We received great help from USA, namely from Laura Ledet and Donnasue Graesser. Laura helped with a hedgehog that had WHS (Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome), perhaps the first one in Finland. Donnasue helped me personally with many things. HWS web-pages have been used very often. I have no idea how we had managed without them, and I'd like to thank everyone who is involved with the Hedgehog Welfare Society.

To find out more about the Finnish Hedgehog Society, please contact Tiina Kuuteri at tiina.kuuteri@jjssoft.fi

Beds & Herts

AMANDA O'BRIEN

HERTFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND – My name is Amanda O'Brien, and I am a European hedgehog rescuer. I am a member of *Beds and Herts Hedgehog Rescue*. I take in sick, injured, and orphaned hedgehogs from members of the public and the local vets. I have different problems with hedgehogs depending on the time of year. I will soon be getting calls about skinny hedgehogs who went into hibernation too small and will struggle to stay alive when they awaken. A lot of the hedgies that I get in have been injured by people; most accidental, but some on purpose. I work closely with the Royal Society Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), and if I suspect any animal cruelty I will contact them. We try to educate people as much as we can about hazards to our hedgehogs and how they can help, which will hopefully reduce the number of casualties we get each year.

I first started in September when the autumn rescues were plentiful. My first "resident" was a hoggie called Eddie. He weighed just 100 grams and was found by a man walking his dog. He refused to eat for days and was syringe fed kitten food mixed with goat's milk. He managed to struggle through, and in December he was put into a run weighing 700 grams! He has now woken up and will be released in April into a soft release site, which is one where food is put out for them on a daily basis, and shelter is provided.

If you would like any information on European Hedgehogs, please write to:

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St. Tiggywinkles mounts hedgehog rescue

HADDENHAM, ENGLAND – St. Tiggywinkles is a large wildlife hospital set in the countryside of Buckinghamshire in the UK. We treat over 10,000 sick and injured wild animals each year over 3,000 of which are European Hedgehogs. At the moment we are at the centre of a massive rescue operation to stop 5,000 hedgehogs from being killed on the Western Isles of Scotland. Hedgehogs are not native to the Islands, being introduced in the 1970's, and are now one of the species that are eating the eggs of ground nesting birds which are seriously in decline. The decision was made that the hedgehogs had to go, but rather than let us and other animal groups relocate the hedgehogs back onto the British mainland, Scottish Natural Heritage are using tax payers money to kill them. These are Les Stocker's thought on the start of the rescue operation ...

We have listened and talked, listened and talked for months to Scottish Natural Heritage listening to their reasons for threatening to kill five thousand hedgehogs on the Islands of Uist and Benbecula, and have repeatedly given them expert reasons why the slaughter was unnecessary. They chose not to even listen to reason and even ignored the advice of the Scottish Members of Parliament who recommended they worked with our rescue coalition.

In the face of the 'ethnic cleansing' they were still threatening we acted quickly and



Photo © Les Stocker M.B.E.

have set up a field rescue centre on the Island of Benbecula, which is central to the two Uists.

Tina, our Clinical Manager together with nurse Sharon and Maintenance Officer, Alan, made the first sortie in a van loaded with cages, medical supplies and dog food (for the hedgehogs). It is not easy getting to Benbecula, as I found out when I followed two days later. First you have to drive five hundred miles to Oban, on the west coast of Scotland; then there is a seven hour ferry crossing to Lochboisdale in South Uist and then a thirty mile drive to our rented rescue centre.

Here Tina and Sharon and Alan met up with Nick, from International Animal Res-

cue, one of the partners in the coalition. The rescue site consisted of an old caravan and several derelict chalets known locally as *The Refugee Camp*. Tina and Sharon soon made the caravan habitable and brewed the first pot of tea with the kettle lifted from the staff room at St. Tiggys.

Sue and I arrived two days later as we had arranged a public meeting where Island-

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Photo: Kathleen Hjørdis Knudsen

St Tiggywinkles also houses a museum of anything and everything hedgegie-related, from figurines and photos of things named "hedgehog"...



Photo: Kathleen Hjørdis Knudsen
... to t-shirts ...

ST TIGGYWINKLE...

(...Continued from page 6)

ers could come along and pump questions at us and our expert advisers Professor Stephen Harris, expert in British mammals and Andrew Greenwood, one of the specialists from our vet consultants, International Zoo Veterinary Group.

All through the shenanigans with SNH we had worked very closely with Advocates for Animals, an animal campaign group based in Edinburgh. Ross, from Advocates, flew in with our expert advisers and added to the meeting explanations on how we were intending to catch the hedgehogs, before SNH could kill them. Fiona Stewart, a hedgehog rehabilitator from Scotland, headed the table convincing her countrymen that hedgehogs could be safely relocated on the mainland. Stephen and I spoke at length on our strategies and, I think, convinced the locals that Uist Hedgehog Rescue was the only humane way to remove the hedgehogs.

The following day most of the panel flew back to the mainland while we all remained to set up the centre. Our first job was to manhandle a porta-cabin to alongside the caravan to serve as a medical centre where any hedgehogs could be checked, passed for flying to the mainland or retained for medical treatment. Even with the help of the landlord, John, and his old land rover it was "all hands on deck" to manhandle the cabin from its demise behind a couple of old derelict shacks.



Photo: Kathleen Hjørdis Knudsen

... to sweaters and patterns ...



Photo © Les Stocker M.B.E.

We managed it, finally, and soon had it set up, cleaned and stocked alongside the caravan. We were ready for the flood of hedgehogs that SNH had said were terrorizing the Islands.

During the day the outlook from the centre, next to Loch Dùn Mhurchaidh, was amazing; the first bird I saw was a hen harrier, flying past the caravan, being chased by two gulls. A short-eared owl quartered a piece of land sticking out into the Loch and the whole area was covered with lapwings and oystercatchers. But at night all you could hear was the calling of the birds on the mud flats and not much else; no lights, no houses, no nothing. Where were all these hedgehogs. Still it was only day one and the search teams with the people of the Islands had yet to be organised.

Ross and Tina led the first team out on the next dusk. Scottish Natural Heritage had refused to give us a licence to search for hedgehogs using torches so any searching had to be done at dusk or under a full moon. They did not see many signs of hedgehog but getting back into the vehicles there was the first one; crossing the road of course. Quickly ensconced into one of the carrying cases, Hamish, was safe, he would not be killed. No other hedgehogs were seen that night and now others under the leadership of International Animal Rescue are due to arrive giving us more people on the ground. We should be able to save some more.

As the complete rescue could take many years we are aiming between now and the end of September to set up a long term rescue centre hopefully managed by Islanders

we can train up. Even this short term six month occupation is going to cost us some of our funds but if we save hedgehogs it is all going to be worth it.

Sue, Sharon, Alan and myself are now on the ferry coming back to the mainland. Tina has stayed at the Rescue Centre and will be joined this morning by our Head of Research and Development, Lisa Frost, and nurse Francesca. Over the next six months we will all, both staff and trained volunteers,

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Photo: Kathleen Hjørdis Knudsen

... everything from the sublime to the ridiculous, including this humorous t-shirt!

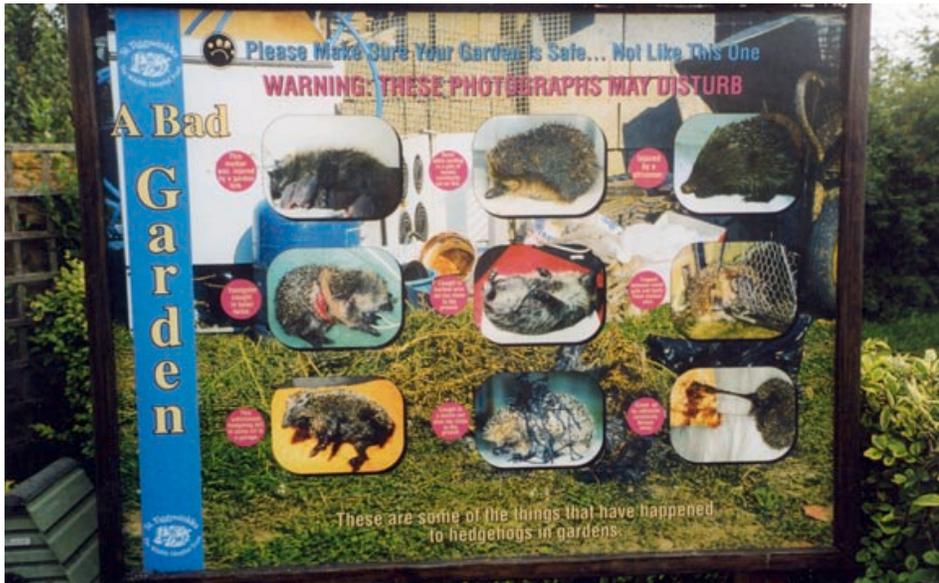


Photo: Kathleen Hjørdis Knudsen

St Tiggywinkles uses photos of actual injured hedgies to teach about garden hazards ...

ST TIGGYWINKLE...

(...Continued from page 7)

be doing two week shifts at Dùn Gainmhich.

Meanwhile back at the Hospital ...

Even with all the work we are doing on the Western Isles, life at St. Tiggywinkles is carrying on as usual. Our doors are always open and the casualties keep streaming in.

When you walk around the wards at the moment you are greeted with a mixture of sounds from the bustling of the staff and volunteers carrying out their daily duties to the calls of the orphaned animals as they are being fed. It seems amazing that no matter what we face the St. Tiggywinkles' staff seem to take it in their stride and get the job done.

At the moment we are preparing ourselves for the onslaught of baby birds that will arrive any day now. We already have the pleasure of caring for two orphaned tawny owls, who regularly peep out of their box to let us know its feeding time. Our nursery is also home to a very protective Mallard duck and her offspring that were brought to us when their pond was polluted.

Every year the bird nursery fills to the seams with young orphaned birds all vying to be the first to be fed. Each bird needs to be fed every 15 minutes between dawn and dusk, and with the baby bird casualties totalling over 1500 birds being brought into us between March and September it really is a full time job.

The baby mammals are just as demanding to their foster mums. We are already in

full swing with these, Jane, our deer 'mum' has been caring for baby muntjac all winter, and we are now rearing families of rabbits and two young orphaned hares. The family of fox cubs that Jacqui is hand rearing were just a few days old when their cries alerted a passer-by to their presence under a shed. Careful surveillance failed to show their mum returning to the nesting area and as their cries became obviously weaker, it was time for intervention. They are now eating well and thriving under Jacqui's care.

Sick and injured adult casualties are also pouring in. Among our numbers are the usual hundreds of hedgehogs and other small mammals, as well as an influx of badly injured frogs and toads. The larger mammals are also finding themselves in need of our assistance, particularly deer but also foxes and badgers. At this time of year badgers tend to travel further and so they

These Euro-hedgies are without a doubt in good hands at St Tiggywinkles!

are in even greater danger from cars as well as fighting amongst themselves.

The larger birds are also making an appearance, one of our recently admitted buzzards is doing well in an outside aviary, whilst the other is taking time to heal his broken leg.

All in all we are as busy as ever at St. Tiggywinkles and expect to be so throughout the summer. We know we will be short staffed throughout the summer with teams going up to care for the Uist hedgehogs, but as always, all our patients will still receive the best possible care we can provide.

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www.sttiggywinkles.org.uk



... and how St Tiggys provides a safe haven for those hedgies needing additional protection for the duration of their far-too-short lives.

Spine Tingler

Way up north a cruel war is being waged. Richard Heller hears the harrowing tale of a victim who sought asylum in Britain.



Spike is not his real name, but real names do not matter when you are on the run without papers. Besides, the British are notoriously bad at foreign names and *Erinaceus Europaeus* defeats even the most expert immigration official.

So this is Spike's story – sometimes moving, sometimes sharply pointed – one hedgehog's search for freedom in Britain. It

is an astonishing journey over sea, over land, over the motorway, by a young stranger who began it knowing just two words of English: St Tiggywinkles.

Spike was born on the Hebridean island of Uist. He has four brothers and sisters: Erin, Arran, Euan and Euwhat, the wild one of the family. Hedgehogs first came to the Hebrides as immigrant labour, to protect gardens against slugs and snails. For generations they lived there happily and were accepted by the local community. But, like many immigrants, Hebridean hedgehogs fell victim to prejudice and hysteria.

"They spread scare stories, accused us of eating birds' eggs. They said that we were a threat to native waders. They wrote lies about us in *The Daily Snipe*," says Spike.

With official encouragement, hedgehogs were hunted down and killed in the notorious Uist drives over the culling fields. "I had to get away," says Spike. "They told me about this place in England, St Tiggywinkles, where hedgehogs can make a new life."

There is only one way out of Uist for a hedgehog – to slip on to the ferry at night.

"Some hedgehogs tried to do it by seaplane, but we never heard from them again."

Security is lax at Uist, but not at the next island. "They warned us about the ferret patrols. They hunt us down to prevent us from getting to the main land. We saw them on *Skye News*." But Spike managed to hide in the sample case of a short-sighted brush salesman. After another boat ride, he was on the mainland.

As an asylum-seeker, Spike had to make his claim at the first opportunity at his port of landing, Kyle of Lochalsh. But he was stuck in a queue two miles long of wild rhododendrons – escaping the cull on the neighbouring Hebridean island of Colonsay. Spike was locked away in the detention centre. "A tiny wire ceil. The grub was terrible

– and only one a day."

When he eventually made it to the head of the queue, Spike was offered a safe haven in Sellafield while his claim was being processed. But he had been advised not to accept it. "Sellafield hedgehogs glow in the dark. They do it deliberately, to stop us from running away."

While others distracted the guards with a camp variety show, Spike dug his way out of the wire cell. He traveled hundreds of miles by the side of the road, dodging foxes and police hunting foxhunters. He lived off stolen cat food and by begging for Mars bars in batter from dieting Scots, until he reached Glasgow.

But then came the biggest test of all for a hedgehog on the run: The Motorway. "You can't get across The Motorway unless you know The Weasel [a notorious mammal-smuggler and racketeer]. You need The Weasel to get you on to a lorry. The fee is a whole chicken. I hid in the rubbish by a KFC until I had collected enough pieces."

The Weasel found Spike the right south-bound lorry and told him to flatten himself and play dead. He gave him a Yorkie Bar and a paper with the right motorway exit for St Tiggywinkles.

Spike was one of the lucky ones – he made it to the sanctuary. He is learning English customs and has a new girlfriend, an attractive shrew. He works as a street-cleaner, picking up chewing gum, but hopes eventually to land a job in a garden centre.

But he misses his family terribly. "I don't know what has happened to them. You don't get much on the news. The world seems to have forgotten about Uist."

(The Times)

"It is an astonishing journey – over sea, land and motorway"

Be one of the first 25 shoppers at Ruby's Rescue Shop on Ruby Tuesday (July 1) and you will receive a free hedgie sticker!



The hedgehog world is smaller than we know ...

JENNIFER PLOMBON

CHARLESTON, SC – In December of 2001, I traveled to England for a week. I had two goals; to see London decorated for Christmas, and to visit St. Tiggywinkle's Wildlife & Hedgehog Hospital Trust, in Aylesbury.

The founder of St. Tiggywinkle's, Les Stocker, agreed to meet with me, so one very cold morning we took the train from London out to Aylesbury.

We first toured the outside areas, and were able to see the hibernating hedgehogs. It was about 25 degrees, extremely cold, and there they were, sleeping soundly inside balls of hay, which were inside little wooden huts. It was amazing to see – none of our African Hedgehogs would have lived an hour in that cold, but the European Hedgehogs were sleeping peacefully.

We met the many injured deer who stay there, as well as several geese and ducks who were wintering there.

Then we went inside, and what an astonishing place! There are critical care areas, a fully equipped operating room, incubators, a pharmacy ... and hedgehogs EVERYWHERE! Big ones, baby ones, injured ones, emaciated ones, ones too small to hibernate outside ... and all were calm and friendly. They are so brown! And their feet are so BIG! Baby hedgehogs who weighed approximately what our adult African Hedgehogs weigh had feet that were at least twice as big.

There were injured and recovering foxes, badgers, stoats, birds, and others. You could see the loving care everyone there provided to every animal, and I could have cheerfully stayed for days and days, helping out.

But, we had to leave; I left with my book *The Complete Hedgehog* signed by Les, and a promise to stay in touch with each other. It seemed that despite their best efforts to stop the importation, some African Hedgehogs were starting to show up in the UK, and they needed access to proper care information.

Little did I know how quickly staying in touch would be useful.

A few days after returning from England I received an email from an unknown address, marked *URGENT*. It was from a woman in Maryland, 'D', who is a registered wildlife rehabilitator; she had been given an African Hedgehog to care for. This little one had been abandoned outside (in an *ice storm*) several days ago, and had been picked up by a dog and then brought to her.

'D' is British and a friend of Les's, and when she realized she had a hedgehog (albeit one that was remarkably small and oddly colored to her eyes), she called him at once for advice. He gave her my email address and she contacted me.

I called her and we talked. The poor little hedgehog girl seemed lifeless, would not uncurl, was barely (if at all) breathing, and was ice cold. 'D' put the hedgehog in an incubator, tried some warmed subq fluids, and we discussed what temperature, hous-

ing options, and foods would be appropriate if the hedgehog recovered. I then called Teresa Johnson, a hedgehog rescuer in Maryland, and put her in touch with 'D'; Teresa offered the hedgehog a forever home when needed.

Unfortunately, the little hedgehog girl did not survive the night. She Crossed the Bridge warm, loved, and in peace. She was wrapped in a warm cloth and buried, and at least three people mourned her Crossing. It is a remarkable thing – a visit to England would lead to warm and loving care in America, and all through the efforts of people who love and care about hedgehogs.

You may visit St. Tiggywinkle's yourself at the following web address:

<http://www.sttiggywinkles.org.uk/>

**Join the HWS
Adopt-A-Euro-Hedgie**

**and a
special
hedgie bag
or hat**



**will be
sent to
your
adopted
little one!**





Phileas is eager to whisper secrets of good hedgie care to Cheryl, future care-person of Nell the hedgehog.

(If you are celebrating a new arrival, or a special event in your life, please allow the HWS to share in your joy by sending the appropriate information to us either via email at newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org or snail-mail to HWS Newsletter, c/o Kathleen Knudsen, PO Box 70408, Seattle WA 98107.)

**HWS is pleased to
welcome its newest little
hedgie care-person,
Cheryl, born 2:18 pm
March 24, 2003, a wee
bit larger than a baby
hedgie at 9 lbs, 8.6 oz
and 21 inches long.**

**Congrats
Susan Goetcheus
and John Kohl!**



*Artwork courtesy of
Donnasue Graesser*

The Hogspital

SONIA PARKER

West Bretton Hedgehog Rescue evolved from a passing interest in hedgehogs some eight years ago to a busy rescue centre dealing with sick and injured animals 365 days each year. After a house move two years ago, we now have a garage conversion equipped with cages, incubators and heat lamps. This enables the patients to enjoy the hogspitality in peace and quiet essential for a speedy recovery.

We are currently installing hot and cold water plus laundry facilities, to be followed by alterations to the garden to provide a safe haven for permanently disabled hogs that cannot be returned to the wild, and also a pre-release site to acclimatise hedgehogs before being released. Alongside conventional medicine we use homoeopathy and aromatherapy, as they are gentle and very effective.

All wildlife is protected by law and, although hedgehogs are not in danger of extinction yet, the population is thought to be declining. We need to redress the balance while we are still able. With this in mind we operate an educational programme speaking to schools and social groups to highlight the dangers hedgehogs face on a daily basis.

As a voluntary organisation we are self-funded and need to raise money to keep the wheels in motion. All funds are used to cover vets fees and food bills. In summer we attend galas selling hoggie related items and during winter months we retreat to the warmer craft fairs. We are keen on promoting organic gardening and recy-



SELF ANOINTING. A hedgehog performing the strange and baffling habit of self-anointing or self-lathering. After encountering a strange taste or smell the hedgehog flicks saliva on to its spines using its long tongue, which involves contorting its body to reach its back. No-one as yet has come up with a feasible reason why the hedgehog should want or need to do this.



*Care a little for a friend,
To your garden he will tend.*



A PATIENT. This hedgehog was admitted in the month of May with severe facial injuries. Apart from the obvious wounds, she also had a broken jaw and palate. These injuries I believe are typical of a garden accident probably caused by a fork and could have been avoided with a little care by checking garden rubbish before moving. It was painfully decided to put this little girl to sleep as her injuries were far too severe to heal without causing more pain and suffering. Decisions like this have to be made between myself and my long suffering veterinary surgeon with the animal's welfare uppermost.

cling, as these are important factors in the health of our hedgehog population.

We are building a website hopefully to be completed later this year – until then you can visit us at our e-bay shop or contact me at the e.mail below.

Mrs Sonia Parker, West Bretton Hedgehog Rescue
40A Darton Road, Cawthorne.
Barnsley, South Yorkshire.
S75 4HY, UK
01226 790699

sonia@hoglets.freeserve.co.uk
www.stores.ebay.co.uk/onestophedgehogshop



HAPPY HEDGEHOG. A hedgehog in its natural environment, this was taken in my organic garden, part of the lawn is left to grow wild to provide a safe haven for frogs and a natural hunting ground for birds and mammals.

What does it cost to care?

(In keeping with our "Euro" hedgehog theme, I thought I would share this "price list" from St. Tiggywinkles Animal Hospital in England. Both Kathleen Knudsen and I have visited St. Tiggywinkles, and oh, what a wonderful, loving, and caring place! –Jennifer Plombon
A very rough conversion estimate: £ 1 = \$1.50)

To give life saving first aid treatment to a hedgehog: £ 3.50

To x-ray a hedgehogs fractured leg: £ 12.50

To administer a course of antibiotics to a hedgehog: £ 6.30

To suture a mallard ducks skin wounds: £ 3.00

To provide essential dental treatment for a hedgehog: £ 35.00

To bandage a foxes badly injured / infected leg: £ 8.20

To provide essential pre-release dental treatment for a badger: £ 165.00

To feed a hedgehog during an average 12 week stay: £ 13.50

To wash and disinfect one hedgehogs food bowl & bedding: £ 0.70 each

To give a small garden bird a life saving injection: £ 0.09

To surgically repair a tawny owls fractured wing: £ 29.00

To bandage a deer's fractured leg: £ 9.80

To buy a feeding bottle to feed orphaned mammals: £ 4.50

To provide life saving laboratory diagnostic test results: £ 12.00

To give a muntjac deer emergency life saving treatment on admittance to the Hospital: £ 24.80

To hand rear one baby hedgehog: £ 46.00

To provide one essential feed via a tube for a poorly swan: £ 2.75

To buy a complete set of equipment to enable the safe rescue of injured large mammals: £125.00

To give a fallow deer emergency with life saving treatment on admittance to the Hospital: £ 73.00

To keep a hedgehog in the Hospital for the whole winter – to prevent it from hibernating (which could be dangerous if hedgehogs are underweight or injured): £ 97.50

To provide a course of treatment for a fox with mange: £ 19.60

To feed a baby bird for one day: £ 4.95

To carry out an orthopaedic operation on a muntjac deer with a fractured leg: £ 395.00

To buy a specialist bed for unconscious and seriously ill patients: £ 22.00

To x-ray a badger, to check the extent of fractured bones: £ 43.00

In any one year we are likely to see 3,000 hedgehogs, 350 deer, 100 badgers, 250 foxes and many thousands of birds and other creatures.

Euro-Rescue Contacts

If you would like to get in touch with any of the rescue facilities mentioned in this newsletter, please feel to contact them via e-mail at:

Beds and Herts, UK

<http://www.hedgehog-rescue.co.uk>

Finnish Hedgehog Society

<http://www.suomensiiilyhdistys.fi>

Pindsvinevennerne i Danmark

<http://www.pindsvin.dk>

St. Tiggywinkle's Hospital, UK

<http://www.sttiggywinkles.org.uk>

The Fylde Hedgehog Rescue Trust, UK

<http://www.hedgehog-rescue.org.uk/>

West Bretton Hedgehog Rescue, UK

sonia@hoglets.freeserve.co.uk

Beautiful Hearts

"Someone please close the Gates – The Rainbow Bridge's temporary occupancy load must have been exceeded by now..." The previous quote was made in response to countless messages of Crossings, and conveyed so succinctly what many of us felt. As I read of each pog leaving, I think of this story which has been related to the hedge lists on several occasions...

One day a young man was standing in the middle of the town proclaiming that he had the most beautiful heart in the whole valley. A large crowd gathered and they all admired his heart for it was perfect. There was not a mark or flaw in it. Yes, they all agreed it truly was the most beautiful heart they had ever seen. The young man was very proud and boasted more loudly about his beautiful heart.

Suddenly, an old man appeared at the front of the crowd and said "Why your heart is not nearly as beautiful as mine." The crowd and the young man looked at the old man's heart. It was beating strongly, but full of scars. It had places where pieces had been removed and other pieces put in, but they didn't quite fit right and there were several jagged edges. In fact, in some places where deep gouges were whole pieces were missing. The people stared. How can he say his heart is more beautiful, they thought?

The young man looked at the old man's heart and saw its state and laughed. "You must be joking," he said. "Compare your heart with mine, mine is perfect and yours

is a mess of scars and tears."

"Yes," said the old man "yours is perfect looking but I would never trade with you. You see, every scar represents a person to whom I have given my love. I tear out a piece and give it to them. Often they give me a piece of their heart which fits into the empty place in my heart, but because the pieces aren't exact, I have some rough edges which I cherish because they remind me of the love we shared. Sometimes I have given pieces of my heart away and the other person hasn't returned a piece of his heart to me. These are the empty gouges. Giving love is taking a chance. Although these gouges are painful, they stay open reminding me of the love I have for these people too. I hope someday they may return and fill the space I have waiting. So now do you see what true beauty is?"

The young man stood silently with tears running down his cheeks. He walked up to the old man, reached into his perfect, young and beautiful heart and ripped a piece out. He offered it to the old man with trembling hands. The old man took his offering, placed it in his heart and then took a piece from his old scared heart and placed it in the wound in the young man's heart. It fit, but not perfectly as there were some jagged edges. The young man looked at his heart, not perfect anymore but more beautiful than ever, since love from the old man's heart flowed into his. They embraced and walked away side by side.

The Literary Hedgehog

NAOMI WIKANE

SCHOHARIE, NY – In this column, which I hope will live through several issues of our newsletter, I plan to bring you some material from my ever-growing collection of hedgie books. Some of it will be educational and some just for fun.

Daniel Blajan in his book of garden essays *Foxgloves & Hedgehog Days* has a delightful chapter he titled *Hedgehog Day*. He lives in the Netherlands.

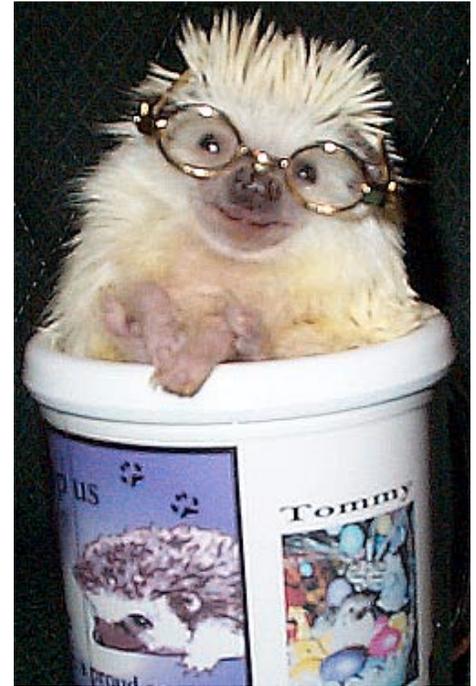
He enjoys watching the hedgehogs in his garden on warm summer nights. He

writes of their playing and fighting and hissing like tiny steam engines. They scurry noisily through the borders and make their presence very well known without being the least bit disturbed by his. He lures them close with unsalted peanuts which they adore. But not too many lest they neglect their duty of slug munching and bug catching.

He uses peanuts to determine their return in early spring. As soon as winter has breathed its last breath of frost he puts some peanuts in the shell in a sheltered spot in the garden. If in the morning they are all

gone without a trace, he knows it was not a hedgehog. But if he finds a mess of empty shells the word goes out that the hedgehogs are awake and a date is set for Hedgehog Day. Friends come and they all sit in the garden that night watching a pile of peanuts placed about ten feet away. Soon a hedgehog emerges from the shadows and ventures into the ring of light from the garden lamp. Ignoring the presence of humans it zigzags toward the peanuts and attacks them. After the last peanut has been munched away it does an about-face and heads for the pond for a noisy slurp of water, disturbing the frogs. Spring, with its glorious promise of new life, has definitely arrived.

He also tells the story of his introduction to hedgehogs. When he was about six years old he was awakened



Little Ian eagerly awaits Naomi Wikane's Literary Hedgehog column.

one morning by the clink of a fallen milk bottle on the doorstep. When he peeked out the window he beheld four living pin-cushions, a large one and three baby ones, with pointed, gnomelike snouts, merrily lapping up a puddle of milk from the broken bottle. Henceforth the milkman was instructed to leave the bottles on the windowsill.

I find it fun to picture experiences like this that I've never had.



A QUESTION FOR THE POGS?

Do you have a question you would like to ask the poggs?

FAVORITE RESCUE STORY

Do you have a favorite rescue story you would like to share?

FAVORITE PHOTO(S)

Do you have a favorite photo of your quilly master(s)?

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER WELCOMED!

Please send it/them to us either electronically at newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org

or via snail-mail to HWS Newsletter c/o Kathleen Knudsen PO Box 70408, Seattle WA 98107



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