



# The Hedgehog Welfare Society Newsletter #75

March / April, 2015

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



This photograph comes to us from Amanda Koczera by way of *Facebook*. Her hedgehog, Sprinkles, was born on October 8, 2014. Amanda describes her as "the happiest hedgehog I've ever met -- she never hisses and is always happy to come out and play."

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Ever since she was about seven weeks old Sprinkles has had a strange bump on her back. Recently, Amanda took Sprinkles to her veterinarian to have the bump checked. Everyone at the veterinarian's office was surprised to meet such a friendly hedgehog. The vet wanted her to ball up so they could get a clearer view of her bump, but Sprinkles was too calm and good natured to ball up. The vet, the vet tech and Amanda all danced around Sprinkles as they tried to get her to ball up and raise her spines. The little hedgehog calmly watched their antics without reacting. Finally -- after the veterinarian resorted to making noises with tuning forks-- Sprinkles managed to ball up a little bit for her exam. Luckily the bump on her back was determined to be fat tissue, not a tumor!

When they returned home, Amanda celebrated by photographing Sprinkles and posting this wonderful picture on Facebook. She has kindly granted us permission to use the photo.

Hedgehog Welfare Society

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Samantha Richardson  
Sadie Schuldt

## Election Results for 2015 HWS Boards of Directors

Every year, the HWS holds nominations and elections for our Board of Directors. Board members hold their positions for two years, so about half the positions on the board are up for election each year. In addition to the specific tasks associated with each position, all board members work together to brainstorm ideas, discuss issues facing the HWS as an organization, vote on HWS policies, and represent HWS to the public.

This year was an exciting election year, as we had several newer community members throw their hats into the ring. You will see some new faces on our board this year! We also invited some members to be "Board Members At Large," these are non-voting board members who will also contribute substantially to the organization.

In addition, we voted on a slight adjustment to the HWS bylaws changing the title of our Chief Volunteer Officer and Vice Chief Volunteer Officer to President and Vice President. We felt these terms were more familiar to most of our members, and more clearly reflect their roles in the organization.

Congratulations to the elected officers and board members at large for 2015!

President: Deb Weaver

Chief Organizing Officer: Vicki McLean

Chief Financial Officer: Donnasue Graesser

Advocacy Co-chairperson: Kristen Zorbini

Care Packages Chairperson: Jennifer Plombon

Health and Education Co-chairperson: Gioia Kerlin

Membership Chairperson: Tina Winchell

Public Relations Co-chairperson: Christina Hannigan

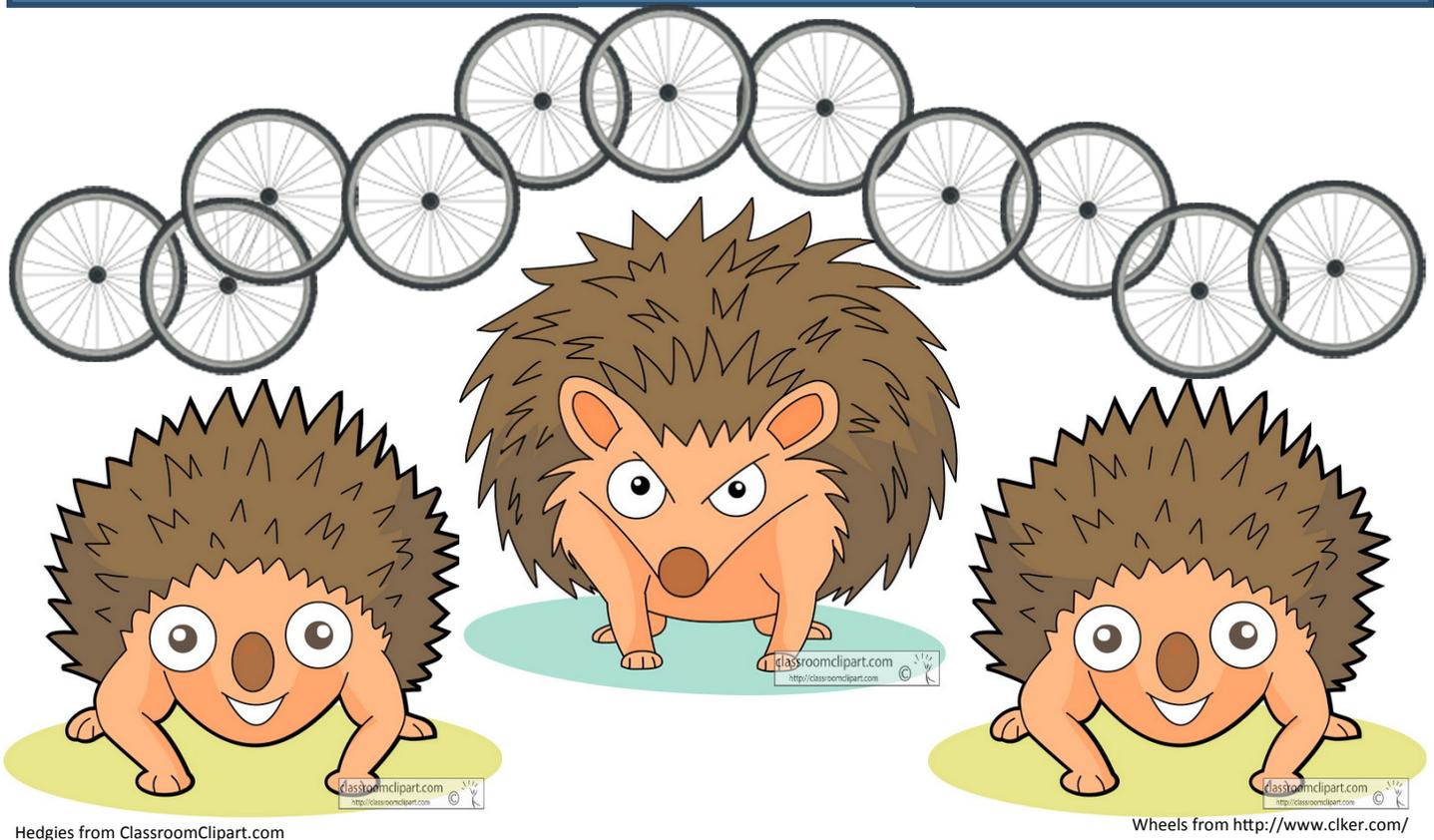
Rescue Chairperson: Linda Woodring

Board Member-At-Large: Cindy Delarosa

Board Member-At-Large: Samantha Richardson

Board Member-At-Large: Sadie Schuldt





## 2015 Wheel-a-Thon Update

By Linda Woodring

Another Hedgehog Day has passed, and with that came our annual Hedgehog Welfare Society Wheel-a-Thon. I'm happy to say that in spite of the economy and donations being down, we were still able to raise \$2,100 to help hedgehogs in need. This includes care packages to new adopters, help with vet bills, plus educational and health resources.

A big thanks goes out to everyone who participated, to those who made donations, and to those who donated prizes for the participants. We couldn't do it without you!





## We Are Looking for Volunteers

By Donnasue Graesser



M. Myhre

Have you thought about becoming more involved with the HWS? Do you love hedgehogs? Do you have a special skill or talent that can be put to use to support hedgehog welfare? The HWS would like to extend an invitation to all members of our community to volunteer with the organization.

### What do volunteers do?

We have never before instituted a formal volunteer program. But, over the years, volunteers have designed our logo, staffed an HWS table at animal welfare events, crafted items for fundraising, written articles for our newsletter, helped field questions on our chat groups, and made many other contributions. One of the truly unique opportunities was when HWS members and their hedgehogs participated in the Animal Planet Puppy Bowl that aired during the Super Bowl!

There are many possibilities, depending upon the current needs of the organization and your individual skills and passions. Virtually all our volunteering is done through the internet, at home. Occasionally, if you are in the area, we invite volunteers to come help out at a hedgehog show or other animal welfare event.

### How much time would I need to commit?

Mostly, this depends upon how much time you have to volunteer and the specific activities in which you are involved. We are grateful for any level of contribution. You may want to write a newsletter article occasionally, or you may want to contribute to every issue. You may have time to write thank you notes to donors, or you may have time to run a major fundraiser. We value and appreciate your time.

How do you sign up? Simply send an e-mail to: [info@hedgehogwelfare.org](mailto:info@hedgehogwelfare.org). Please put the word "Volunteer" in the subject line. We will send you a questionnaire to determine how your skill-set and availability fit the existing needs of the HWS. After we receive the completed questionnaire, we will enter your information into a volunteer database. A board member will contact you to discuss in what capacity we might use your talents, and on what time-frame.

### What are the benefits to volunteering?

Your contributions will clearly benefit hedgehogs and the HWS, and hopefully, the benefits will be reciprocal. If you are passionate about hedgehogs, volunteering with the HWS will give you an opportunity to get more involved in the hedgehog community. You will meet awesome, dedicated people and their hedgehogs. Hopefully, volunteering with the HWS will give you a sense of pride and accomplishment. You may develop your skills and portfolio for your resume. Many of our board members began their association with the HWS by volunteering for a small task, and are now long-term board members. The HWS is an incredible organization to work with—not just because of our common mission to help hedgehogs, but also because of the many amazing and devoted people who make up the organization. We look forward to adding you to our volunteer community!

## Thoughts from the President

Deb Weaver

This column is all about saying thank you.

First, I'd like to thank all our members for voting in the recent elections (and to Board member DonnaSue for running the elections). The following officers were elected onto the board:

President: Deb Weaver

Chief Organizing Officer: Vicki McLean

Chief Financial Officer: Donnasue Graesser

Advocacy co-Chairperson: Kristen Zorbini

Care Packages Chairperson: Jennifer Plombon

Health and Education Co-chairperson: Gioia Kerlin

Membership Chairperson: Tina Winchell

Public Relations co-Chairperson: Christina Hannigan

Rescue Chairperson: Linda Woodring

Congratulations to all!

Second, I'd like to thank out-going PR co-chair Cindy DeLaRosa for all of her efforts during her tenure in PR.

Third, I'd like to welcome Christina Hannigan as our newly elected PR co-chair.

In addition, we have two new members who will serve as At Large members on the Board. Congratulations and welcome to Samantha Richardson and Sadie Schuldt. The Board is also delighted that Cindy DeLaRosa has agreed to stay on the Board as an At Large member.

Fourth, I'd also like to thank everyone who participated in the 2015 Wheel-a-Thon. It's our largest fund raiser of the year, and HWS couldn't do all that we do without your support. In addition I'd like to thank Marylou Zarbock of the *Small Animal Channel* for the very nice article about our event. A big thank you also needs to go to Linda Woodring who once again ran this year's event.

Fifth, I'd like to thank Brian Platz ("The Web Doctor") for creating and maintaining our web site. You always have us looking good Brian!

And last but not least, I'd like to thank my Board for their work. They always care, they always have an opinion, they always get the job done, and they always keep me on my toes!

# *Eastern States Hedgehog Show*

## *DelMarVa*



*“Hedgie-Con”*  
*May 15-17, 2015*  
*Dover, DE*

*Come join us for a weekend of fun! This show will include games for both humans and hedgies, education & health talks, two confirmation shows, vendors & a silent auction, a banquet, and a costume contest.*

*This event will take place at the Holiday Inn-Downton in Dover.*

*For more information, including hotel information and event registration, visit:*

*<http://hedgiecon.wix.com/eastcoast>*



MARCH 11 — KHALEESI RICHARDSON

MARCH 17 — DIAMOND LIL THOMAS

MARCH 29 — EULALIA BENNETT,

KIRBY WOODRING,

& MARIAH WROBEL

APRIL 15 — HARRIET BECKER



## Hedgehog Treasures

Are you looking for a distinctive luggage tag that will make it much easier to spot your luggage at the airport?

*Kikkerland Design, Inc.*, the company that created hedgehog dryer buddies, now offers a number of other hedgehog themed items including a leatherette luggage tag featuring a well-fed, happy hedgehog. The luggage tag sells for \$9.00.

Other hedgehog-themed items include: A corkboard magnetic hedgehog, hedgehog nail brushes in a variety of colors, a hedgehog toothbrush holder and, of course, hedgehog dryer buddies.

You can see the hedgehogs and many other interesting items by visiting their website:

[www.kikkerland.com](http://www.kikkerland.com)

## The Literary Hedgehog

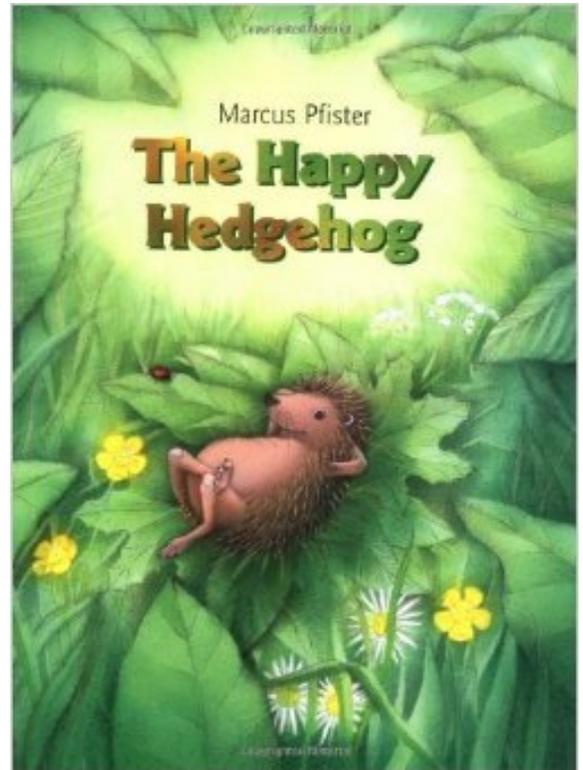
By Margaret Myhre

Author and illustrator Marcus Pfister was born in Berne, Switzerland. He worked in an advertising agency while attending art school, then moved to Zürich where he was employed as a graphic artist.

In 1983, during a six-month trip to the United States, he decided to try his hand at writing and illustrating books for children. He is best known for his books featuring the character, Rainbow Fish. *The Rainbow Fish*, received several awards including the Bologna Book Fair *Critici in Erba* Prize, the Christopher Award, and the 1995 ABBY (American Booksellers Book of the Year). This book was followed by *Rainbow Fish to the Rescue*, which won three awards, and *Rainbow Fish and the Big Blue Whale*.

In 2000, Pfister turned his attention from fish to hedgehogs. *The Happy Hedgehog*, first published in Switzerland as *Der Glückliche Mischka*, features a contented little hedgehog named Mikko.

Mikko knows the name of every flower, herb and weed in his garden, as well as their medicinal uses. He also knows every creature living in his



Unfortunately, Mikko's Grandfather Tarek views Mikko as a good-for-nothing, lazy, young hedgehog who can never be happy until he accomplishes something important. "Go and take a look how others lead their lives!" he says.

Although Mikko does not think Grandfather Tarek looks especially happy, he still follows his advice. He packs up a knapsack and heads out to see the world. During his journey he encounters a tortoise who is training to become the fastest tortoise in the world, a hare who is attending school, a badger who lifts heavy rocks so that he can become the strongest badger in the world, and a colony of ants who are too busy to speak to him. All the animals are busy and ambitious. They want to become fast, smart and strong so that they can be happy. But it seems to Mikko that they aren't enjoying life at all. He decides he is already happy at home in his garden.

Shortly after Mikko's return to the garden, he hears a hoarse cough and sees that his grandfather has come to visit. Mikko picks some herbs from his garden and makes Grandfather a cup of tea mixed with fresh honey to sooth his cough. Eventually Grandfather understands that Mikko has learned a lot and found happiness by staying home and tending his garden.



<https://openclipart.org/>



Clipart from Clyker

## Preparing to Evacuate

Laura Dunklee, HWS Co-Chair for Health and Education

*(Please note that this article is directed toward hedgehog caretakers, but much of it also applies to any other animals in your household.)*

Emergency situations happen every day: floods, fires, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes are all in the news. Sometimes you have hours or days to prepare for evacuation; at other times, you have just minutes to grab your animals and evacuate. Your animals, hedgehogs and others, are your responsibility and they depend on you to get them to safety. You must always be prepared. Luckily, it isn't difficult to do.

### ESSENTIAL – CARRIER, HEAT SOURCE, FOOD

#### Carriers

You must have enough carriers to house each of your hedgehogs, unless you have some that live together. The carriers need to be hard-sided with adequate ventilation and they need to be assembled and ready to go. A hard-sided carrier is safest for your hedgehog:

- It will not collapse and potentially flatten the hedgehog
- It will protect the hedgehog from any unfamiliar animals who might possibly harm them
- It is easily recognized by emergency personnel and others as likely holding a living animal
- They can be stacked and secured in a vehicle.

Next, label the carrier. Use a permanent marker and print the information. You can use a large sticker placed on top of the carrier. Include the animal's name, species, your phone number, the contact information for your veterinarian, and contact information (name and phone number) of a friend.

Prepare the carrier: Use a liner, such as a puppy pad, then cover that with several layers of fleece, for insulation, comfort, and to provide the hedgehog burrowing opportunity, should it be needed. Do not assume that you are going to have time to assemble your carrier. You may not. You can also take a towel and wrap it in several puppy pads, to provide both a secure surface for the hedgehog and for insulation. If you're a crafting person, you can sew carrier liners, which are usually several layers of fleece, cut to fit the base of the carrier.

#### Heat Source: Hand Warmers and Socks

Hedgehogs are temperature sensitive. If they get chilled, you could be dealing with a hibernation attempt and even death. Therefore you must have a non-electricity-dependent heat source. I recommend the *Mega Warmer* air-activated warmers. On *Amazon* these are listed as "Grabber Warmers Grabber 12+ Hours Mega Warmers, Maximum Heat, 30-Count" (for a box of 30). The smaller hand and foot warmers do not produce heat for as long and may only last for an hour or two. These warmers are air activated and non-toxic / non-combustible / odorless. All you need do is open one of the individually-sealed warmers, place it in a sock, Tie off the end of the sock, and the heating will commence. You will need to check and replace the warmer when it begins to cool. I've never had one last for the promised 12 hours, eight hours seems to be the average.

Place several unopened warmers (I usually have six) in each carrier, include a sock in which you can drop the warmer once it has been opened.

*Continued on page 10*

*Continued from page 9*

## Food

Keeping your hedgehogs on their usual diet will help them during an evacuation. If your hedgehogs are on a blend of kibbles, you can search online for sample sized packets of the specific brands that you feed. Also, some pet stores, especially independent ones, often have small sized bags of kibble available at a low price. Or you can contact the manufacturer to see if they will sell you samples. If you can find sample sizes of your regular mix, grab them. They're excellent to have on hand. If you can't, each time you make your kibble mix, toss some into a zippered bag and tape it to the interior roof of the evacuation carrier, so it's always there and ready. If you are using a homemade mix and not sample packets, swap out the kibble mix, for fresh every month, to make sure the kibble stays fresh.

## IMPORTANT BUT NOT ESSENTIAL

The following items are important but you can get by without them, or prepare them after you have taken care of the carrier, heat source, and food.

Basic emergency kit: for a bare-bones emergency kit you'll need:

- Two or three jars of plain chicken baby food
- Two jars of sweet potato baby food
- If your vet carries it, also include two or three cans of Hill's a/d cat food and a plastic snap on lid to cover an open can.

Also have:

- More hand warmers
- Nail clippers and styptic powder or a small container of flour to stop bleeding
- Baby shampoo and a couple of hand towels
- Hypoallergenic baby wipes (store them in a zippered plastic bag, with the air squeezed out, or else they will quickly dry out)

Toss all this in a small duffel or other zippered bag with a strap, so you can grab and go. If you get a larger duffel, you can add in the bedding, documents, and dishes, too.

**Bedding:** Liners, puppy pads, snuggle sacks, hedgie hats, and fleece blankets are all good things to have, because hedgehogs tend to soil their bedding if they're grabbed from their cage, thrust into a carrier, and then moved into an unfamiliar environment.

Along with the extra bedding, zippered plastic baggies are good to have, since hedgehog "stress poops" can be very smelly. Include some type of baby wipes for cleaning-up the hedgehog, too. The unscented, hypoallergenic ones are the best but, depending on the packaging, can dry out quickly. Storing them in a zippered plastic bag with all the air squeezed out, is a good call.

**Documents:** A list of local veterinarians and emergency veterinarians, along with phone numbers, addresses, and maps of their location; a list of local hotels and motels that allow animals, along with phone numbers, addresses, and maps of their locations; copies of any paperwork from your hedgehog's breeder.

**Food / Water Dishes:** Not essential, as you can always improvise, but if you have spare food and water dishes, they are very handy to keep at the ready in case you do have to leave your home.

**Collapsible Housing:** There are some wonderful, collapsible "dog play pens" available on sites like *Amazon*, which are fabric and collapsible, and can be purchased for under \$50.00. They are easily stored and transported.

## Being Prepared is a Good Thing

Hopefully you will never have to go through an evacuation, but being prepared and having everything ready to grab and go means a less traumatic experience for your hedgehog and for yourself. It really doesn't take long to put together everything you need, and it's not expensive, either. Take an hour or two to do this: It could make the difference between life and death for your hedgehog.

# The Hedgehog Welfare Society is on Facebook

By Laura C. Dunklee, HWS Co-Chair for Health, Research & Education

Did you know that the Hedgehog Welfare Society is on Facebook? We Are!

With the exponential growth in social media, and increasing prevalence of people turning to Facebook for information about caring for companion animals, the HWS' Facebook group now has about 2,200 members (as of the end of February 2015).

While all these members are not active posters, we do have a sizable contingent of people regularly posting and interacting. It's a lot like the HWS' Yahoo! group, in that there is a community of experienced hedgehog guardians who are glad to provide advice, support, and friendship to people new to being owned by hedgehogs.

New hedgehog guardians frequently join the group to ask questions. Some of the most common issues revolve around housing, heating, food, and health concerns, along with finding knowledgeable vets. Other topics include rescue and adoption. Of course, people share great hedgehog photos, too!

Like our Yahoo! group, our Facebook group is a resource and community for hedgehog owners. I've seen our members rally to support owners with sick hedgehogs, celebrate recoveries, and grieve over the crossing of a hedgehog. I've witnessed great advice and guidance being given, often for hours at a time, as an owner is coached through helping a hedgehog who's attempting hibernation, or with a hedgehog who's dealing with movement issues or gastro problems. And I've watched friendships develop and grow.

Hedgehog guardians are special people: we understand how attached we each become to our quilled companions and how we want what's best for them. Our Facebook group brings together such people.

If you're on Facebook, please come join us!





Photo by Margaret Myhre

This poem was published in the January/February issue of the *Hedgehog Welfare Society Newsletter*. Unfortunately, there were errors in that publication. We are including a corrected version of the poem in this issue.

## Dear Mr. Hedgehog

By Karen DeBiase-1/3/14 ©

A tiny animal's birth  
Appears on planet earth  
His name is Mister Hedgehog  
He wears a prickly shirt

Through brush and rocks and termite mounds

This Hedgehog he does roam  
His wobbly legs  
His stiff white spines  
His pointy black tipped nose

Hello there Mister Hedgehog  
You're out so late tonight  
I slept all day and now I'm off  
To go out for a bite

Where will you go this morning  
Once dined on grubs and worms  
Be resting in my burrow  
Where I choose to be alone

He waddles through a garden  
He waddles past a tree  
His teeth are pearly white  
His black eyes barely see

Just go on with my business  
Get by without much strife  
I dug a cozy home  
I live a simple life

I'm happy down here resting  
Will stay here all day long  
He tucks his tiny head in  
And rolls up in a ball

His quills stick outward bound  
Pin cushion he is crowned  
And on his soft warm bed  
Appears as if he's dead

I'm just a spiny Hedgehog  
A shrew can't you see  
I've been around forever  
For all eternity

Come catch me if you can  
May make a nice warm friend  
I'm not so hard to tame  
And even like to bathe

Am playful if you're nice  
If not take my advice  
Beware my pointy spines  
To them I will resign

I pick him up and there he rolls  
A tight neat little ball  
I hold him very precariously  
Afraid that he might fall

This adorable little hedgehog  
In the palms of my own hands  
Now opens up and kisses me  
He doesn't even stab

O Dear Ol' Mr. Hedgehog  
I hope your life is long  
You're fun and sweet and oh so cute  
A treasure to us all.