



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 #7, September 2003

The Hedgehog Welfare Society

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Love --- thy name is Charva

Editor's note: One of our members, Jeanne Stanoch, recently adopted a little hedgehog named Charva, when her owner felt he could no longer care for her. Charva arrived at Jeanne's in rather poor health, and Jeanne sought advice as to what was best to do for Charva. It is with their permission that we share Jeanne's and Charva's thoughts with you:



Photo © Jeanne Stanoch

JEANNE STANOCH

VALRICO, FL – Kis wrote me a very nice note about Charva. She also asked me a question that at first I thought was a little odd. After I had a day to think about it, I replied to Kis. Now I would like to tell you all what I would be thinking if I were Charva. That was Kis's question. Of course I have had more time to think, so have added a couple of wishes.

If I was Charva, what would be my wish. Here goes:

If I were Charva, I would wonder why my slave decided to chuck me to the weeds just because he got a new girlfriend. I would wonder what I did. Wasn't I there when he split up with the first one? Didn't I love him enough, didn't he notice that I loved him? I would be very sad and cry a lot alone under my hidey hat. I would miss my home.

My wish would be that my slave came and got me. That he had a change of heart and realized I was very important to him and he needed me in his life.

My wish would be that my new slave would understand that I am not distant to her because she is not nice, that I am distant to her because I am afraid if I love her, she will give me away too.

My wish would be that all of us could live our lives with only one slave that gave us unconditional love like we give them. That we never had to move to another home once we found our first home. That we were all treated with kindness and compassion.

That slaves would understand that we have feelings, we love, we hurt, we get sad, and we get sick. I never left my slave's side when he was going through a bad time in his life.

I WISH HE HAD LOVED ME AS MUCH AS I LOVED HIM.

Ok, that is three wishes.

Editor's note: On July 25, 2003, it became clear that Charva was ready to Cross the Rainbow Bridge. Here are her final thoughts for us:

My Mommy said I could use the 'puter one more time to say goodbye to everyone if I felt up to it. I am weak, but I want to tell you all something. I want you all to know how much all your love and kind thoughts meant to me. I want you all to know that I understand where Mommy is taking me in a few minutes, and I am thankful and ready to take my journey.

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CHARVA...

(...Continued from page 1)

I feel very cold right now, and I know that soon I will feel the warm sun of the Rainbow Meadows on my back. I will get to run through the thick grass and chase Rainbow Mealies. Mommy even says I will get to eat them again without any pain. Mommy has told me all about the Rainbow Bridge and the Rainbow Meadow. She even

read me a poem, and told me about Ms. Needles who will watch over me once I get there until I am strong enough to get around on my own. I can't wait to meet her.

My last wish is that you do not cry for me, that you will give each and every little rescue you come in contact with as much love as you have given me. That you know I will cross the Rainbow Bridge with my head held high, my heart filled with love for you all, and my body without any tumors. I get to take my special sack from

Auntie Jennifer, and that I will be happy and whole again.

It is Thundering and Lightening really bad here right now, and Mommy says that it is all the little hedgies who have gone before me, setting off fireworks in honor of my arrival.

I love you all and I will look in on you all from time to time.

Until we meet again.....

Your little friend
Charva

Suhail's take on bathtime... (recited to the rhythm of *Green Eggs & Ham*)

We do not like a bath, I say,
We do not like it anyway
You dress it up or give us treats
To soak and clean our pooppy feet.
We do not like it in the sink,
We'd rather keep our fragrant stink.
We do not like it in the tub,
Not even for a tummy rub.
In water we don't laugh with glee,
We really have to poo and pee.
So take your bath and go away,
We do not want to swim today.

Suhail, as dictated to hedgie-slave Gioia



The poet Suhail.

All the hedgehogs I have personally put into water (generally for baths, occasionally for therapy for paralysis) HATED it. HATED IT. Hated anything to do with The Dreaded Bath OR water therapy. Skeezi, when offered a chance to swim in warm water in the bath with me, simply froze and sank straight to the bottom. Thinking it was a fluke and that *all* beings had some sort of self-protective swimming instinct, I rescued her, talked with her, cuddled her and tried again with the same result. So, if there are hedgehog out there who enjoy being in water, who can swim, who *like* to swim or be bathed, I would surely love to see it. So would Skeezi!

Jennifer and Skeezi (We are desert creatures. Water is not our element)

HWS & Pet Finder

The HWS's Pet Finder web site, found at <http://www.petfinder.org/shelters/CT171.html>, has existed about 5 months now. In that time, hedgehogs have been listed (and adopted!) successfully from all across the country: Dewey in NJ, Link in TX, and Hedgie in IL to name but a few. Some hedgies were adopted so quickly that they never even made it to Pet Finder – largely attributed to people writing in after finding the HWS on Pet Finder and filling out a basic adoption application. This told HWS' rescue stations where and who was looking to adopt a rescued hedgie, and the rescuer was able to contact the adoptee without ever having the time or need to place the hedgie as available for adoption on Pet Finder before the hedgie went on to live with his or her new forever home.

The HWS' Pet Finder web site serves several purposes. One is to allow an individual



person or a small rescue station like mine to list hedgehog(s) up for adoption that I am fostering until an acceptable forever home is found. Another purpose is to allow individuals to list their relinquishments until an acceptable forever home is found. The HWS has a relinquishment form that is listed on the HWS web site for this exact purpose. You may see (and use) this form by going to >>> <http://www.hedgehogwelfare.org> >>> relinquishments >>> fill out the form and click submit.

The HWS' Pet Finder web site is used as a helpful and informative 'middle person'. We're working (volunteering) for YOU and the hedgehogs. Each individual or each rescue station may have their own adoption

guidelines. We in no way get in the way of that. All we do is list the hedgehogs in need of homes, briefly interview those wishing to adopt (this saves you time and effort, and gathers some basic information about the individual), and send you all viable applicants. What do we mean by viable? For example, if someone never fills out and returns our basic questionnaire, the process can go no further. If someone claims that they are just looking for a 'free pet', the process will go no further. If someone writes from CA or PA – anywhere hedgehogs are illegal to own as pets, the process will go no further. We will politely inform them as to why, and thank them for their inquiry. Once you are in touch with the possible adoptee, we're out of the picture. Unless you need help of course – some of us have never done this before!

You may contact the HWS' Pet Finder staff at aimee@thelandofmyr.com (Aimee Hassler) or maurita@plouff.com (Maurita Plouff).

The Literary Hedgehog

JENNIFER PLOMBON

CHARLESTON, SC – *Animal Blessings* is a superb compilation of “Prayers and Poems Celebrating our Pets”, selected by June Cotner. According to the book jacket, June lives in Poulsbo, WA, with her husband, two dogs, and two cats.

Animal Blessings is a small book, easy to carry in a pocket or purse ... or to keep next to your computer. Those of you who read the Saturday Sendings on the hedgehogwelfare list are already familiar with this book; the Sendings are taken from it each week. Many of the selections will make you smile, many will make you ponder, and not a few will make you cry.

I can usually find a selection to illuminate almost any animal-related event, and to be appropriate for almost any animal. The book is divided into sections to guide your reading choices:

Dogs ...

These selections perfectly express the wonderful loyalty and companionship dogs offer to us. An example is Elizabeth Barrett Browning's

COMFORT

*I, who had my heart full for hours,
took advantage of an early moment of solitude,
to cry in it very bitterly.*

*Suddenly a hairy head thrust itself from behind my pillow
into my face, rubbing its ears and nose against me
in a responsive agitation, and drying the tears as they came.*

Cats ...

These selections celebrate the perfection, the comfort, the loving aloofness of cats. An example is Richard Beban's

TIME SPENT WATCHING A CAT

is not deducted from your span on earth.

Other Animals ...

A touching and varied section, with poems showing love for mice, fish, horses, wild animals and domestic farm animals, birds, insects, frogs, and dolphins. My favorite poem is Rumi's

BIRDS MAKE GREAT SKY CIRCLES

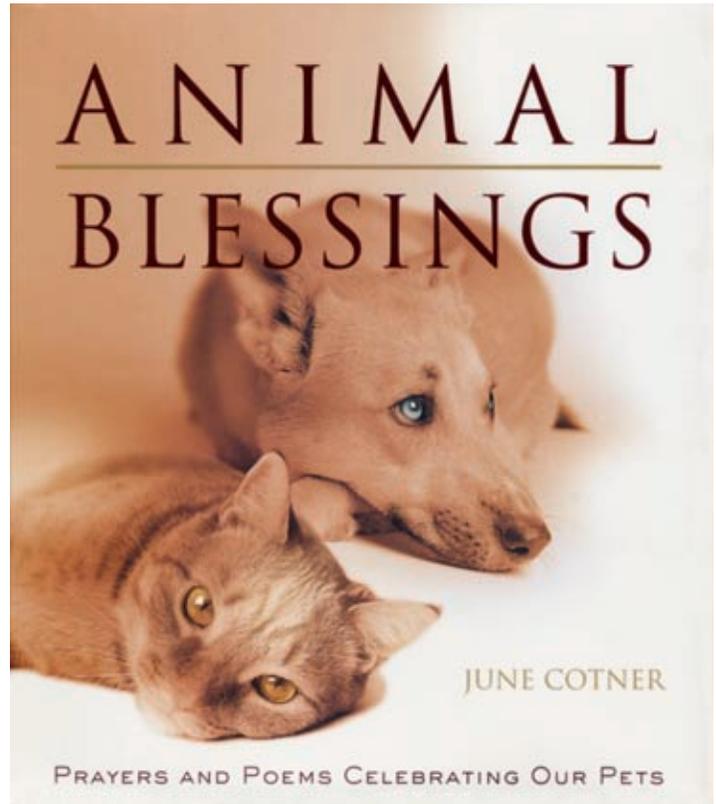
*Birds make great sky-circles of their freedom.
How do they learn it?
They fall, and falling, they're given wings.*

Partings ...

The most touching section of the book, and one I read often, this section contains prayers and poems to help us say goodbye to our beloved animal companions. Some selections weep for animals we barely even know, as in Esther Wilkin's

PRAYER FOR THE BURIAL OF A BIRD

*This sparrow died today, O Lord,
Your feathered creature small.
We lay him in the friendly earth
And ask Your blessing on us all.*



Reflections ...

These selections touch on the issues of animals' souls, ethics, feelings, and lessons for us humans. One of the most succinct and accurate is James Herriot's

IF HAVING A SOUL

*If having a soul
means being able to feel love and loyalty and gratitude,
then animals are better off than a lot of humans.*

Inspiration ...

These are prayers, offered for our animal companions and for the world. The prayers are for all belief systems: Native American, Christian, Gaian. A wonderful example is from an unknown author

BUDDHIST PRAYER

*May every creature abound in well-being and peace.
May every living being, weak or strong, the long and the small,
The short and the medium-sized, the mean and the great,
May every living being, seen or unseen, those dwelling far off,
Those nearby, those already born, those waiting to be born,
May all attain inward peace.*

Rather than sit down and read this book cover to cover, I recommend you dip into it, a selection every so often, when you feel the need. You will always find something that resonates with your thoughts and feelings, and will certainly enjoy the search. Eventually, they will all be submitted in Saturday Sendings, but with over 120 wonderful choices, it will take me quite a while!



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Open 24 hours a day for your shopping pleasure!

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Checking with the vet staff...

(Editor's note: One of our members, Kim Scea, is a veterinary technician. She has offered to write a series of articles about animal and hedgehog health for the HWS Newsletter. The following article discusses parasites ...)

PART 1



Chorioptes bovis (Héring)
Chorioptic mange mite

KIM SCEA

TRENTON, ONTARIO – Ectoparasites (external) – fleas, ticks, cuterebra, maggots, mites (*Chorioptes spp* mange species).

Hedgehogs can be infested with the same fleas and ticks found on dogs and cats. Keeping the hedgehog indoors and keeping all dogs and cats in the home flea and tick free will stop the infestation occurring on the domestic hedgehog.

Fleas and ticks carry infectious diseases, which can be transmitted through their bites. It is unknown at this time whether African Pygmy Hedgehogs are susceptible to any of these diseases. The products for flea and tick prevention change every few years (due to mutation and resistance); therefore, it is best to seek veterinary knowledge to find out what is on the market and what your veterinarian recommends for you and your situation.

If you keep your pet hedgehog outdoors, it can be exposed to fly larvae. One type of fly, known as Cuterebra, lays eggs around the cage, which will then adhere to the hedgehog as they rub up against the sides of the cage. Each egg hatches into a single large larva that burrows into the skin and continues to grow. You will see a large lump forming under the skin with a small hole at its tip, which is its breathing hole. Your veterinarian, who will also treat the remaining wound, can safely remove these larvae and usually no aftercare is necessary. Keeping a



clean outdoor environment is your only defense (as well as not housing your hedgehogs outside), although it is nowhere near good enough to give excellent protection against this parasite.

Mite infestations are diagnosed through skin scrapings. Many skin scrapings are usually necessary, from several different areas from the body. The mites live on the skin tissue itself and tunnel through the skin. The scrapings need to be deep enough to catch the mites on the sample for microscopic examination. Also, the scrapings need to be taken NOT from the center of a bald area, but from the side, red, irritated areas. The centers of the bald spots are empty of mites – that area has been “used up” of viable tissue and the mites have moved on to fresher, more nutritious skin areas. It is important to remember to thoroughly clean the environment as well. Follow-up skin scrapings, several months after treatment, should be performed to ensure complete eradication of the parasite. The skin mites can be difficult parasites to eradicate if all procedures are not followed thoroughly – especially daily cleaning of the environment.

There is a researched study on African Pygmy Hedgehogs – in a breeding colony at a zoo – describing the treatments and results. This can be found in: *Journal of Zoo Animal Medicine* 19[1-2]24-29. It shows the results of Amitraz as a treatment for Acariasis in African Pygmy Hedgehogs. I found this very informative with regards to how the treatment for mites in our hedgehogs was researched and developed.

Maggots are simply fly babies. The fly lands on the hedgehog and lays its eggs.



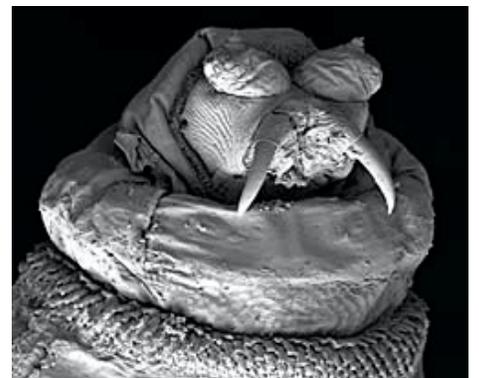
Second-instar. (Photo: R. Major)
Fly larvae – Maggots

They later hatch and start eating the skin tissues, burrowing in and through the skin layers. Keeping your hedgehog indoors, clean and dry are the prevention. Unkempt, or dirty, greasy animals with skin folds, are the most at risk. The fly likes to lay the eggs in moist, dark tissue folds. The treatment for maggots is a hands-on approach.

Bathing the area in a betadine solution will help to kill/drown the maggots that the solution touches. Using forceps (tweezers will do) catch/pick up each maggot and place it in a container of diluted betadine solution, where, if not already dead, they will drown quickly. Unfortunately, some maggots will burrow into the holes/tunnels made in the tissues and the solution will not reach them. Frequent re-examinations of the area are necessary to make sure all maggots have been killed and removed from the hedgehog.

Antibiotics are an excellent medical treatment in this situation, since after an infestation of mites, the skin is open, with invasive openings, just waiting for infection to set in. Monitor the hedgehog thoroughly for a long-term period. Maggots have been known to burrow through the abdominal wall and into the abdominal cavity and organs or through to the intestinal tract, eventually causing death.

(Continues on page 5...)



Mouth hooks of a maggot.
(Electron micrograph: S. Lindsay)

VET STAFF...

(...Continued from page 4)

PART 2

Endoparasites (internal) – nematodes, cestodes, coccidia (*Isopora erinacei* & *Eimeria nastegaiv*), *Cryptosporidium parvum*, *Giardia spp*, lungworm (*Capillaria* or *Crenosoma spp*)

Hedgehogs are susceptible to internal parasites – but it is unusual for domestic, indoor hedgehogs to become infested with them. They would need to ingest the host of the parasite. Raw meat is one way this could happen; fish &/or snails from ponds is another, to name a few. The internal parasites hedgehogs are susceptible to include: nematodes (roundworms), cestodes (tapeworms) and protozoa. Coccidia (protozoa) [most commonly *Isospora erinacei* and *Eimeria rastegaiv*] can cause dysentery. Hedgehogs have also been diagnosed with *Cryptosporidium parvum* and *Giardia* species. Lungworm (*Capillaria* or *Crenosoma* species) infestations usually cause a marked bronchopneumonia and often result in death. You can diagnose endoparasites by standard fecal flotation or direct smear tests. It is best to take in many stool samples for the test. Not all samples will contain microscopic evidence to be found. If the parasite did not shed any eggs in a certain stool sample, there will be nothing to find under the microscope. It is best to take in as many stool samples as you can find, then you have a much better chance of finding evidence of infestation if it is present.

Nematodes – roundworms. The life cycle of the roundworm is as follows:

The adult worm lays eggs in the small intestine of the infested animal, the eggs are passed in the feces (if the animal is pregnant, the eggs are transmitted to the unborn fetus), and the eggs embryonate (return to embryonic form). Then, either another animal can eat the embryonated eggs (e.g., by eating the grass after the stool has disappeared with time, stepping in the stool and licking its paw to clean itself, etc.), or the embryonated eggs can be ingested by an intermediate host (such as a mouse or other animal), the intermediate host is eaten by the larger animal – and the life cycle begins again ...

Cestodes – tapeworms. The life cycle of the tapeworm is as follows:

Adult worms live in the small intestine of the infested animal, and posterior segments (segments at the tail end of the worm) and

egg packets of the adult worm are passed in the feces. Posterior segments and egg packets are thus in the feces and on the fur of the infested animal, the eggs are ingested by the larval flea (occasionally lice may serve as an intermediate host for some forms of tapeworm), the larval flea develops into an adult flea, the infested adult flea is ingested by the animal (this animal could be eaten by another animal – and the infestation will occur in the new animals), and the life cycle begins again. There are 2 basic types of tapeworms – those spread by ingesting fleas that have tapeworm, and those spread by eating animals (dead or alive) that have tapeworms – treatment is the same for both types.

Coccidia. The life cycle of coccidia is as follows:

Asexual and sexual stages develop in the intestines of the infested animal, unsporulated oocysts (eggs) are passed in the feces, the oocysts sporulate in the feces (the eggs divide into more and more eggs within one sack), sporulated oocysts are ingested by an intermediate host, the intermediate host is ingested, and the life cycle continues.

Giardia. The life cycle of Giardia is as follows:

Trophozoites (active feeding stage) develop to the cyst stage in the small intestine of the infested animal, cysts are passed in

the feces, cysts are ingested by an animal, and the life cycle continues.

TREATMENTS

(dosages not printed –
seek veterinary attention)

Chorioptes mites = Amitraz
Nematodes = Fenbendazole
Nematodes including lungworm, Chorioptes = Ivermectin
Nematodes including lungworm = Levamisole (1%)
Protozoa = Metronidazole
Chorioptes mites = Permethrin (1%)
Cestodes = Praziquantel
Coccidia = Sulfadimethoxine

(Post script – Ringworm is NOT a parasite – but a contagious skin condition)



Flea

REFERENCES

Veterinary Medicine – Clinical Solutions for Practicing Veterinarians, 21st Annual of Waltham/ OSU Symposium – for the treatment of small animal diseases, Internal Parasites Diagnostic Manual (by: CIBA-Geigy Animal Health), Exotic Animal Formulary,

<http://netvet.wustl.edu/species/exotic/hedgehog.htm>, <http://www.pci.on.ca/~macnamar/hedgehogs/faq/part5.html>

[Editor's note: Evidence indicates that African Hedgehogs are unable to hibernate, and unable to tolerate cold temperatures; falling into lethargy, illness, and often death if housed at temperatures below approximately 72 degrees. Therefore, regardless of possible parasite infestations, it seems dangerous and unwise to allow pet African Hedgehogs to live outside at all, particularly in America or Canada. Occasional brief forays to enjoy the outdoors may be fine; be very certain you never leave them unattended for even one second, and keep a sharp eye out for birds who may swoop down upon them.]



Giardia lamblia

(Photo courtesy D. Heyneman)

A Case of Cushing's Disease

(Editor's note: One of our members, Julie Hintz, has been treating her hedgehog for Cushing's Disease. Following is a history of the disease and treatment ...)

JULIE HINTZ

SYRACUSE, NY – November 2002...

I started to notice that Punky was sleeping WAYYY more than she normally does. Punky thinks she is a person and sleeps the same hours I do. Her wheel was clean and stayed clean for a good week or so. I started to become very worried so I watched her constantly. I noticed that every time I picked her up she would pee a lot on my lap and this was very unusual for her. She also started to eat and drink way more than she normally does. Her behavior could have been "normal" for any other hedgie but I know Punky like the back of my hand and this was not the same hedgehog. I became especially worried when she stopped playing with her toys and would immediately go to sleep when I went to pick her up. She was acting very irritable. Normally if Punky is awake, she is running. She started to lose interest in everything and only wanted to sleep, eat and drink. I would come home from school and see her rocking in her wheel because she just didn't have the energy to push it. She had a look on her face like "mom, help me please."

I made an appointment with my vet approximately a week and a half after I noticed Punky had stopped wheeling. At this point Punky had gotten huge. She looked very bloated and fat. I thought maybe she could have diabetes since she was drinking and peeing so much. I decided to bring in a urine sample and Punky promptly urinated within a minute of waking her up. She had gone so much I had to leave some behind after filling the small container I had. Off to the vets...

I told my vet what I had been seeing and what I thought could be wrong. My vet took one look at her and said "she has Cushing's disease." Cushing's disease is also known as hyperadrenocorticism. In other words, Punky's body was creating more steroids than she needed. After explaining to me what Cushing's was and what it meant for Punky, we tested her urine for sugar just in case. We also opted to send it out for a urine cortisol level. This test is not as accurate as a blood cortisol but it would at least give us



The adorable Punky.

a number and an idea if she was excreting a large amount of cortisol. My vet told me she was like a body builder on steroids and was showing similar symptoms.

The test came back a week or so later showing a urine cortisol level of 9. My vet informed me that no one has reported Cushing's disease in a hedgehog or how to treat it so we had to go with what we do know, and that is ferrets. Ferrets are known to have many adrenal gland disorders and being the smallest mammal with a history of Cushing's, we had to use those numbers. For ferrets, the cortisol level should be below 2, for Punky, it was currently at 9.1. At that time, we decided to do a CBC (complete blood count) and an ultrasound, for which Punky had to be anesthetized. Around this time her weight went up to 497 grams, up from her normal of ~320 grams. She started to have trouble breathing and my vet commented that it was probably due to her weight. Since we knew now that Punky had Cushing's we had to decide what kind of treatment we could do. Surgery was an option. The ultrasound showed 2 enlarged adrenal glands, with one being twice as big as the other. One was 0.3 cm and the other was

0.6 cm. I was told there is a "good side" and a "bad side," with the adrenal gland on the bad (or Right, as opposed to Left) side being located right near the vena cava. This makes surgery very dangerous and difficult since the adrenal gland often swells into part of the vena cava. Punky's larger adrenal gland was on the good side, making surgery easier, if that's what we decided to do.

We also had to determine whether Punky had adrenal dependent Cushing's or pituitary dependent Cushing's. Adrenal dependent is the most common in small animals and is often due to a cancerous tumor on the adrenal glands. This type of Cushing's disease makes surgery one of the only real options. Pituitary Cushing's, though it seemed scarier to me, seemed to be the "better" type to have. It generally causes no other problems to the animal, is benign, and is much more responsive to treatment.

I was all for the surgery. I thought, "let's do it now while Punky is still healthy and has a good chance for recovery." However, my vet spoke to another vet at Cornell and together the three of us decided to try drugs

(Continues on page 7...)

CUSHING'S DISEASE...

(...Continued from page 6)

first, then maybe think about the surgery later. We opted to treat her with lysodren, the most common drug used to treat Cushing's disease. A compounding pharmacy put it in a chicken suspension and gave us a dose that I would at least be able to give her, seeing she is so tiny. I was given directions to give her 0.1cc every other day for 14 days, then once every 3 days for 14 days, and then once a week for 14 days. After the first six weeks we would test her blood cortisol again. Her original blood cortisol was almost 38ug/dL. A normal blood cortisol would have been closer to 0.86ug/dL.

About 4 weeks into the treatment I started noticing the side effects. I was instructed by my vet to watch her closely and if I noticed anything odd, I was to call ASAP. I started noticing that the medication was upsetting her stomach and she actually spit it out once. I was told to drop down to once a week until our next appointment. I also started using Bach flower remedies (Rescue Remedy, Olive, and Oak) to improve her attitude since she seemed very, very depressed.

After six weeks, I made our first recheck appointment. By this time, Punky and I were regulars at the clinic, being there multiple times each week. We got the blood (no anesthetic needed anymore) and went home to wait. A few days later I received a very happy phone call from the vet saying her blood cortisol was down to 19 and it looked like we were on the right track. At that time I was seeing another vet since my vet was on maternity leave but she left careful instructions for the other, very competent vet. She consulted with the vet at Cornell and we decided to up the lysodren to twice a week for two weeks as a little "boost" and then drop back down to once a week for another 4 weeks, then we would do another blood cortisol.

After the initial six weeks, I noticed a pretty big improvement. Her weight was down (460 grams) and she was starting to eat and drink a little more normally. She also started to wheel. Not a lot but it was something. I thought that this was great and we were doing everything right.

Another six weeks went by... Back to the vet for another blood test. At this point I noticed a slight increase in her symptoms but I didn't think much of it. My vet had told me earlier that she would have ups and downs with her symptoms and that it would probably happen for the rest of her life. The results came back, and they were very discouraging. Her blood cortisol was back up to 31. This could have been from stress but it looked like the lysodren wasn't working. I had a knot in my stomach and a feeling of helplessness.

It looked like the lysodren was working but it just wasn't working well enough. It seemed like Punky just couldn't handle the dose that she would need to make her well. The lysodren made her groggy and irritable for a day after her dose and my vet and I both agreed that wasn't worth it. I spoke to her about surgery and spoke to other vets about surgery. One vet said, absolutely go with the surgery, based on her experience with ferrets. My vet said that surgery could be an option but it would be very, very expensive and may not do help. It appeared that Punky had pituitary dependent Cushing's since she was responding to the lysodren. My vet explained to me that Addison's disease (the opposite of Cushing's) could occur with surgery and that it would be harder to maintain than the Cushing's. She assured me that she was very confident that Punky would make it through the surgery but that the post-op would be very difficult. It would require mineral supplements multiple times a day that might

have been difficult to force Punky to take and though it might cure the Cushing's, it may not and probably wouldn't extend her life that much more compared to treating her with the lysodren.

We also discussed other treatments. There are other drugs like anipryl and lupron that was designed for ferrets. My vet considered them but found they wouldn't work because they worked through other mechanisms and were developed for adrenal Cushing's, and not pituitary. I was told that as long as the symptoms appeared to be in check, the Cushing's was probably in check as well. This didn't make me feel much better. I wanted Punky to be well and to stay with me for a few more years. I suggested upping her dose to twice a week to see what happened. I was really leaning towards surgery because I wanted to do it while I still had the opportunity. I didn't want to wait until she was so sick she wouldn't be able to make it through.

After a lot of thinking and pondering, I decided to give the lysodren another chance. We went to 0.1cc twice a week. After 6 weeks I did notice an improvement in her symptoms and off to the vet for another blood test... GOOD NEWS!! Punky's blood cortisol went down to 12. She was able to handle the drugs twice a week with no apparent side effects. Her weight was down, she could breathe well, and she was no longer bloated and retaining water. This was a good sign.

Right now we are still medicating Punky twice a week and my vet says she doesn't need to see her again until the fall, I don't need to bring her in every six weeks for blood work either. My vet says every few months should be fine. So far Punky has handled all of this very bravely while I sit in tears over what is to come. She isn't completely back to her normal self but she is a lot better. She has her good days and bad days but overall, she is 1000 times better than she was in November.

The whole situation has brought the two of us so much closer and I feel like I am much more in tune to her needs. I have learned a lot about Punky and her disease and a lot about myself through this ordeal. I know she isn't invincible and there will be a day where I will have to make that awful decision but I hope that I can help other hedgehogs and people who have to go through similar situations. This is a huge learning process for my vet and me. I am really proud of Punky and I know she is happy knowing that she will be helping other hedgehogs in the future.



Punky – more than willing to show her beautiful face.

Animal Law: A Field of its Own

VICKI MCLEAN

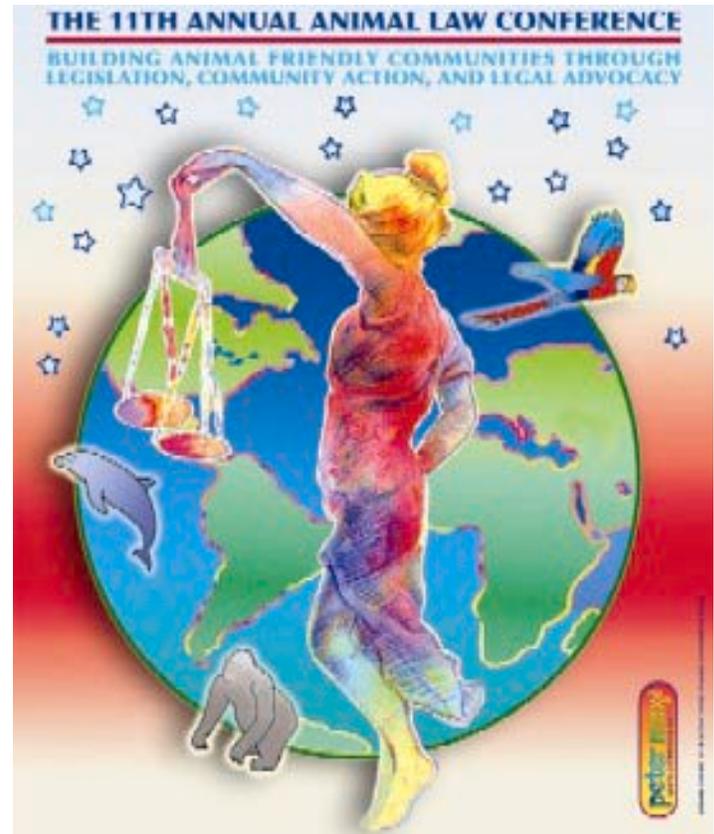
SALEM, OR – For 10 years now, the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund at Lewis & Clark College's NW College of Law has sponsored a top quality Animal Law Conference. They have also published compilations and books of pertinent case law to assist attorneys wading through the issues of the law as it pertains to our animal friends.

The 10th Annual Animal Law Conference was crammed wall to wall with young lawyers and interested parties from well-known organizations such as Best Friends, The Humane Society, Animal Legal Defense Fund and others with an interest in the welfare of animals. Many of the attendees represented county and city animal control agencies in the Northwest interested in gleaned some tips on the best way of stopping the crime of animal abuse. Although the primary attendees were from the NW, many people came from the East Coast as well as foreign countries to gather the information from this prestigious conference. I was lucky enough to live close enough to attend, network with others interested in animal welfare and learn the issues and roadblocks that exist when trying to protect animals from humans.

Animal law is an emerging practice for young lawyers. State Bar Associations are recognizing it as a legitimate field of law and are forming pro bono Animal Law Committees. As of the conference, as many as ten State Bar Associations had recognized the significance of this emerging specialty area and had formed special law sections to support the area of practice. State Bar Associations in a number of other states were awaiting approval by their governing boards to establish their law sections. Washington State is one of the states with a strong Animal Law Section in their Bar Association.

A major issue for those officials trying to address animal abuse is the difficulty of enforcing laws. The US Dept of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for enforcing the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The AWA serves in a small way to protect animals by requiring licensing of certain types of activities and businesses. However, the USDA faces a number of obstacles in stopping abuse or neglect. One roadblock is the inability to staff enough veterinarians to meet the requirements of inspection. For exotic animals, the issue is exacerbated by the fact these animals constitute only a tiny piece of what the USDA is charged with accomplishing. It also must inspect animals crossing US borders; it must ensure food safety and engage in a multitude of other activities. For "pocket pet" exotic animals, the problem is compounded further by the fact large exotic animals are far more noticeable. The USDA must inspect roadside shows with exotic animals, laboratories that use exotics in their studies, zoos and many more. So our little hedgehog friends sometimes fall by the wayside when competing for USDA's limited time and resources. The entire budget for the Animal Care Section of the USDA was only \$12 million for fiscal year 2001; less than the amount it costs to run the state agency for which I work that has jurisdiction over a limited set of activities. This translates into infrequent – sometimes even inadequate – inspections. Lack of funding and time for the USDA to regulate the animal industry effectively under the AWA was mentioned repeatedly at the conference.

The USDA licenses organizations or individuals to engage in the activities covered by the Act. The USDA can issue licenses, refuse to issue licenses, revoke licenses or confiscate animals. Without penalty provisions, which are notable for their absence in the AWA, the USDA is limited to the four actions – issue, not issue, revoke licenses, or confiscate animals.



The US Constitution guarantees to its citizens protection from arbitrary and capricious acts by government agencies. It does this by requiring the agency to ensure the citizen is afforded "due process" whenever it denies a citizen a right, or when it takes something belonging to a citizen (in this case a license). "Due process" is more specifically defined in the Administrative Procedures Act. This Act outlines precisely how to ensure that due process is achieved when government takes action. The process is cumbersome in that it requires government to provide notice, conduct timely hearings, prohibit "ex parte" communication during the pendency of the hearing and stipulates other provisions to safeguard the citizen from a potentially arbitrary and capricious government. This in and of itself hampers the USDA from acting quickly in licensing violations including the most egregious situations.

Licensing organizations also face the reality that by revoking a license of a citizen, they are denying his right to earn a living. Volumes of case law make clear that the courts are critical of an agency of the government that fails to give ample opportunity to the license holder to correct deficiencies. Failure to allow the licensee time to "fix" problems has historically made the front page of newspapers accompanied by a hue and cry to protect the right of the license holder to earn a living. My own experience as director of a compliance section for a number of years in a state agency that licenses citizens performing work in the trades is consistent with this observation at the conference. This same case law and public exposure requires the USDA to pay special attention to how it treats each one of its licensees, regardless of whether they do, or do not, meet licensing requirements.

In summary, the presenters of topics at the Animal Law Conference

(Continues on page 9...)

ANIMAL LAW...

(...Continued from page 8)

made abundantly clear the USDA is not the vehicle of choice for addressing issues of animal neglect or abuse. Almost any license holder can "clean up their act" long enough to pass an inspection. So what is available to protect our tiny friends? What is an effective avenue to ensure the hedgehog industry can be regulated?

To answer the question of what mechanism is available to protect animals, we have to turn to state and local law. The entire second day of the conference was dedicated to reviewing "Issues of Enforcement." The presenters' areas of expertise ranged from the conceptual – a presentation of the concept of "wild animals" and whether such a category still exists in the face of human encroachment – to the more practical review of state and local laws and examination of actual cases nationwide.

Lt. Randall B. Covey, who supervises the Animal Welfare/Law Enforcement Department of the Oregon Humane Society, spoke on the laws in Oregon. Lt. Covey has been commissioned by the Governor of Oregon to enforce the State Animal Welfare Laws through education, investigation and prosecution. He investigates over 1200 allegations of animal abuse or neglect each year. Lt. Covey walked us through a successful investigation of a complaint of neglected dogs. The Humane Society, in this case, was able to use the Oregon criminal statutes to successfully prosecute the violator.

A number of states have enacted criminal statutes to respond to the issue of animal abuse and neglect. Oregon and Washington are included in the more progressive states. Both states have enacted laws that include not only civil penalties, but also criminal penalties. In Oregon, the enforcement of these laws has been delegated to the Humane Society and to the counties. Each state is different in how it handles cases of animal abuse or neglect; however, without exception the local animal control authorities have far more leverage to address issues of abuse and neglect than the USDA, which can only revoke licenses and confiscate animals. Local jurisdictions have the advantage of being in close proximity to the complainants and the alleged offender. They have the advantage of being able to enforce civil penalties and, in some jurisdictions, criminal penalties. And finally, when all else fails, they can work hand in hand with other local agencies to accomplish their goals of stopping animal cruelty.

When a governmental agency wants to apply penalties, it must have sufficient evidence to meet the "burden of proof." That is, the facts have

to provide a certain level of assurance that the citizen did something to deserve the penalty. The "burden of proof" required to enforce a civil penalty is different than the burden for enforcing a criminal penalty. This is because generally the consequence of criminal penalties is greater than the consequence of civil penalties. The civil penalty is almost universally enforced in terms of money. Criminal penalties can include imprisonment. The burden of proof for civil penalties is based upon "the preponderance of evidence." That is, when you lay all the facts out, what is most likely to be the truth? The burden of proof for criminal penalties is based upon the concept of "beyond a reasonable doubt." Such things as the age of the complaint, other possible explanations for the poor conditions in which the animals are kept and reliability of witnesses can all impact whether or not the animal control agency (in civil proceedings) or the prosecutor (in criminal proceedings) can build a case. Oftentimes, even when there is gross abuse or negligence a case simply cannot be built. What then, do the concerned agencies do to stop the abuser?

Jonathan Lovvorn Esq. is a member of a law firm in Washington, DC. The firm specializes in federal and state court litigation on public interest issues. Mr. Lovvorn has litigated extensively on behalf of animals for national and local animal protection and environmental organizations throughout the country. He has been highly effective in stopping slaughter of animals and uncontrolled sport hunting throughout the nation. Mr. Lovvorn addresses the issue of what a governmental agency has to do to stop offenses against animals when the traditional processes do not work.

Mr. Lovvorn litigates on issues in federal courts; therefore, he includes examples discussing federal laws and regulations. However, other speakers who work at the local level emphasized that the same concept Mr. Lovvorn applies at the federal level also operates at the state and local levels.

In his examples, Mr. Lovvorn explained that he frequently relies on unrelated laws to litigate animal protection issues successfully. He uses unrelated laws when the existence of cruelty is clear, but the ability to enjoin the activity is hampered by evidence that is tainted, too old, or flawed in some manner so that the "burden of proof" cannot be established. He has filed requests for injunctive relief by requesting the courts to enforce such laws as the Environmental Protection Act, Water Quality Standards or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. State and local officials echoed that they often rely on unrelated laws or ordinances to stop a citizen or business from violating the animal cruelty laws. They rely on such issues as sanitation requirements, zon-

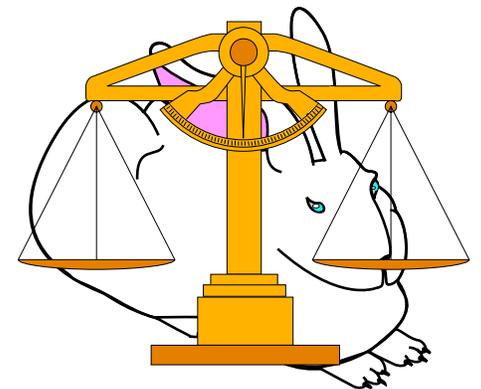
ing or noise ordinances to stop the abuse.

The conference was very well planned and I have no doubt that every participant had a greater understanding of the complexities and pitfalls of enforcing animal cruelty laws at the end of the conference.

Other speakers at the conference added a dimension of reality for the attendees about the circumstances we humans impose upon our animal friends. Officers from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Australia, lawyers from the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the Chair of the Young Lawyers Animal Rights Committee outlined the sad plight of the kangaroos (brumbies) in Australia. Australia is overpopulated with these lovely animals and the acts of violence perpetrated against them are rampant. Their presentation was very graphic and represented the tragedy of the behavior of some humans when left unregulated.

Representatives of the Humane Society and The Honorable Max Williams (OR State Senator sympathetic to the plight of animals) discussed how to work with federal and state legislatures effectively to improve the protection of animals. Matt Rossell, a member of the group that uncovered inhumane treatment of primates in research at OR Health & Sciences Univ., discussed how to conduct effective undercover investigations. Alan Green, author of "Animal Underworld: Inside America's Black Market for Rare & Exotic Species," illustrated very effectively how the zoos inadvertently (or not) contribute to "sleazy, sometimes illegal trade in exotic-even endangered-species." He explored animal auctions, canned hunts, research laboratories and zoos and presented documents that prove that our zoos contribute to the abuse of their animals when they "give" them to brokers and bypass USDA regulation because no money changes hands.

The 10th Annual Animal Law Conference is at the top of my list for well-planned and executed conferences. Join me at the Northwest College of Law of Lewis and Clark College for their eleventh conference. Join the fun and learn about protecting our tiny companions!



Our new member – Dumbledore

JEANNIE LOCKWOOD

EAST ELMHURST, NY – I have such good news, and have been so busy with my hedgehog family that I haven't been able to spread the word. We have been having such a hard time, so many tragedies in the hedgehog community that maybe a little good news, while certainly not diminishing any of the sad happenings, will lift spirits a bit.

About a month and a half ago, one of the people on the Hedgehog Welfare Society (HWS) list posted something s/he found on Petfinders, a link available through the HWS. I wrote to the individual who had the hedgehog for adoption. I cautioned him highly about the dangers of advertising and randomly giving his pet out to someone whom he did not know. I helped him to think of a screening process for potential adopters for his hedgehog, and warned him there are nefarious individuals out there (that I only recently learned of) who adopt hedgers under good pretenses and then turn them into breeding animals, and are not so ethical at all. We corresponded a bit, and I asked that he consider me as a potential new home for his hedgehog.

Many of you know me and my hedgers. I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you in person, and of kissing your hedge-



Here is one picture we took of Dumbledore right after the bath, when he loves to go into my hair and lick/scratch my scalp and hair, and wrap himself in it like a towel!

hogs on the face! I love them, by the way, don't forget to tell them that tonight! I have adopted / rescued Hagrid, Hermione, and Hedwig over the last few months, so I told this young man about all those adoption experiences. I never knew his hedgehog's name so imagine my surprise and delight when he told me not only that he had chosen me to be the new guardian for his hedgehog, but ALSO that the hedgehog's name is Dumbledore!

Dumbledore came home to us on July 27. Mike, his former roommate, could no longer care for him and wanted him to have lots of love and time devoted to him. Mike plans to do visitation here when he has a chance, and we will be sending digital photos of Dumbledore whenever possible. Mike loved Dumbledore, but he just didn't have time anymore for him, and I told him how I knew it must be hard for him to give him up, and that we would take great care of him, and that he could always get updates. Mike seemed very happy that we love hedgehogs so much. Actually, I confess he probably thought I was obsessed and nuts since he came over and I bombarded him with my hedgehog collection, my hedgehog setup, questions about Dumbledore, etc.

The first few nights were a bit huffy, but after we communed together, bathed to-

gether, and clipped nails, he trusts me a good bit more and is such a ball of energy. I was so tickled and pleased last night when I laid down on the couch and Dumbledore crawled up my side, laid down on my chest, and went to sleep, only to wake up and pee on me, that I got tears in my eyes! Finally, he knows my smell and feels less fear when he is picked up and held. We have lots of time to get to know each other but it's obvious we are already deeply in love.

Yes, my husband Chris is still in the picture. He insists on coming over and giving Dumbledore's butt a nice caress, provoking a huff that gets smaller each time. Men can be so rough at times! Chris likes Dumbledore because he is a substantial-sized hedgehog – he's easier to hold onto!

I am now confident that Dumbledore is happy in his new home. If his poops are any sign, he's loving it like crazy! He was on Brisky's when he got here and changed over in one night, purely of his own accord, to Myr Mix from his Auntie Aimee. All is well here at Hogwarts, and we wish you all the same.

In Hedgehog Love,
The Lockwoods
Jeannie, Chris, Hagrid, Hermione, Hedwig,
and now Dumbledore!



FAVORITE RESCUE STORY

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

Please send it 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

