



The Hedgehog Welfare Society

Newsletter #69 January / February 2014

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



British Hedgehogs Wear GPS Devices

Shepreth Wildlife Park and Wildlife Conservation Charity is located in the town of Shepreth in South Cambridge, England. The organization maintains an onsite hospital for local hedgehogs. Most are brought in by the public from counties near the hospital. In 2011/12, more than two hundred hedgehogs were admitted to the hospital with an average stay of 17.2 days. But in 2012/13 the number of hospital admissions had climbed to 367 hedgehogs with an average stay of 38 days!

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When the cost of caring for hedgehogs reached £1,500 (\$2,450.00) per month, trustees of the Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity launched “Hedgehog Day” as an annual fundraising event. Ecologist, writer and hedgehog enthusiast Hugh Warwick, was the guest speaker at the first event which took place last August. The money raised at the four hour program came to £1,300 (\$2,124.00)!

Part of this money is being used to track wild hedgehogs using GPS technology. In October twenty-four hedgehogs from the Shepreth Hospital were fitted with GPS “backpacks” as part of a study on their survival in the wild. Developed by Dr. David Wallis of Ecometry Technologies, the battery-powered backpacks measure about 1 inch X 1 inch and weigh 1.8 ounces. Each device costs about £150 (\$245).

Each hedgehog leaving Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital is anesthetized for a health check. While the hedgehog is still asleep, patch of quills measuring about one

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square inch is clipped from the animal's back and the battery-powered GPS backpack is glued on. Using satellite positioning, the tracking device is monitored on a computer. The device will fall off when the hedgehog naturally sheds its spines in a few months.

Researchers hope to find out several things during this study including:

—Determining if hedgehogs can survive in the wild after rehabilitation in a "plastic," or artificial, environment.

—Learning if hedgehogs go on to reproduce following rehabilitation.

—Ascertaining if captive hedgehogs revert to their natural behavior once they are released from the hospital.

Hopefully researchers can find a way to protect Britain's wild hedgehog population which has fallen significantly in the last few years. Scientists fear that hedgehogs could become extinct in Britain within 15 years if the hedgehog population continues to drop at its current rate.

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Coinmill.com—The Currency Converter http://coinmill.com/GBP_USD.html



February 2nd: Will The Hedgehog See His Shadow ?

Unlike their pampered American cousins, healthy wild European hedgehogs take winters off. They snuggle into their dens and nests to sleep the months away until the temperature becomes more tolerable. However, they are prone to waking early in February to check out the weather situation. If it is sunny enough for the hedgehog to see his shadow, it's an ominous sign indicating six more weeks of winter! But if it's a cloudy day and no shadow can be seen, it's cause for celebration. Spring is on the way!

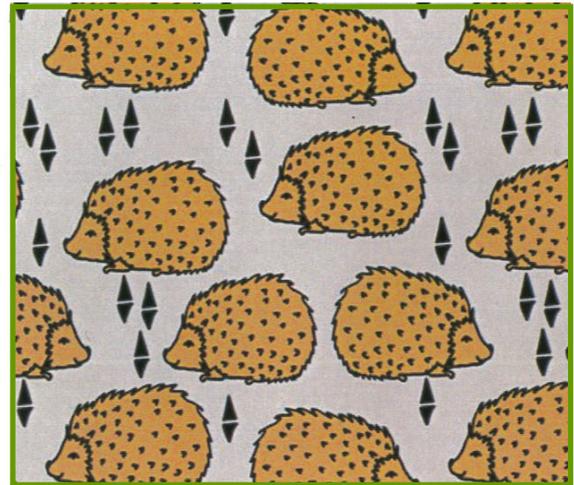
There is an ancient German proverb which describes this phenomenon:

*Wenn der Igel Lichtmess seinen Schatten Sieht,
so Kriecht er wieder auf sechs Wochen ins Loch.*

If the hedgehog sees his shadow at Candlemas,
He will crawl back into his hole for another six weeks.

The designation of February second as Hedgehog Day —*Igel Tag* in Germany, *Egel Dag* in Holland, *Pinnsvin Dag* in Norway and Denmark—preceded the feast day of Candlemas. In fact, the Romans are thought to have come up with the designation of Hedgehog Day. Then as Christianity spread through Europe, Candlemas (the feast of Mary's purification celebrated with a candlelight procession) began to be celebrated. Hedgehog Day gradually became attached to Candlemas as folklore.

The concept of Hedgehog Day eventually spread to North America as northern European settlers arrived. However, since North America lacks an indigenous species of hedgehog, the native groundhog (who shares the hedgehog's hibernation habits) became the regional prognosticator of spring.



Looking for Hedgehog Decals, Gift Wrap, Wall Paper or Fabrics?

Not all hedgehog owners are crafty people, but a fair number of us are. It's not uncommon to come across postings on the Hedgehog Welfare Society Yahoo site alerting members to fabrics or gift wrap featuring hedgehogs. Well, crafters, *Spoonflower*, a textile and design company based in Durham, North Carolina, is the ultimate source for hedgehog themed materials. *AND* if you still can't find exactly what you want at *Spoonflower*, you can upload your own designs and have them printed!

Spoonflower uses large-format inkjet printers which are specially modified to run fabric. Digital printing offers less waste of fabric, ink, water, and electricity than conventional textile manufacturing does. It also shows greater design detail than screen printing does and designers are not limited in the number of colors they use in their designs.

Your designs could become eco-friendly, PVC-free opaque white polyester decals in three different sizes: Small (5"X5"), medium (15" x 15"), or large (30" x 30")!

But perhaps decals weren't what you had in mind. Maybe your design is perfect for gift wrap. Consider having it printed on satin or matte rolls of paper (26 inches wide x 6 feet long) with full-bleed printing from edge to edge. That would be cool! You wouldn't be limited to using it for gift wrap. Once you receive your printed roll of paper, you could convert it into posters, gift bags, placemats or envelopes !

Or you could have your design printed into something more permanent like durable and eco-friendly PVC-free, self-adhesive wallpaper in 24 inch by 12 foot rolls! Then you could *surround* yourself with hedgehogs!! Of course, if this makes you claustrophobic or if you need to move, the wall paper is fully removable. It's perfect for apartments and rentals!

For many of us, the ultimate choice would be fabric. Imagine hedgehog curtains, or quilts, or even hedgehog pajamas! *Spoonflower* offers printing on twelve different types fabric including silks, organic cottons and a linen blend!

You can upload your hedgehog designs in TIF, JPG, PNG, GIF, AI, EPS, or SVG formats and, using an instant online preview and layout tool, you can see your fabric before you order! Information about how to

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Pinecones and Hedgehogs



Hide & Seek



Hedgehog Roller Derby



Hedgehogs & Mushrooms



In the Woods



Hedgehog Baby



True Love

prepare an image for upload is available on the *Spoonflower* website and you can order custom swatches for \$5 each.

OK, that all sounds terrific. But what if you are crafty yet *designing* isn't quite what you had in mind? *Spoonflower* also allows customers to buy the designs of other users. This makes the site attractive to those of us who like to make things but who may not have the Photoshop skills to design our own fabrics. Artists who sell their designs through *Spoonflower* receive a 10 percent commission.

The company's marketplace now offers the largest collection of independently designed fabrics in the world! It is possible to type in a keyword, such as *hedgehog*, and view all the *Spoonflower* designs that feature that particular theme! Most are available in either fabric or paper. To begin your search, go to <http://www.spoonflower.com/>

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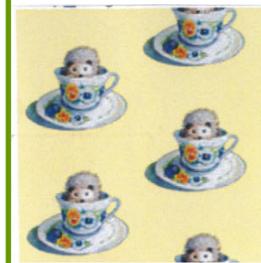
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Nelly the Hedgehog Plushie



Fiaba Hedgehog



Hedgehog Tea in Yellow



Strawberry Hedgehog



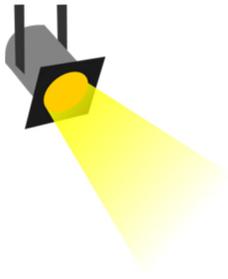
Hedgehog-o-Dots



Forest in Brown



Hedgehog Faux Bois



Volunteer Spotlight



By Deb Weaver



On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I'd like to congratulate board member and newsletter editor Margaret Myhre on her Bronze Level President's Volunteer Award.

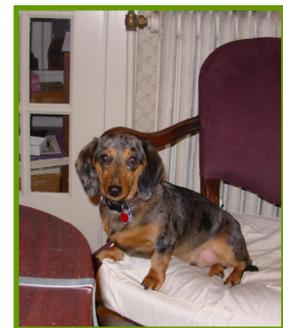
Margaret uses the knowledge she's gained from her years of being a librarian (she's a reference librarian at Gonzaga University and also spends one day a week as the librarian at an elementary school) and has taken our newsletter to heights it has never achieved before.

Margaret has a masters in English from Mills College (her thesis was on Gertrude Stein) and a degree in Library Science from U.C. Berkeley (where she met her husband Michael, who is also a librarian). She is fluent in American Sign Language. She's worked as an interpreter in the San Francisco Bay area and ran a library program for Deaf people at the San Francisco Public Library.

She and her family got their first hedgehog when her son was in elementary school, rescuing a hedgehog (Snuffy) from a classmate of her son who had grown tired of it. Snuffy was followed by five other hedges, most recently Alice, who wrote many articles for our newsletter.

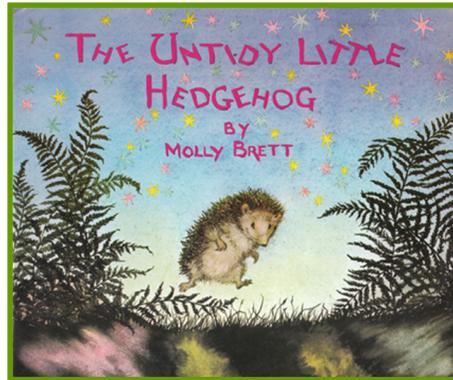
In her free time Margaret enjoys working on our newsletter, learning about her family's genealogy, and playing with Satchel, the family dachshund.

This award was richly deserved and long overdue. Thank you Margaret for all your work and devotion to HWS!



Satchel

THE LITERARY HEDGEHOG



British author Molly Brett (1902—1990) is best known for her postcards and greeting cards featuring small woodland animals. But she was also the author of sixteen small, colorfully illustrated children's books which were published by the Medici Society of London.

The Untidy Little Hedgehog, published in 1966, is the story of Fuzzy, a gentle little hedgehog who lived very comfortably with Miss Mole until the fateful day when Miss Mole found a mole-sized magnifying glass. It delighted her to see things more clearly, but she was stunned when she got a good look at the inside of her home. For the first time Miss Mole was able to see Fuzzy's dirty handprints and scribbles on her walls and his muddy footprints on her floors. When she confronted Fuzzy regarding the mess she realized that his prickles were not brushed, his paws were unwashed and his feet were muddy. Miss Mole scolded Fuzzy and chased him out of her home!

Fuzzy found his way to another cottage and slipped in through an open window. But as soon as he snuggled up with a dog and cat who were sleeping peacefully in front of the fire, they were awakened by Fuzzy's prickles. Their owner picked Fuzzy up with a pair of tongs and popped him into the dust bin. Luckily Fuzzy managed to escape the next morning when the garbage men pulled the lid off his bin.

From there he encountered an owl, a haughty woodpecker, a mother squirrel who mistook him for her babysitter, and a disapproving magpie who dropped him into a litter bin. Finally he was rescued by a kindly mother mouse who invited him to live with her family in a rubbish heap in the corner of the garden.

His happiness was ended all too quickly when, just a few days later, the human owners of the garden set off fireworks, turning the rubbish heap into a bonfire. All survived, but unfortunately Fuzzy was too big for the mouse family's new underground nest.

Fuzzy was rejected when he asked if he could stay in the rabbit's burrow or the guinea pig's hutch because he was much too prickly. Eventually he fell into a lily pool and was rescued by two frogs. A robin flew down to comfort him and told him how nice and clean he looked after his pool experience. The robin even found a small comb and encouraged Fuzzy to keep his quills tidy.

Finally a little boy found Fuzzy and, because Fuzzy was now so clean and tidy, the boy's mother allowed Fuzzy to live in a box full of hay in the tool shed! She even provided a saucer of milk! From that day forward, Fuzzy was inspired to comb his quills every day, as well as wiping his feet and washing his paws. Fuzzy was now quite convinced that nobody likes you much if you are always untidy!

Brett, Molly. *The Untidy Little Hedgehog*. London: Medici Society, 1966.

Thoughts from the C V O

By Deb Weaver

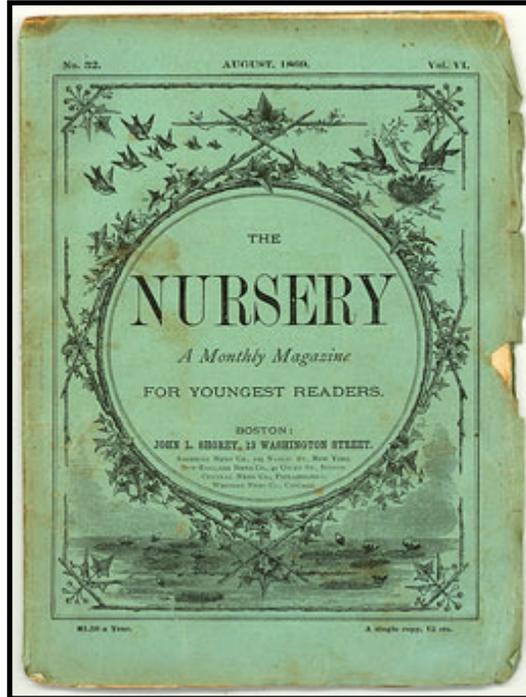
Loyalty. The dictionary defines it, in part, as “. . . faithfulness or faithful adherence to a person, government, cause, etc. . . .”. I think many people of my era (I’m 59) would include their place of employment as well.

I watched the national news last night. There was a story on about the city of Detroit’s bankruptcy petition being granted. The story went on giving details on how the city is probably going to partially gut the pension fund of thousands of retirees to “help with the city’s crisis.” My thought was “and throwing all those retirees in to a crisis.” There was an interview with one elderly man who said he’d worked 40 years for the city, doing whatever needed to be done, and that his \$800.00/month pension didn’t even cover what he needed now - - some days he chooses food, some days he chooses medicine - - how was he going to survive on even less he wondered (as did I).

Work place situations aren’t the only examples. Sports team alliances - - our elected government officials - - corporate takeovers - - customer service departments - - even friendships. More and more people seem to be out for themselves and everyone else be damned. When did truly caring about someone else become obsolete?

I wonder why. Is loyalty too hard? Involve too much commitment? Too much work? A lack of social consciousness? Why is the dollar valued more than the person in so many cases? Or could it be a bigger issue - - are we as a society morally bankrupt?

Loyalty. When did it become a disposable trait in our society?



The Nursery: A Monthly Magazine for Youngest Readers. Volume XXI, No. 2. Boston: Published by J. L. Shorey, 1877.

THE HEDGEHOG

By Charles Selwyn

The hedgehog is a queer little animal with short limbs. It feeds mostly on insects. It has its body covered with sharp spines instead of hairs, and can roll itself up in a ball, and thus show an array of prickles pointing in every direction.

Slow of foot, this little creature cannot flee from danger; but in the sharp, hard, and tough prickles of its coat, it has a safeguard better than the teeth and claws of the wildcat, or the fleetness of the hare.

The hedgehog has powerful muscles beneath the skin of the back; and by the aid of these, on the slightest alarm, it rolls itself up so as to have its head and legs hidden in the middle of the ball it thus makes of itself.

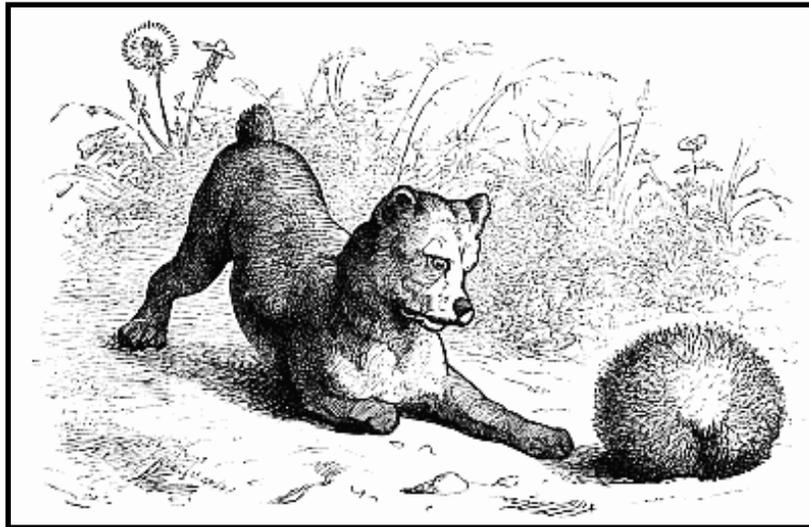
Our dog Snip saw a hedgehog, the other day, for the first time. As soon as it saw him, the little creature seemed to change from a live thing into a ball. Snip did not know what to make of it. His curiosity was much excited. He went up, and looked at it.

If the two could have spoken, I think this would have been their talk:--

Snip.---"Of all the queer things I ever saw, you are the queerest. What *are* you anyhow?"

Hedgehog.---"Suppose you put out your paw, and try."

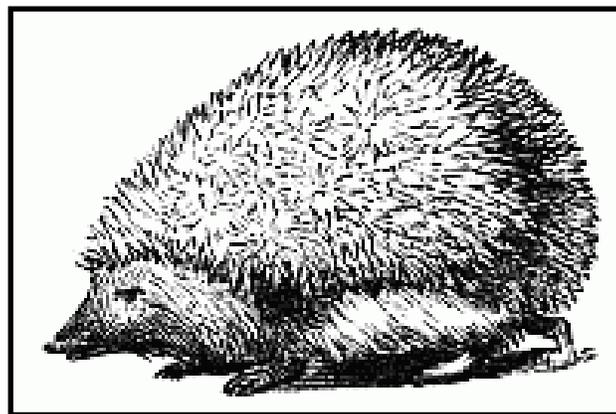
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Hedgehog.---“Don’t be a coward, Snip! Put your nose down, and feel my nice soft back.”

Whether the cunning hedgehog really cheated him by any such remarks as these, I cannot say. But Snip at last mustered courage enough to put his nose down to the ball. Rash Snip! Up rose the bristles, and pricked him so that he ran back to the house, howling and yelping as if he had been shot.

Having put Snip to flight, the hedgehog quietly unrolled itself, thrust out its queer little head with the long snout, and crept along on its way rejoicing. As for Snip, I am quite sure he will never put his nose to the back of a hedgehog again, as long as he lives.





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 10 Mr. Quillby Kirkland

Jan. 22 Moonflower Clark

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 6 Elizabeth Becker

Feb. 15 Tiegan Sikorski

ARTISTS WANTED



Would you like to help illustrate the Newsletter? We are always looking For drawings, photographs and art Work to include here.

Send your submissions in JPEG Format to:
newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org

WRITERS WANTED



Would you like to write for the Newsletter? We are always Looking for stories, poems, craft Projects, recipes, puzzles, and Articles to include here.

Send your submissions or article Proposals to:
newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org