



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 #8, December 2003

The Hedgehog Welfare Society

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Election 2003 Results!

DONNASUE GRAESSER

NEW HAVEN, CT – The votes are in!

The Hedgehog Welfare Society is, by definition, a “Society” of individuals, each possessing unique talents, strengths, and expertise. We, and our hedgehogs, enjoy the benefits of learning from each other and collaboration amongst the group. Our election process is very important opportunity for every HWS member to participate in our society of hedgehog caretakers and advocates.

During the elections this fall, we voted on significant bylaw changes that would create two new positions on the HWS board of directors. The first position is the Vice Chief Volunteer Officer, who will assist Jennifer Plombon (Chief Volunteer Officer) in her leadership duties. The second position is the Chief Information Officer, who will be charged with the responsibility of commu-

nication between the HWS board and the HWS membership. We also voted on individuals to fill these positions.

Ballots were sent to every HWS member, approximately 320 ballots. Of these, 128 members returned their ballots, either by snail-mail or electronically. This calculates into a 40% return rate.

Of these, 98% voted YES to the bylaw changes. And, by a vast majority, we enthusiastically elected two new members to the HWS board.

Congratulations to Susan Geotcheus, Vice Chief Volunteer Officer!

Congratulations to Carol Fish-Kregear, Chief Information Officer!

Please join us in welcoming our two newest board members. We look forward to all the possibilities! This will be an awesome year for the HWS, and for hedgehog everywhere! 🐾🐾

Quills and Comfort

Coming soon to a website near you!

JUDIE PETERS

BLUFFTON, SC – Joy, comfort and unconditional love are just a few of the gifts hedgehogs offer their loving guardians. Our wee magical companions warm our hearts and add so much to the quality of our lives that when illness and/or death comes calling we often grieve inconsolably. Over a year ago my Dancer crossed the Bridge after a short illness. Simultaneously Carol Kregear was ex-

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Checking with the vet staff...

Who is poking Whom?:

How to get blood from a Hedgehog

(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 drawing blood from a hedgehog ...)

KIM SCEA

TRENTON, ONTARIO – Blood draws (samples) can be taken by many methods including from the jugular vein, cephalic vein, femoral vein, and toenail clipping.

The tests you need to run from the blood sample dictate the volume of the sample. Some tests take a much larger quantity of blood than others. It is a safety protocol to know the amount of blood required before drawing from an animal. Why take more, if it is not needed? It takes the body time to replace the blood you are removing. It stands to reason that the body isn't working properly if tests are needed to help diagnose the problem – so why further complicate the situation with blood loss? A veterinarian specializing in exotic pets will already have knowledge of exactly the volume of blood that is needed for each test. In addition, drawing too much blood may cause stress within the patient that could also cause a false reading on your results (e.g. increase of temperature, hyperventilation.).

It is also exceptionally important that your veterinarian is dealing with a laboratory that has experience with exotic animals. There are many laboratories in business that deal strictly with dogs and cats, and therefore only have canine and feline baseline results to draw from, which are not the same for exotic species. The results from a test may indicate that all is fine; however, unbeknownst to you, the lab is comparing the results to a normal baseline from a dog or a cat. You could be under the false impression that either all is well with your sick hedgehog, or that your hedgehog is extremely ill when he or she is not. And, thus, the prescribed treatment is inappropriate.

The most difficult aspect of taking a blood sample from an exotic animal is getting a viable sample. A viable sample is one that has a good "draw" from the body. If the draw is



too slow, blood cells may be damaged, or the blood may clot, making it useless for many diagnostic tests. The ideal blood draw has a clean, easy, continuous supply of blood going into the collecting equipment (syringe, capillary tube, vacu-tainer, etc.). This, at times, can be almost impossible from a very small exotic animal like a hedgehog. Another problem is not to take too much at once. If the sample is removed "instantly" from the body, it could cause shock in the patient. Compound that with the problem of not being able to get a large enough sample, and the difficulties of getting a "viable" sample of good quantity from an exotic, small, animal become quite evident.

For hedgehogs, the vein with the largest volume to draw from is the jugular vein. One common location used is the femoral vein (hind leg). The most common location that blood is taken from in dogs and cats is the cephalic vein of the fore leg, but is very difficult to achieve a viable sample of large enough volume from the cephalic vein of a hedgehog. Taking a sample straight from the heart can cause heart failure with fatal results and should never be attempted.

One of the easiest syringes to use is a tuberculin syringe (0.5cc) or an insulin syringe (up to 1.0cc). These syringes are very small in the barrel (where the blood collects), have a very small plunger (for drawing back to collect blood), and the needle is

exceptionally small – just right for hedgehog veins. This is very important so the vein does not collapse when drawing back to obtain the sample. The needle of the syringe is cross-sectioned on a slant. This creates a cutting edge for entering the vein with the least amount of trauma. However, it also creates a potential problem. If the bevel (hole on the needle) goes in the vein and lays flat against the side of the vessel wall, when the plunger is drawn back, the vein wall will be suctioned up against the hole of the needle. When this occurs, first, no blood will be drawn into the syringe. Second, it is possible to cause damage and trauma to the vein, if drawing back hard enough. Thus, it is important to procure blood samples with the appropriate equipment.

The jugular vein runs up and down the front of the neck (where your dog's tags on its collar hang naturally). In a hedgehog it is almost impossible to achieve a jugular blood draw without sedation. The veterinary staff must stretch the forelegs down to the floor and stretch the head so the nose faces towards the ceiling. At the same time, a staff member must "hold off" the vein, which is putting pressure on the vein so blood will accumulate in it to collect for a sample. No awake hedgehog I know would be willing to do this, which is why it is not a common practice. Sedation can alter the results of certain tests, yet without sedation it is difficult to perform a jugular blood draw. Still this is the best location to get a "viable" sample (good, strong draw).

The cephalic vein runs basically from armpit to foot, up/down the leg. This is a "strong" vein, but in hedgehogs is not very large in diameter. This is why most veterinarians do not chose this site for a blood draw. To obtain a cephalic blood draw, a staff member holds off the vein with just enough force to allow the blood to collect in the vein, and they usually "pump" the vein to fill it up after the collected blood is emptied. The draw back suction may be so strong that the vein literally empties and sucks the walls of the vein together. The pressure must slowly and gently be released to allow the vein to refill. All this takes time, which may allow the blood to clot. Therefore, the sample is usually (not always) put into a vacutainer which contains a small amount of anticoagulant. Samples of very small volume may be diluted too much by the anticoagulant and give inaccurate results. You must have a viable sample of large

(Continues on page 4...)

DRAWING BLOOD...

(...Continued from page 3)

enough volume with which to run the necessary tests, or the veterinarian's efforts will be wasted.

The femoral vein is the most common site used by veterinarians to collect hedgehog blood. The femoral vein runs down the hind leg towards the foot. A staff member usually holds the vein off with his or her finger. It is not recommended to use a tourniquet in this location, as there are danger zones within this area where nerves may be damaged. Pressing on the vein above the draw site should be adequate pressure for the blood to collect in the vein.

Another method that some veterinarians use to obtain blood samples is to cut a toenail short enough to cause bleeding. The hedgehog should be anaesthetized and the area sterilized before clipping the toenail. Capillary tubes are used to suction up the blood sample. The nail must then be cauterized to stop the bleeding. The most common reagent used is a chemical cauterizer, which can be a liquid or powder. The toe must be *VERY* clean before taking the sample!! Many contaminants must be removed before a sample can be taken including urine, feces, old food, and bedding particles. These contaminants may alter the results of the sample, or could cause infection of the toenail. Veterinarians differ in their opinions as to whether this is painful to the animal. I have my own thoughts on this and will not step into the discussion.

To make certain not to cause shock in the hedgehog when taking a sample, your veterinarian will make sure not to draw too much blood. The maximum volume of blood you can take (in cc's, cubic centimeters) is 1% of the hedgehog's weight (in grams). For example, a 400 gram hedgehog can only donate 4 cc's of blood. The veterinarian must also take into account small amounts of blood drawn in failed attempts when limiting the volume drawn. Also, if blood samples are taken frequently over a period of time, the blood loss can result in anemia.

If bruising and/or swelling occurs, some trauma has happened within the vein/leg. A haematoma (swelling) is not unusual, especially with exotic animals. A haematoma may occur when the needle goes right through the vein, causing a leakage of blood into the leg. It may also occur when removing the needle from the leg if the vein does

not seal properly and leaks blood into the leg. Pressure on the site with a finger is usually enough to stop the problem. Bruising can occur for many reasons. If in the animal is in poor health (especially if the liver and/or kidneys are involved) bruising is more likely. Bruising can also be the result of numerous punctures into the same area to get a sample. Soreness is not common, but can be a result of poor health, or the needle going into or through a muscle. This would probably be most likely from poor technique and/or lack of experience of the technician/veterinarian.

It is crucial to the diagnosis of many hedgehog diseases to be able to perform a blood draw. Each veterinarian will have his or her own preferred techniques, based on the experiences in the particular practice. Or, they may be completely unfamiliar with drawing blood from a hedgehog. In either case, you may want to bring him or her a copy of this article to

provide additional perspectives to build on the foundation of his/her experience. 🐾🐾

My first Christmas in Heaven

*I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below
With tiny lights like Heaven's stairs, reflecting on the snow.*

*The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear
But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.*

*I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,
For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.*

*I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart.
But I am not so far away, We really aren't apart.*

*So be happy for me, dear ones, You know I hold you dear.
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above,
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.*

*After all love is a gift more precious than pure gold.
ToXwas always most important in the stories Jesus told.*

*Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do.
For I can't count the blessing or love He has for each of you.*

*So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.
Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

not seal properly and leaks blood into the leg. Pressure on the site with a finger is usually enough to stop the problem. Bruising can occur for many reasons. If in the animal is in poor health (especially if the liver and/or kidneys are involved) bruising is more likely. Bruising can also be the result of numerous punctures into the same area to get a sample. Soreness is not common, but can be a result of poor health, or the needle going into or through a muscle. This would probably be most likely from poor technique and/or lack of experience of the technician/veterinarian.

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*Odin (r) and his Sweetheart Aphrodite
listen intently to the holiday stories.*

provide additional perspectives to build on the foundation of his/her experience. 🐾🐾



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HOOFBEATS

DONNASUE GRAESSER

NEW HAVEN, CT – There is an old adage in veterinary medicine: “When you hear hoofbeats, look for horses, not zebras.” The meaning of this saying is that when a clinician sees a particular set of symptoms, he or she should first consider the obvious possible diagnoses (the horses). The “zebra” is a metaphor for rare, unusual diseases or conditions. Apparently, this expression originated from professors who grew weary of eager young veterinary students diagnosing new, rare, and exotic diseases while missing the obvious common causes for a set of symptoms.

However, many clinicians see this as a dangerous precedent to follow. Some have preached that we should consider every “zebra” in order to be thorough, rather than jumping to conclusions from superficial observations. One physician reports a story about when he took his daughter to a science fair and carnival in Massachusetts. He writes, “We heard a sudden sound of hoofbeats, followed by screams from the crowd. Expecting horses, I was surprised to see that two small zebras, pulling a cart, had gotten away from their handlers and were running amok.” The moral of the story: Sometimes when you hear hoofbeats, they do belong to zebras. Even when it is not what you are expecting.

Another veterinary student also commented to me once that geography should also play a factor in determining diagnoses. She recounted that when she worked in the Peace Corps in Africa, she saw lots of zebras (literally), but no horses. She amended the statement to say: “When you hear hoofbeats in Central Park or Kentucky, think horses. When you hear hoofbeats in Africa, think zebras.” The moral of her story: Location, location, location! Some illnesses are more or less common depending upon geography. This is certainly true for specific infectious diseases, mineral deficiencies, and other conditions.

With hedgehogs, we tend to look for the “horses” sometimes



because looking for the “zebras” can be quite complicated. Most veterinarians can quote you the normal blood chemistry values for dogs and cats in their sleep. Even if they do not know these values off the top of their heads, the instrumentation they use is calibrated to indicate when a value is out of range for a cat or dog. Even in a zoo hospital, I have yet to see a chemistry or blood count machine set up to test hedgehog blood. Sometimes, even armed with the correct chemistry values, a veterinarian may have a difficult time drawing blood from a hedgehog to test for those values (see our veterinary technician article by Kim Scea in this issue). And, even with the most educated and technically skilled veterinarian, the cost of doing all the appropriate tests on an exotic animal can be prohibitive. For many reasons, it may be simpler sometimes to assume the condition is a “horse” rather than looking for the “zebra.”

The case of Dana Rinaldi’s Cami comes to mind. Cami was losing an enormous number of quills. It would have been quite easy for the veterinarian to write it off as “mites,” but Dr. Harrington was willing to look a little further. She did a special skin test and found the culprit of Cami’s quill loss was a yeast infection of her skin. Treating Cami’s skin condition as a simple case of mites (with Ivermectin or Revolution) would never have cleared up a yeast infection. But, because Dr. Harrington went that extra step to look beyond the obvious, she was able to treat the infection appropriately with Ketoconazole (which Dana had mixed up in chicken flavor-yum... yum!). Cami’s condition improved. When Dr. Harrington heard hoofbeats, she thought to look for the zebras. Otherwise, Cami would have still been itching and uncomfortable, not to mention bald!

Thank goodness for veterinarians like Dr. Harrington, and Julie Hintz’s vet, who diagnosed Punky with Cushing’s disease (see September 2003 issue of the HWS newsletter). And, thank goodness for hedgegie-people like Dana and Julie! They made sure their vets left no stone unturned.

Recently, on the e-mail lists, we have been learning that hedgehogs suffer from many conditions that we might never have predicted only a few short years ago. Over the next several months, we hope to include articles from HWS members and their hedgehogs who have experienced illnesses or conditions that are relatively unfamiliar to most of us. This month, Jennifer Plombon and Skeezix will share information about hypothyroidism with us. Hopefully, the experience of these hedgehogs will encourage veterinarians to take a closer look for those stripes!



Speaking from experience:

A Case of Hypothyroidism

JENNIFER PLOMBON

CHARLESTON, SC – Skeezi, my dear 3½ year-old hedgehog, began gaining weight and losing energy approximately one year ago. We had moved to a new home, and her free range area was smaller, so at first I thought she was running about less because she was unhappy with her new home. She had weighed a nice round 400 grams for at least 2 years, but had crept up to (eventually) 600 grams! In the midst of this weight gain, she was spayed as a preventive measure to prevent uterine cancer. While a spay can often lead to weight gain, that was clearly not the reason in this case, as most of the weight gain occurred before her spay. Her uterus was normal, thank goodness.

She began to drop quills; not many, maybe 10 per day, but as an adult, long past quilling, that seemed odd. I began to suspect hypothyroidism, and made a call to my vet here in SC, Dr. Tom Hentges, about testing her thyroid function. Since I was headed to Denver for the MHHS, where I would be able to talk with Dr. Dressen, who has experience in hypothyroidism and blood drawing in hedgehogs, we decided to test Skeezi when I returned, armed with information.

The thyroid gland, located in the neck, produces hormones that regulate metabo-

lism. It takes iodine, usually found in food, combines it with tyrosine (an amino acid), and converts that combination to hormones called T3 and T4, which are essential in regulating body processes.

An area of the brain, the hypothalamus, which is deep in the middle of the brain, is also involved in this process of regulation. The hypothalamus releases Thyrotropin-releasing Hormone (TRH), which stimulates the pituitary gland (also deep in the middle of the brain) to release Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH), which stimulates the thyroid to make T3 and T4 and provide them to the bloodstream.

There are many causes and signs and symptoms of hypothyroidism, or low thyroid function. For purposes of our pet hedgehogs, the signs that might be observed include:

- Exhaustion or lethargy – sleeping more, exercising less;
- Difficulty staying warm – cold feet and tummies, when the room/enclosure is warm enough;
- Hair (quill) loss;
- Weight gain – unexplained and difficult to reverse;
- Constipation (seldom seen in most hedgehogs!)

Hypothyroidism is best diagnosed via a blood test (please see the article *How to Get Blood From a Hedgehog* on page 4). Usually TSH is tested; if it's HIGH (above 5.5-6, according to some guidelines), hypothyroidism is suspected. If it's LOW (below 0.4), hypothyroidism is also likely.

In Skeezi's case, it was so difficult to obtain blood due to her tiny veins and, um, er, "well-padded" (I prefer the term STURDY) legs, that there was enough for only one test, and Dr. Hentges opted to test for TSH rather than for T3 or T4 levels (testing either or both of those hormones will also indicate thyroid function). Skeezi's TSH level was almost immeasurable, it was so low, and we decided that she should be supplemented with Synthroid, or levothyroxine, a synthetic form of T4 hormone. This is the most common medication prescribed for animals and humans with hypothyroidism. There is another medication,

Armour Thyroid, that had some advantages. It is made from a natural product, desiccated porcine (pig) thyroid glands, and contains natural versions of T1, T2, T3, and T4. However, the risk of an adverse allergic reaction was higher, and some experts feel the levels of hormone in this product are less accurate.

The next question was: How much Synthroid did she need? Following are the calculations:

HOW TO CALCULATE A SYNTHROID DOSE FOR A HEDGEHOG ...

... with thanks to Priscilla Dressen, DVM and Tom Hentges, DVM.

The dosage chart these two veterinarians used was based on canine values, adjusted for the hedgehog's weight.

The usual dose for canines is 0.1 - 0.2 mg. of Synthroid per 4.5 kg. of animal's weight; oral; twice daily. This is equal to 0.022 - 0.044 mg. Synthroid per kg. weight.

For a 600 gram (0.6 kg.) hedgehog, therefore, the dose is $0.022 - 0.044 \times 0.6 = 0.013 - 0.0264$ mg. Synthroid twice daily. A compounding pharmacist was asked to make a concentrated mixture of Synthroid in a chicken-flavored base, compounded to 0.1 mg. per ml. (or cc.), which is calculated as $0.013/0.1 = 0.13$ ml. (cc.) twice daily. Dr. Hentges felt that we should start at the lowest dose and assess the results for several weeks.

This is a reasonable amount to measure out in a 1 cc. syringe, and fits nicely when injected into a large, canned (dead) cricket.

Canine follow-up suggests a blood test every 2 weeks to assess thyroid hormone values. Given the difficulty in obtaining blood from a hedgehog, we opted to assess the medication's effects by observation; observing activity level, weight, whether or not a tremor or anxiety or eye bulging developed, and adjusting the medication accordingly.

Skeezi has been taking Synthroid twice per day since early October. She has not lost any weight, but she has also not gained any. She often jogs on her wheel for up to an hour at a time (with little breaks) and the quill loss has stopped. For now, Dr. Hentges and I are pleased with her progress, and plan to continue the Synthroid treatment. 🐾🐾

Veterinary Advisor

DAWN WRABEL

BEECHER, IL – Dr. Mary Beth Wajda has recently joined HWS as a veterinary advisor to the Health Research and Education committee. Dr. Wajda has been treating hedgehogs on a regular basis since 1996. She has agreed to answer questions from members regarding health issues in the newsletter. Please forward any questions you have to Dawn Wrobel either via e-mail at SpikeInfo@aol.com or mail them to:

Dawn Wrobel
Ain't No Creek Ranch
2553 W. Offner Road
Beecher IL 60401

Questions to answer in a particular newsletter will be selected from those submitted by Dr. Wajda. 🐾🐾

11th Annual Animal Law Conference

Building Animal Friendly Communities Through Legislation, Community Action, and Legal Advocacy: The Role of Legislation

Presented by Nancy Perry, JD and Kelly Peterson

JENNIFER PLOMBON

SALEM, OR – Ms. Perry is currently the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), a National Advisor to Lewis & Clark's Animal Law Review, and President of the National Center for Animal Law.

Ms. Peterson is currently the Oregon Program Coordinator for the Pacific NW Regional Office of the HSUS, and co-director of the Oregon Chapter, Humane USA Political Action Committee.

This excellent presentation was designed to provide the audience with effective methods to use when contacting legislators and elected officials, animal welfare organizations, and foreign governments with concerns about animal welfare.

While writing Letters to the Editor, marching in protests, and participating in boycotts are all useful and necessary parts of influencing and changing the way animals are treated in this world, the most effective, long-lasting, and enforceable changes occur when laws are changed. We were presented with several ways in which to make our voices heard most effectively. This often means contacting legislators and governmental agencies, which is not as daunting as one might think, once one is organized.

MAKE A LIST

Make a list of your governmental representatives, at all levels, from city or county right up to the Federal Government. Call or visit your local library, the League of Women Voters, the HSUS (www.hsus.org) other Internet sites such as (www.vote-smart.org and www.policy.com) or call 1-888-VOTE SMART. Make a copy of the names, contact numbers, addresses, and voting records of these representatives and put it right next to your computer or typewriter. Add a stack of paper, business-sized envelopes, and stamps, and you can write a letter to the proper official at a moment's notice. If you think your envelope needs extra postage, have a scale nearby, weigh it, and visit <http://www.usps.com/> to calculate postage.

READ

Read online or magazine publications that track animal welfare issues, such as:

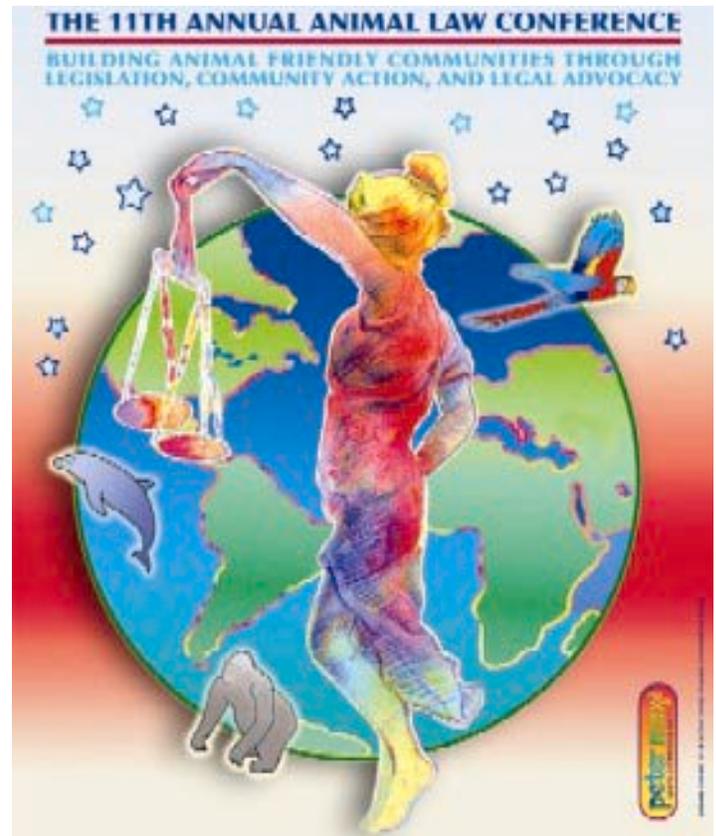
Humane Society's HumaneLines
<http://www.hsus.org/ace/441>

Animal Welfare Institute
<http://www.awionline.org/>

Best Friends
<http://www.bestfriends.org/>

PAWS (Progressive Animal Welfare Society)
<http://www.paws.org/index.html>

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
<http://www.peta.org/>



Three Hedgehog Welfare Society members attended the 11th Annual Animal Law Conference, held at Lewis & Clark Law School, in Portland, OR, on October 25-26, 2003.

There were almost 200 attendees, the majority of whom were law students, and the majority of whom we devoutly hope will incorporate animal law precepts into their law practices. Many speakers were lawyers who are at the forefront of setting and creating animal protection laws and cases. Many other speakers were involved in animal welfare agencies such as the Humane Society of the US, the Paw Project, the Great Ape Project, Pasado's Safe Haven, the National Anti-Vivisection Society, the Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free USA, the New South Wales (Australia) Young Lawyers Animal Rights Committee, ALIVE, and Defenders of Wildlife, as well as a physicians' organization, Americans for Medical Advancement and Europeans for Medical Advancement.

A most special guest, who presented a talk and was a featured speaker at the Banquet on October 25th, was AnneMarie Lucas, Special Investigator for the New York City ASPCA and star of Animal Planet, shown on the Animal Planet Network.

Over the next several months, the HWS Newsletter will contain articles by our three attendees, describing the presentations they attended and the learning experience obtained.

WRITE

To the proper legislators or individuals regarding the issue that concerns you; often this person or these persons are identified in the publication. The name, number, or sponsors of the legislation

(Continues on page 8...)

ANIMAL LAW...

(...Continued from page 7)

are usually listed as well; be sure to reference this information in your letter. Describe the situation that concerns you, describe the outcome you desire (more severe penalties, a vote for or against a piece of legislation, a cessation of abusive activities) and ask that they contact you with their plans to respond to your request.

DO NOT send the pre-printed postcards that often come to you in these publications; according to our speakers, legislators feel that a voter who cannot be bothered to write their own letter probably does not feel strongly enough to vote on issues, either. However, they generally feel that for each individually written letter they receive, perhaps 10 people who have not written feel the same way. So, here is what I recommend: Take those pre-printed "save the whatever" postcards, rewrite, on real paper and in your own words, the issue and desired resolution, and mail your letter to the address thoughtfully provided on the postcard. Very little more effort, for MUCH more impact.

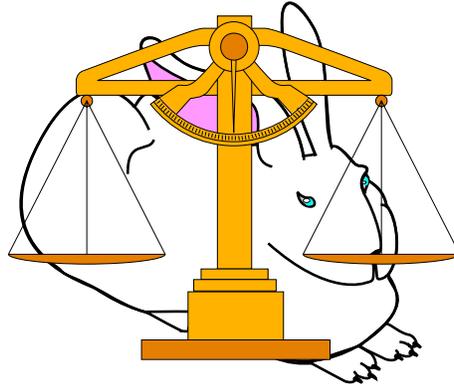
If you are aware, by following voting records, of previous actions your addressee has taken on behalf of animals, mention it and thank them, and urge them to continue their wonderful work.

CALL

Pick up the phone and call your elected officials for even more effect – a call garners more respect than a letter. Identify yourself, your location, why the issue matters to you ... identify the legislation by name, number or sponsor, and ask for the legislator's viewpoint and voting plans on the issue. Be polite and don't argue, be positive and thank them; a very nice follow-up is to send a thank you note to them after the call, re-stating your position and the key points of the conversation.

TESTIFY

Personal testimony is important, especially at the local level, on issues that concern you. Notices of public hearings can be found in animal welfare publications, as well as in local newspapers or posted in local offices such as libraries. Prepare yourself well and practice your presentation; you will probably have a time limit of three or five minutes. Dress professionally and keep



your voice down. When allowed to speak, identify yourself, state your position, offer solutions and thank the committee for their time. Offer to answer questions about yourself or your position, and if at all possible, stay until the meeting ends, and talk one-on-one with the officials involved.

FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

Foreign governments are also influenced by letters, and often letters from another country garner more attention than letters from their own citizens. Tailor your letter to the location; for instance, when writing to Canada, I always mention that I own property in Washington State, on the Canadian border, and will not spend tourist dollars in Canada while the issue in question is unresolved or resolved in a manner not to my liking. In other instance, you may state that you will not buy specific products, or any products, from the country involved, or that you will be canceling vacation plans to that area. In Japan, we were told, one letter from a US citizen is considered to be worth many, many Japanese letters; reputation is important.

YOUR GOVERNMENT

Your elected officials, are influenced – in part – by the following:

- 1) The issue, its merits, its effects or impacts on the legislator's district or job, and cost.
- 2) Political considerations such as up-



coming elections, campaign contributions, and political scorecards. HumaneLines has an excellent scorecard function, and legislators who score highly in animal welfare issues often brag about their score!

3) Media attention such as newspaper articles, editorials, and news stories.

4) Legislative considerations such as other committee members and chairpersons, trade-offs with other legislators, lobbying, and position of other legislators or ones political party.

5) Personal considerations such as personal experience with animals, particularly their own companion animals, and influence of family members, especially children.

6) Outside influences such as constituent contacts – YOU! – public opinion, opinions of well-known personalities, and chance encounters with people – YOU again!

I encourage each of you to subscribe to or read at least one of the publications I listed above; to choose an issue of animal welfare that concerns you; to write, call, or testify about this issue, and to follow-up on your efforts, both by following the issue in the news, and by re-contacting or thanking the persons who assisted the animals involved, with their votes or actions.

You'll take such pride in your accomplishments. If the issue is not resolved in the best, most animal-friendly manner, don't give up. Somewhere, someone WILL be effective, and it may be YOU!



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



The Literary Hedgehog

NAOMI WIKANE

SCHOHARIE, NY – Did you know that hedgehogs have written songs that have been published? Here are some...



Oh, hedgehogs are slow,
and hedgehogs are shy.

We never run,
and we seldom fly.

We don't have feathers,
and we've not much fur;
though prickles can sting,
there's one thing for sure:

If ever your glumly,
and need a small friend,
A hedgehog will love you
to the prickly end.

*Sung by Anabelle in
The Tale of Anabelle Hedgehog
by Stephen Lawhead*



Have you seen a nice house
For the likes of me?
Not a house for a mouse
Or a rat or a bat,
But a house for me.
A sort of place
With a smiling face:
Two windows for eyes
And a door for a nose;
If such you may see
It's the house for me.

*Sung by Horace in
The Adventures of Horace Hedgehog
by Patricia B. Ardley*

In the same book Henrietta sings:

I can make,
And I can bake,
A lettuce pie,
Or carrot cake.

I can sit
And sew or knit
A jumper* that
Will really fit.

When work is done,
In the sun
I can have
Tremendous fun.

* a word for sweater



In this column, I plan to bring you some material from my ever-growing collection of hedgegie books. Some of it will be educational and some just for fun.



In Grey Rabbit and the Wandering Hedgehog by Allison Uttley the hedgehog sings:

I haven't got a coat,
and I haven't got a shoe,
I haven't got a penny,
and I haven't got a sou*.
I don't care a jot,
I've got my cooking pot,
And the whole world
is mine to wander through.

* a word for coin

Whose Tat is That?

*This month a new feature to debut,
hedgehogs immortalized in tattoo.
Here's a chance to show some skin,
And a game to play and win.
Write and guess if you think
You know the person with this ink.
To help you out, here's a clue...
This is not her first tattoo.*

If you would like to play *Whose Tat is That?*, write to donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu We will feature a new tattoo in every newsletter. Points will accumulate quarterly and the winner announced in December, 2004. Special prizes will be awarded.
5 points for submitting a picture of your



And last here is a poem called *The Gourmet Hedgehog Eats Out* by Kaye Unmansky from the book *Prickly Poems* published by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. I quote it here in honor of all the Euro-hedgies we adopted.

I am a gourmet hedgehog
And I'm going out to eat.
I really like this restaurant,
It's really up my street.

I think I'll start with earwig tart –
No, wait! I'm being hasty,
Perhaps I'll try the beetle pie,
Yes, that sounds really tasty.

Now shall I go for slugs or bugs?
The slugs are slightly sweeter.
Woodlice wine! Oh, how divine!
I think I'll have a litre.

Spicy spider lightly fried or
Maggot vindaloo?
Maggot? Spider? Can't decide.
I'd better have the two.

I've had enough, I mustn't stuff.
To eat more would be folly.
I'll simply pay and go away.
Oh no! The pudding trolley!

There's earthworm cake, for heaven's sake!
And that's my favorite sweet!
Ah, what the heck! I'll pay the cheque.
I owe myself a treat.

I really like this restaurant,
It's really up my street.
I'll come tomorrow night
And have some more to eat.



tattoo to be featured.

4 points for being the first to correctly identify the person with the ink.

2 points for everyone else correctly identifying the person with the ink.



Hedgehogs head to wheels in 3rd annual Wheel-a-Thon



Knarla & Larkspur demonstrate the finer points of a tandem workout.



Jewel is simply a blur as she practices for the Wheel-a-Thon.

HEATHER JOHNSON

CHARLESTON, SC – Coming to a wheel near you: the 2004 Hedgehog Welfare Society Wheel-a-Thon! In this fun event, participants raise funds to sponsor their hedgehog's night of wheeling on Hedgehog Day, February 2, 2004.

The Wheel-a-Thon increases awareness of the need for hedgehogs to have plenty of opportunity for exercise, allows participants to share their passion for their pets, and raises funds for the HWS's rescue and educational efforts. As a bonus, participants qualify for prizes from a variety of sponsors, which include Aardvark Art Glass, Ain't No Creek Ranch, Heaven in Harmony Hedge-

hogs, Hedgies.com, and Pins & Needles.

In 2003, the Wheel-a-Thon raised more than \$2,100.00. This year's event promises to exceed everyone's expectations. Over 30 participants have signed up already, nearly matching the number who signed up last year.

"The awesome efforts of these members will help hedgehogs around the world," said Jennifer Plombon, HWS Chief Volunteer Officer. "This is an amazing example of what good and caring people can accomplish."

Additional information, or to sign up for participation in the 2004 Wheel-a-Thon can be found at the official Wheel-a-Thon website: www.hedgies.com/wheelathon.htm



HWS is pleased to welcome its newest little hedgie care-person, Wesley Scott Maynard!



Born:
October 15, 2003
4:15 pm

Vitals:
7 pounds, 10 ounces
(that is 3050 grams
for you hedgies!)

Congratulations to
the new parents
Jean McClure
and
Mike Maynard!



I will not eat green worms and ham! ... Or will I???



Hey – these don't taste like french fries!

DONNASUE GRAESSER

DENVER, CO – This past September, the timing could not have been worse for Gioia Kerlin and her hedgegie herd: Adara, Aliyya, Ifni, Jool, Kalilah, Pi, Safiyya, Suhail, and Yasmina. Gioia had devoted countless hours over the past year as one of the organizers of the Mile High Hedgehog Show in Denver. She had recently moved from Colorado to Tulsa Oklahoma for a new job, but had been planning to return to Denver for the show. Then the “unmentionable” happened. The “green slimy poops” descended upon Gioia’s herd. Several of her hedgegies developed varying symptoms from “the nastiest poops I have ever seen in my life” to vomiting, loss of appetite, and quill loss. With all these sick hedgegies to look after, it was impossible for Gioia to travel to Denver. In addition, the vet costs for treating 9 sick hedgegies at the same time undoubtedly cut into travel funds.

Everyone was disappointed. Probably nobody was more disap-

pointed as Gioia herself, who was looking forward to seeing all her old and new friends at the show. Gioia must have been there in spirit because every conversation inevitably turned to, “I wish Gioia were here!” Concerns were expressed for the health of her hedgegies, and the rising vet bills incurred trying to solve the mystery of the slimy poos. Someone suggested a fundraising event, and soon the buzz was in the air: Sherry Songhurst and Jennifer Plombon accepted a ‘dare’ and would partake in a great hedgehog delicacy. They would each munch a meal-worm or wax-worm if the show attendees could raise a certain sum to assist with vet bills for Gioia’s “poopheads”.

At the banquet that evening, the stakes were raised. If \$300 was raised, Lance Bureson would eat an entire scoop of various freeze-dried critters. And, Standing Bear’s grandson, Zach, was added to the worm-crunching volunteer list. The anticipation rose as the foursome approached the podium. Jennifer, Lance, Sherry, and Zach were about to find out if mealies and waxies are really as delicious as our hedgehogs lead us to believe they are. A few minutes later, the looks on their faces indicated that these tasty treats are not quite as palatable to humans as they are to hedgehogs.

I’m not sure if Jennifer, Lance, Sherry, and Zach are brave or bizarre (or both?!) But, it is clear that Gioia is an extraordinary person to inspire such acts of either courage or lunacy! The bottom line is that hedgegie people are willing to go to exceptional lengths to help the people and the hedgehogs we care about. After chowing down on a wax-worm, Jennifer Plombon commented, “Despite the wonderfully nutty, one might even say ‘French Fry’ aroma they send out when the jar is opened, it was the worst tasting thing I have ever eaten. And the waxiness clung to my teeth for days! And yet; to help a hedgehog, it wasn’t so bad.” Sherry Songhurst shared a similar sentiment, “It didn’t taste as good as they smell, and it really stuck to my teeth. My advice: Don’t chew them!!!! But, for Gioia and her hedgegie kids, I would do it again!”



It looks like red wine is preferred over white wine when dining on our hedgegies’ favorite delicacies!

Scenes from a Hedgehog Show, or, Wowie, that was cool!

CLAIR AND MAURITA PLOUFF

MICHIGAN/COLORADO – We've been thinking about how to write this, and finally decided to structure it as a series of verbal snapshots. Sometimes you'll see a sort of "screenplay" where our cast of characters will interact. Other scenes may be entirely narrated.

For those who were hoping for an Executive Summary: the Mile High Hedgehog Show was fabulous. Well organized, friendly, and fun, and the show organizers and volunteers are to be thanked, if not beatified. Special thanks to St. Frannie of the Endless Roads, our beloved chauffeur, who kindly fetched us from the airport, drove us all around, and even supplied cold water for us, accustomed as we are to humidity. The hotel was great; most of us were grouped along one hallway, and the staff seemed fascinated by our hedgehogs. Even the other guests – notably the beer distributor folks – were charmed.

We will begin our report as we began our journey from Michigan to Denver...

SCENE 1: AT THE PLOUFF HOUSE ON A CERTAIN FRIDAY IN SEPTEMBER

<Maurita> Hey, Elvis! We're going to be away for the week-end. Claire and I are going to Denver for the Mile High Hedgehog Show. We're sorry we can't take you on the plane with us – but maybe that's okay with you?

<Elvis> hrmph snort What? You're leaving? Who will snuggle me? Who will feed me? Who will I grump at?

<Claire> Silly Elvis, Dad will be here. He'll snuggle you; he has a nice soft tummy for you to sleep on. You will both be fed, safe, and warm. We just wanted to let you know where we'd be. We'll be back Monday night.

<Elvis> Hufffffff

SCENE 2: DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, JUST AFTER WE DISEMBARK...

We see people streaming out from the airplane access tunnel into the concourse ...

<Claire> Mom, where's Cindy? Wasn't she going to meet us at the gate?

<Maurita> Yes, that's right, her plane was supposed to be in an hour ago.

... moves over to the information board ...

Hm. That plane did arrive an hour ago. Wonder what's up?

Turns on cell phone ... BEEP BEEP BEEP ... dials the phone and listens intently, then sighs and returns the phone to a pocket

Well, that was a message from Cindy. She is coming on the next flight. It gets here in an hour. Guess we'd better let people know.

... fade out on airport scene: busy people walking, bored people sitting around staring at their luggage, Maurita on the cell phone, Claire getting a smoothie...

SCENE 3: AT THE CSU VET SCHOOL

We join a group of people who are obviously waiting around... was it for us? No, we are waiting for our Tour Guide, who will show us all over the vet school facility. We see various labs... a



Guest speakers Jennifer Plombon, RN (l); Dr Terry Spraker DVM; and Dr Donnasue Graesser spoke on the topic of Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome.

special purpose kitchen that must be stocked with just about any pet food known to North America... a sort of pharmacy automat! The teaching hospital at the CSU Vet School cares for just about any exotic animal as long as it's not extremely poisonous. Hedgehogs? Sure. Also crocodiles, fish from ponds or aquariums, snails, tarantulas, crabs, and zebras! Makes me wish I lived nearby.

There is a room full of blood donor cats! These are not scrawny felines – No, they are plump 12 to 18 pounders, folks, with glossy sleek fur, shining eyes, and tails held aloft. They seem happy to see us and weave around our feet. Some of them pose grandly, some are rather vocal, but none are indifferent or withdrawn. If it's work to be a blood donor, it's something they love. They are clearly healthy and happy animals.

We enter a classroom with simple tables and chairs in long lines. We see slides and overheads and speakers. Our speakers tonight – Dr. Terry Spraker, DVM, PhD, from CSU Veterinary School; Dr. Donnasue Graesser, PhD, from Yale University; and Jennifer Plombon, R.N. – focus on Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome, a disorder with a strong genetic link. Unfortunately, some hedgehogs do not display symptoms until after they have been bred.

<Maurita> So, you're saying that WHS tends to affect hedgehogs who are related? Now I know why people insist that rescued hedges not be bred: we don't know if they might carry WHS, and don't want to risk passing it on, because it tends to show up in adulthood.

(Continues on page 13...)

WOWIE – COOL SHOW...

(...Continued from page 12)

<Claire> Poor Elvis, no girlies for him.

<Sarah Shore> Meet Pickle – she is alert and curious, but is unable to walk or stand due to WHS. I like to carry her around, and she likes to cuddle, or watch what's going on.

... Claire immediately offers a warm lap for this cute cuddlebug.

<HOSTESS> We're going to take a small break here, so you can grab some pizza from the dazzling assortment in the back of the room, then we'll continue with the presentation. You'll find soda/pop in the coolers, and we have salad too...

A minor stampede begins. The pizza was truly splendid, especially the garlic and tomato. There were not flabby chain pizzas, but wonderful handmade creations. The crust was both chewy and crisp, the seasonings delicate, and the assorted toppings showed a creative hand in the kitchen. Wherever these pizzas came from, I wish they could teleport them to Michigan for me!!!

A GREAT event: tour of a world-class veterinary facility, thought-provoking presentations by experts who also have wicked senses of humor, good food, good company. PLUS personal chauffeur service, an over-the-top experience. Thanks, Fran!

SCENE 4: SATURDAY, AT THE HOTEL

In the morning, Cindy, Maurita, and Claire head to the hotel coffee shop for breakfast. Oh, look! More hedgehog people! Seems we know half the people in the restaurant. A series of mini-reunions (or unions, for some are 1st time meetings) ensues: Hi! Cool to see you! Have you eaten? Join us!

Cut to the hedgehog show upstairs – oooh! Look at that – a vendor room! A conference room where the Animal Communicator works with you. A large exhibit room. Tables of nifty stuff to bid on in a silent auction.

<Claire> Oh, Elvis would just hate this. Lots of people, lots of hedgehogs, and he's such a grump. Harley would have loved it, though.

<Maurita> Yes, I'm sure that Harley would have been singing to all the girlies.

We meet 3 teeny-tiny hedgies at Tig's table: the latest crop of



Dr. Priscilla Dressen, DVM, gave a very informative presentation.

weanlings, two boys and a girl. Oh, they are cute! And so small – from large litters, I think – but no longer than my index finger. One boy is clearly a hedgehog Rambo – he's climbing all over everywhere and it's just a matter of time before he figures out how to defeat gravity or open locks. Maybe it's good he has no opposable thumbs. The little girl is dainty and sleepy. Soon there's only one little guy left. Claire takes him off to a chair where he licks her thumb, annoys in ecstasy, and falls asleep in her palm. Sadly, Laurel buys him; but that's good, too, because she's close enough to visit. He's named Kiwi. He's all ambition: someone has a big fluffy girl nearby, and little peanut Kiwi starts to sing! Even in hedgehogs, it seems a man's reach should exceed his grasp. We are all so taken with Kiwi that Laurel starts to demand her own share of time with her newest boy! Hmpf, we say, you'll have him all to yourself soon. Our turn now while he's tiny and so adorable.

We see many hedgehogs on the show table. There are piles of fleece squares in beautiful fall colors. There are wiggly hedgies, and sleepy ones, and a couple who Leave Gifts for the judges. Some try to visit the interesting hoggie over on the next fleece. I like the one who clambered up her slave's arm and scooted into the hair. I am struck by how clearly the different personalities show even in such limited encounters. I wish I had photos of each one.

And the IHOG! Souvenir shows that he inherited Houdini's climbing ability when he made a quick over-the-wall exit after the 9th hurdle. Free! Free! Now where shall I go? Oops, caught again. There's an event for every hedgehog, it seems. The ones who like to run fast in the balls seem to have a hard time on the corners. Boris goes to sleep...ZZZZZZZZZZ...too much daytime. ZZZZZZZZZZZ

SCENE 5: THE BANQUET

Claire gravitates to a table with younger folks – who wants to hang around Moms all the time? Maurita and Cindy find seats which, it turns out, will have superior sight lines for the Event To Follow. Dinner is delicious. We eat. We talk. We talk some more. Everyone talks. It's getting loud.

Soon Dr. Priscilla Dressen, DVM, begins to speak – giving a kind of Hedgehog 101 for Vets, because we hedgehog owners are so well educated about our animals. Only hedgie people, I think, are charmed to see slides of diseases and disorders over dinner. Can you imagine a bunch of typical dog owners (some of whom are us, I know) comparing dog poo over their cheesecake? The thought makes me smile.

The auction begins.

<Maurita> Oh. My. Gosh. That teapot is wonderful. I need that teapot. Well no, I don't need it, but I sure do want it...

... bids enthusiastically

<Maurita> Drat. That's over my limit.

Kari grabs her new hedgehog-shaped teapot triumphantly. She flashes a BIG smile.

<Cindy> Too far to visit for tea and scones, even. Tough cookies.

... sigh

There's a special event tonight – to help cover some vet bills, people are going to eat dried worms! Those of us who wouldn't consider eating a worm begin to contribute... let's raise some money! Sherry Songhurst and Jennifer Plombon are brave. Stupid, maybe, but brave. They will eat dried mealworms for money. Sherry has water on hand – Jennifer goes for wine. Does the red go better with worms? Looks like the verdict is YUCK, nothing goes

(Continues on page 14...)

WOWIE – COOL SHOW...

(...Continued from page 13)

with these things. Lance volunteered to eat a whole spoonful if the price was high enough – and that is a big spoon. Lance chose Mountain Dew to wash them down. Zac ate 10.

<Standing Bear> Ha! Zac, you have no excuse now – no more being picky over dinner. A kid who will eat dried mealworms ought to eat anything we serve.

<Zac> Busted! Didn't think of that, darn.

SCENE 7: FLASH & THELMA MEMORIAL HEDGEHOG RESCUE, SUNDAY

We drive through some beautiful Colorado countryside (lots of it is vertical!) to Standing Bear's house in Divide. I don't know what Zac quibbles about – we were served an epicurean lunch. We absorb the surroundings and in small groups are given tours of the Hedgehog Rescue. Claire reports she is huffed at by the entire command of the North American Hedgehog Army. We both remark on the little tanks each General has. I'm sure they don't think of them as cute.

Somehow the chores we encounter for our 2 hedgehogs seem very trivial. There are nearly 50 hedgies here, and they all need food and water every day. Cages and wheels need to be cleaned. Each hedgehog gets weighed. There are detailed records kept on every animal. Just think of the laundry! Some of the hedgies seem bemused by this sudden parade of people. Just who let in this rabble, some seem to say. A couple are inspired to strange contortions or antics. We are full of questions. Thanks, SB, for being patient with us – I'm sure that each small group had many of the same questions, and you answered them over and over again with patience.

SCENE 8: DOWNTOWN DENVER FONDUE RESTAURANT, SUNDAY EVENING

10 or 12 dinner companions descend on the local fondue restaurant. How long has it been since YOU had fondue? At our end of the table (yes, the raucous end) we had the works – cheese fondue with bread and veggies; a wine/broth/veggie fondue with meats, chicken, and seafood; then a heavenly chocolate fondue with fruit, pound cake, and marshmallows. No one was hurt even though we each were issued 2 long pointy forks. There was some good-natured squabbling over lost food tidbits (told you we were at the raucous end) but no serious mishaps. Great food, great conversation, and silly jokes.

Whoever had the idea for fondue: good job! It was great.



SCENE 9: AT THE PLOUFF HOUSE MONDAY NIGHT

Here is Claire, sitting with Elvis on her lap amid soft fleece blankets...

<Claire> Elvis, we're home! How about a nice long snuggle, and I'll tell you all about the Amazing Mealworm Eaters in Denver...

...Elvis pokes his head out from under the blankets...

<Elvis> Oh, it is you. hrmph.

... and darts out to chomp on Claire's tender thumb ...

<Claire> Ow! Hey, quit that!

... then scuttles back under the fleece and finds a comfortable snuggling position, chuckling softly...

<Elvis> You deserved that. My people are supposed to stay here! Now snuggle me and tell me I'm handsome. You missed me, I can tell.

...fade slowly to black...



Just a few of Gioia's patients for whom worms were feasted upon ...



Being cute and adorable is bound to make a hedgie thirsty. Here's Pi taking a sip of rejuvenating water.



Yasmina and Adara show no signs of being startled by the flash of a camera – obviously experienced hedgie models!

HWS Rocks at Pet Rock!

DONNASUE GRAESSER

WORCESTER, MA – On Sunday, September 7, I woke up bright and early to drive to Worcester, Massachusetts. I loaded up my van with tables, HWS informational materials, a stroller for Simon (my 8-month-old son), and two happy Hedgehogs named Pinky and Emma. Pinky is my special albino girl, the IHOG gold-medalist at Niagara Falls. Emma is a rescued hedgehog, and she had yet to find a forever home. Her owner said she was “difficult to handle.” but Emma proved otherwise that day.

Our destination that day was the Pet Rock Festival (<http://www.petrockfest.org>). According to their web-site, the mission of the Pet Rock Festival is “to provide a venue where animal welfare organizations of all kinds, can gather to fuse an even tighter net-



Yolanda and Cass were on hand to help.

work, and to get the word out about their programs to the public... We promote kindness to animals – a focus that reaches to areas that include the appropriate adoption of shelter pets, spaying and neutering, educating children that animals are living creatures that feel pain, etc.”

The “Rock” in Pet Rock refers to the lively band that provides background entertainment for the days events. Over one hundred animal advocacy groups participated, and the event drew thousands of people interested in learning more about opportunities to help animals. Proceeds from the 2003 festival benefited the Sterling Animal Shelter, the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education, and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

We set up our tables and literature, and Simon, the girls, and I waited for the rest of our hedge-team to arrive. Susan Goetcheus and Nell showed up with a canopy to shade us for the day and a portable playground in which Nell and Pinky showcased their skills to the spectators. Nell and Pinky are fierce IHOG competitors (Nell has won two gold medals and a silver. Pinky, one each of gold and silver). When on the same playing field, they demonstrated their individual strengths. Pinky is a marathon wheeler, and Nell is a champion ‘tuber’. The two girls also provided a living illustration of the color differences that are possible amongst hedgies (Pinky is an albino, and Nell is ‘regular’ color).

Next to arrive were Kerri LeMotte, Yolanda McLean, and Cass. These ladies were our “front women” for the day, inter-



Parade Princess Emma

acting with the crowds of visitors that stopped by our canopy. Each paired up with a hedgeie spokes-pog (Kerri with Emma and Yolanda with Cass). The spokes-pogs were excellent representatives! People were definitely drawn to our display by the “curiosity factor” and this gave Kerri and Yolanda the chance to talk to hundreds of people about hedgehogs in general and the special considerations to make before owning a hedgehog. Countless numbers of people were educated about hedgehog throughout the course of the day.

Besides education, the HWS and its members also received kudos, recognition, and moola that day! First, we entered the parade of adopted pets. I dressed up in the dorky (but dangerous) hedgeie costume and brought Emma along to march in the parade. Susan guided Nell, who proudly navigated through the grass in her critter ball. Susan managed to hook up the HWS signs to Simon’s stroller, so even the little one entered the parade. We strutted, strolled, and critter-balled onto the field at the very last minute. But, it was just in time for us to tie for first place! We shared top prize with the City of Boston Animal Shelter. They had quite an elaborate group, with dogs wear-

(Continues on page 16...)



Pet Rock's Parade of Rescues

HWS ROCKS PET ROCK...

(...Continued from page 15)

ing Hawaiian leis, balloons, and a giant chicken walking a giant dog with the sign "adopt me" on his side. But, the judges were equally as impressed with our ability to wear a pointy hedgehog suit in 80° weather, while maneuvering a stroller carrying a screaming infant, while accompanied by a rolling hedgehog. We each received \$250 for our organization, from Worcester Magazine. And, a year's supply of dog food, but we relinquished that prize to the dogs! Too bad it wasn't a year's supply of meal-worms!

Nell also entered the Pet Rock version of "Pet Stars" and won! A few weeks later, she advanced to the finals and won again! (Don't tell Pinky). Nell's prizes included lots of hedgegie-usable goodies such as snuggle-safe discs, and she generously donated them to the HWS to provide to hedgehogs less fortunate than herself. Thank you Nell. You are a true Star!!

The HWS would like to thank everyone who helped make this day an enormous success for hedgehogs: Susan Goetcheus, Chip Ingram, Kerri LeMotte, Yolanda McLean, and, of course, Cass, Emma, Pinky, and Nell. The day was a win-win-win-win situation. Hundreds of people walked away more aware of the needs of hedgehogs. The HWS walked away with many new people in our "network" as well as much needed cash and loot that we will use to benefit rescue hedgehogs in need of supplies and veterinary care. Nell became a Pet Star! And, the biggest winner of the day was undoubtedly Emma. That day, she and Kerri fell in love at first site, and Emma found a new forever mom. Congratulations to Kerri and Emma!

New England Hedgegie Welfarites! Get ready for next year's Pet Rock on September 12, 2004.



Kerri and Emma were great with visitors at the HWS table.



HWS is prepared for the parade.

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



Hedgehog Fun in the Sun!

... and the mountains, and the plains, and the falls...



For more info about the SunCoast Hedgehog Show visit www.pickyhedgies.com

DONNASUE GRAESSER

NEW HAVEN, CT – In the past few years, I have been lucky enough to criss-cross the country journeying to hedgehog shows and events: Washington State (twice!), Chicago (twice!), Niagara Falls (twice!), Boston, Massachusetts and Denver, Colorado. These events are a great chance to meet and make new friends (both hedgie and human) and to re-acquaint with old friends. They are also a chance for the Hedgehog Welfare Society to accomplish some of



Rock 'n Roll Hedgehog Show

SEPTEMBER 17-18-19 2004

www.rocknrollhedgehogs.org Cindy DelaRosa - Maurita Plouff

our goals, including fundraising for hedgehog rescue/research and education of hedgehog carepersons. We have donated many items to silent auctions that raise hundreds of dollars for various hedgehog rescue organizations. We also are able to earn some bucks for hedgies through Ruby's Rescue Shop hedgehogabilia sales at the events.

Another goal of the HWS is met at hedgehog events: "To educate and to be educated." Our representatives staff tables where they distribute printed materials such as care brochures and newsletters. We also sponsor educational seminars by veterinarians, researchers, and experienced hedgie-people. The HWS has sponsored educational seminars at almost every hedgehog show over the past year, and we hope to make that every hedgehog show in 2004! These seminars have covered topics such as working with a huffy hedgie, hedgehog care for beginners, color and crystal therapy, animal communication, neurological diseases in

hedgehogs, uterine cancer in hedgehogs, care of hedgehogs with Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome, studies of hedgehog olfaction, and hedgehog medical care by experienced veterinarians such as Dr. Priscilla Dressen (North Star Veterinary Clinic), Dr. Marybeth Wadjda (Lincolnway Animal Hospital), Dr. Terry Spraker (Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine), and Connie Orcutt (Angell Memorial Hospital, one of the largest teaching hospitals in the USA).

In 2004, we hope to sponsor tables and seminars at every hedgehog event across the country! So, if you are planning on organizing a show, please contact us.

We will definitely be seeing you at the SunCoast Hedgehog Show in Florida on the weekend of January 24 and 25, 2004. This show is being organized by Jeanne Stanoch and Linda Cassell, and it's the perfect combination of fun in the sun, and fun with hedgies! It will be a great opportunity for you and your hedgies to get a warm winter vacation directly on the beach and participate in a hedgehog show as well. There will be an International Hedgehog Olympics Gym-Bar-E (IHOG) competition, costume contest (hedgehogs on vacation theme!), Bedlam Ball, and a photo contest to show off your best hedgie pics. The seminar speaker, Bonnie Stubbins, will demonstrate physical therapy for hedgehogs. The Saturday Banquet is a Bar-B-Q under the stars, with a live auction. The HWS encourages you to attend and support this event, as all proceeds of the show (after expenses) will benefit hedgehog rescue. Come see us in St. Pete Beach, Florida, for a fun time!

If you cannot make it to Florida, there will be more opportunities to gather with hedgehogs and their humans in 2004! We are looking forward to the Boston Pog Party in June and the Detroit Rock-N-Roll Hedgehog Show in September!

