June 2004 was a sad month for many hedgehog guardians; there were many Bridge Crossings, and at times it seemed as if there was no happy news anywhere. On the morning my beloved Skeezix crossed the Bridge, I decided to work my afternoon shift at the Raptor Center (for birds of prey), in the afternoon, rather than stay home and mourn; Skeezix was too Joyful to want mourning. Also, I hoped to see something happy there. Well, I did!

There was a little Northern Saw Whet owl there (see www.ronausting.com/saw-whet.htm for information about them) who is a personal favorite of mine. Referred to as #53 (the number on his cage) he came in with a corocoid (shoulder) fracture. It healed badly, and it was thought he might never fly or be released. While awaiting healing, he was fed once per day, and had his cage cleaned once per day, and was taken out for occasional exams. And every single time his cage door was opened, even a little crack, he escaped. He was small enough to fit into a teacup, and weighed all of 100 grams or less, so it was easy for him to do. He had his injured wing taped down, so he could only flutter around with one wing when he escaped. But that little guy had SUCH attitude! Out he’d come, and he’d flutter around until he was under something and we couldn’t reach him, and there he’d sit, looking at the humans with his big yellow eyes, daring them to come after him.

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Once when I caught him wearing only one glove, he sunk a talon through my ungloved thumb; then sat there hanging onto me for dear life, with a look in his eyes of “c’mon, I can take you! I can EAT you!” I always figured that even with a poor fracture result, if attitude could allow you to fly, he would fly.

Well, on that day he was flying! He was in the long curtained hallway used to observe birds’ flight, swooping from perch to perch. Back and forth he went, tiny, soundless, fiercely swooping close to our heads, getting a little weary, but FLYING. Which meant someday he would be released, and a week or so later, he was. You know what *I* think? I think the spirits of our animal companions who had recently crossed were lifting him up and helping him soar! 🦃

Occasionally we’ll print stories from you, our members, that illustrate the amazing ways in which our hedgehogs display their emotions, feelings, and thoughts. Herewith, two very amusing and amazing tales:

**Sweet Pea, Her Wheel and the Bear**

**A story of frustration**

Tonya wrote: Sweet Pea did the funniest thing last night. She LOVES her wheel and she will come out of her house and pace till I get it washed and put back. Last night I noticed she was not wheeling and went to check. Her bucket wheel had locked up and wasn’t going anywhere. So as I got it out to fix it she took her purple bear which is bigger than she is and put the bear’s face down in her water bowl and jumped up and down on her. It was the funniest thing I’d ever seen. Rick comes through and said Pea’s throwing a tantrum you better hurry. I fixed her wheel and put it back and she was just fine.

You can always count on a Hedgehog to give you a good laugh. Deb wrote what she thought the thought process was: Sweet Pea: Ahh, nice snooze, time to run. WHAT!!!! Where’s my wheel?? YOU, you’re the one who gave it away, you’ve got to pay!!! Take this (splash), and this (thump, thump, thump) . . . “” Tonya followed up: Even to this day she will go up to that bear and kick it with her back leg right in the face. She will never forgive that bear for taking her wheel. 🐹

**Gracie the Diva Does Not Share**

**A story of territory**

Deb wrote: My first hedgie Gracie (The Diva) called the shots in our home. She was in charge, and let me know so. In the evening we took to our sofa, me on my end and she on hers.

I had a friend visit one night. Jan sat on Gracie’s end of the sofa. Gracie started out in my lap, and then moved to the middle cushion. I soon noticed her eyeing up my friend. Gracie used this space to her advantage. She backed up, put the visor quills in “assault” position and ran forward. Again my friend jumped and edged more forward, still on the cushion. I could almost see Gracie rub her paws together in anticipation. Once more she rammed my friend, who then gave up and moved to a kitchen chair.

Gracie wormed her way behind my friend and gave her a poke. Jan said “ouch” and moved a few inches forward, thinking I’m sure, that she and Gracie could share. Gracie used this space to her advantage. She backed up, put the visor quills in “assault” position and ran forward. Again my friend jumped and edged more forward, still on the cushion. I could almost see Gracie rub her paws together in anticipation. Once more she rammed my friend, who then gave up and moved to a kitchen chair.

The rest of the evening was spent with me on my cushion, Jan on my kitchen chair, and Gracie splatted in the middle of her sofa cushion, surveying all that was rightfully hers. 🐹
Well, it’s hard to know where to start. I had such a blast in Detroit, guess I’ll just run through the weekend from start to finish.

Mom rented a car that’s lots better than ours. It provided me with a nice 6 hr. 30 min nap as Mom drove to Detroit. While we checked in, people started asking if we were “hedgie people” and wanted to see me. I accommodated all requests, even though it was during my nap time. Mom got all our stuff into the room and had started to set my tent up when the phone rang. It was Maurita, inviting Mom down to some reception thing. Once Mom heard food, she was out of the room without as much as a glance back at me! When she came back, I talked with her about her behavior. We both settled in to our new digs and relaxed. I tell you, traveling all day can really take it out of a guy.

Friday morning Mom went down to eat a late breakfast and met Auntie Gioia and they had a nice long chat. Then Mom turned her attentions to her show secretary duties. About the time she finished, Auntie Pat showed up and Mom helped her in with her stuff. Pretty soon after that Bucky & Payton’s folks came, so we helped get them unloaded too. Then they went out to dinner and after that went from room to room visiting. I tell you, I didn’t think I was going to get to see anyone at all! However, Saturday proved to be another day.

Mom and me were up early and downstairs at the show room by 9:00 AM so Mom and Auntie Lenny could do health checks on all the kids. Since I was right there with them, I had a chance to greet all my fellow pogs with a slight snuffle to each, I don’t think Mom even noticed. Boy, humans complain that us hedgies make too much noise on our wheels - well that’s nothing compared to humans who haven’t seen each other in a while. Talk about a lot of noise! Mom and me both had fun greeting old friends and making new ones. Everyone just about got their kids settled in when the cry went out that we were going to be doing the IHOG on Saturday and the conformation on Sunday. So, since there was time to kill, most of the humans went off to shop in the vendor room, while us hedgies talked to each other in the show room. Sports gear was gotten from the rooms and we all did our stretches.

I went in to my hall willingly, tricking Mom into thinking that I was actually going to run! But I had a different idea. She placed me on the sprint track and I lay right down to nap. It was hard with her yelling at me and Auntie Julie lying right next to me taking pictures, but I thought I showed great concentration and managed to get a short nap in through the first three events. We came to the hurdles and I smelled roasted worms, so I went for them. I did well enough to nab a third place ribbon. I do have one suggestion, those IHOG people...
might want to look into widening those
hurdles, it got a little tight there at the end.
There were some very fast hedgies there, and
it was a spirited and fun competition. That
evening, after what Mom says was a very
nice dinner and fun auction, we had our
costume competition. I was stunning sitting
in my red wagon even if I do say so myself.
There was much laughter and we all got
ribbons which was nice. Not to brag, but I
was a very popular guy, and there were
many requests from people who wanted to
hold me for snuggles. Being a big snuggle
fan, I once again accommodated all
requests. That night, both Mom and me fell
in to our beds and slept soundly until the
next morning.

On Sunday we were up early again, and
down at the show room by 7:30 AM. By 9
AM, we were all assembled for the
conformation show. Auntie Lenny was the
judge. Everyone had their best face on, and
the competition was tight. In my division, I
took 2nd place and my nephew Payton took
1st. Pretty good looking family wouldn't
you say? Auntie Lori's Cotton took the Best
of Show. After the show, the humans went
off to eat again (honestly, they eat more than
we do!). After, a few took part in a bedlam
ball. It will come as no surprise to my
readers that I opted for a nice nap in my
carrier. Those that had done well during
our IHOG competition were more than
willing to show their stuff again. After the
ball, hedgies and humans alike retreated to
their rooms for a brief rest. The group
staying over until Monday all went to
dinner together and some good byes were
said. Sunday night Aunties Teresa, Pam and
Lori came to our room and chatted with
Mom till quite late.

Monday was another early day, with Mom
up early to pack us up (if she wouldn't bring
so much of her own personal stuff it
wouldn't take her so long!). After good byes
to the Chicago-area folks who were still
there, I was off for another 6 hr. and 30 min
nap. It was good to get home again to my
own bed let me tell you.

Mom and I had a grand time in Detroit.
Friends, food, hedgies, treats, fun - - who
could ask for more? We hope to see
everyone again soon! 🐾

Simon Says

Simon Ferdinand Correra,
Willington, CT

One of my favorite games is bugging my
mom while she’s working at the computer. The keyboard and the mouse
are such temptations! I love web sites
with interactive games. Even if I have no
cue what I am doing yet, it’s so much fun
to click and watch things change on the
computer screen.

Definitely the best hedgie site for kids’
games and activities on the Internet is
http://www.janbrett.com. As of today,
this site has 2,615 pages of free activities,
many of which feature hedgehogs from
Jan Brett’s books. There are coloring
pages for every occasion, free e-mail
postcards, cards and envelopes you can
design and print out, and a whole bunch
of “activity” pages. The activity pages
are just full of fun stuff like:

- Directions to make hedgehog cookies.
  Hedge gift tags to print out.
- Scrambling puzzles and other games to
  play on the computer.
- A pattern to make a hedgie Valentine’s
  Day mailbox.
- Directions on how to draw a hedgehog.
  Craft projects like how to make a
  hedgehog out of a sock!

So many fun things to do and so many
hedgehogs! Every hedgie-loving kid (and
adult) should visit this page for tons of
hedgie fun! 🐾
Occasionally one of our members has an unusual situation or question to share with the group, in hopes of finding answers. We call these dilemmas and responses “Thorny Tips,” and will publish them in the newsletter from time to time.

Jennifer Plombon, Minneapolis, MN

“What can I offer my “under-the-weather hedgehog” to keep her/him fed and hydrated?”

I just wanted to let people know about a good, useful product that my vet & I found recently. One of my boys, Walter, developed a respiratory tract infection and went off his food, so of course, off to the vet he went. He was prescribed antibiotics and I started feeding him Hills A/D via syringe since he wasn’t eating. Since keeping ill animals well hydrated is always a concern and he wasn’t eating or drinking well, my vet also wanted to try a relatively new product called “Feline Rebound,” which is manufactured by NPS, Inc. This is a liquid supplement designed to be “administered to felines for post-op recovery and when they are not eating or drinking normally. It provides calories, electrolytes, vitamins and minerals which plain water does not contain. In addition, Feline Rebound is flavored with salmon extract so it is palatable to felines, yet is lactose free to avoid possible intolerance.” [quote taken from side of package.]

Well, he loved it - and Walter, despite not eating his regular food or drinking much water, sucked it down readily. I also tried offering it to all my others, and every one of them readily drank it. Walter was using it for about a week without any apparent ill effects (such as loose stools). The antibiotics have kicked in and he is recovering nicely and eating and drinking normally. I just wanted to share my experience and let people know about this product - I think it could be a useful adjunct to treatments for hedgehogs that are not eating well due to illness/injury.

Sarah Shore, Eden Prairie, MN

Judie Peters and Carol Kregear host Quills and Comfort’s Circle of Light Memorial, which they began in 2002 when they craved spiritual solace after the death of their beloved hedgehogs Dancer and Spikey. Today, whenever any HWS member requests a Circle of Light Memorial, one is called. The Memorial honors the lives of all hedgehogs who have crossed the bridge in the recent past. Artist Judie Peters has created this visual memorial for all hedgehogs (and other beings) so honored thus far this year.

The Circle of Light is a group of individuals who wish to share a healing, spiritual experience with a fellow guardian or friend who is grieving the loss of a hedgehog. After tearful good-byes, even with support and comfort from our friends, some of us feel a need for spiritual support and closure. Often we are far away from hedgehog-people who can truly comprehend our loss. In a Circle of Light Memorial, we light a candle in memory of our wee ones who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. In those moments, we hope to take comfort that we are joined in our memorial with kindred spirits, each lighting a candle at the same time. We celebrate the gift of our hedgehog’s life and thank the higher power of our understanding for the gift of that life. In this, we hope to bring closure with the knowledge that we are not alone.
“Practical Wildlife Care” by Les Stocker, MBE

Reviewed by Jennifer Plombon Minneapolis, MN

This wildlife care manual is written by Les Stocker, founder of St. Tiggywinkles Wildlife Teaching Hospital Trust in England, Europe’s first wildlife teaching hospital. The St. Tiggywinkles web site offers a wonderful tour and unique gifts at www.sttiggywinkles.org.uk/.

I was lucky enough to receive a personal tour of the hospital during a trip to England; I will never forget the experience. There were operating rooms, intensive care rooms, hedgehogs hibernating outside in pens with straw and logs, herds of small deer with leg injuries, badgers and foxes fiercely glaring at their caregivers and awaiting their freedom; I could have easily stayed and worked there forever. Dr. Stocker is a quiet, serious, enormously experienced and caring man, whose love for the animals he helps is obvious.

The book covers the treatment of birds; mammals, including hedgehogs, rabbits, foxes, mustelids (badgers, otters, weasels), deer, bats, and wildcats; reptiles; and amphibians. The first chapter, “Prime Directives,” lists needed supplies for wildlife care, personnel hazards (including the risks of injuries and diseases to human caregivers), and a discussion of euthanasia. Chapter 2, “First Response,” describes necessary emergency treatment when an injured or ill animal is first encountered. Emergency treatment follows the ABC (Airway Breathing Circulation) triage familiar to all emergency caregivers, with an additional discussion of useful drugs. The next several chapters cover fluid therapy (with an excellent graphic of gavage feeding); wound management (with distressing photos of serious wounds); and fracture management (with fascinating graphics of mammalian, avian, and reptilian skeletons).

The next several chapters cover diseases and injuries of wildlife, divided by species. Each chapter describes methods used to capture and restrain the animal, common diseases and incidents, the legal implications of capture and treatment, and how and when an animal should be released. There are disturbing photos of injuries, and heartwarming photos of animals in treatment. For example, one charming photo shows orphaned ducklings in a cage, being comforted by a feather duster that serves as a surrogate cuddly mom. Another photo we HWS members would appreciate shows a hedgehog thoroughly trapped and wrapped in netting, with the comment “Hedgehogs may require anaesthesia to be unraveled from netting.” I found the drawings showing the repair of torn bats’ wings with tape to be quite useful and I plan to copy and deliver it to the wildlife rehabilitation center here; we may not have all the mammals covered in this book here in the US and Canada, but we do have bats. Two sections of glossy color photos illustrate quite awful injuries and diseases and quite amazing treatments for them.

For anyone who stops to help injured animals and wants to know how to care for them until transport to a hospital or rehabilitation center; for anyone who wants to be prepared for any emergency with their own pet; for anyone who has an interest in animal care and wildlife behaviour, this book is a true delight and I highly recommend it.

This book is available through www.blackwell-science.com. Click on “Books”; then use “Search” in the upper right corner to look for “Stocker”. The usual cost is $54.99 USD and it is currently on sale for $49.49.

Great gifts at www.cafepress.com/hedgiesdotcom

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Holiday Tip:

Looking for a gift for your vet or yourself? An excellent choice is “Ferrets, Rabbits, and Rodents; Clinical Medicine and Surgery - SECOND EDITION” by Katherine E. Quesenberry and James W. Carpenter. This veterinary manual is very readable for pet guardians, and invaluable for exotic veterinarians, and contains an entire chapter on African Hedgehogs! This book is available through Barnes & Noble at www.barnesandnoble.com/ for $57.95 USD ($55.05 for B&N members). Be sure to register with igive at www.igive.com before ordering online; you can ask that donations (free to you!) go to The Hedgehog Welfare Society; every time you shop, the HWS receives a donation.

Katherine E. Quesenberry • James W. Carpenter

FERRETS, RABBITS, and RODENTS
Clinical Medicine and Surgery
SECOND EDITION

Includes Sugar Gliders and Hedgehogs

SECOND EDITION
The Questions

Q: Do you have a significant other?

A: (Payton) Well, I have a bit of a problem with girls. They’re always trying to take your “stuff.” Well, one time I had to share a cage with this foxy lady, Vanilla Bean, but I wouldn’t let her near my stuff. And then there was Ebony. Well, she was the same way and then had the nerve to tell me it was MY fault that she was getting fat.

Q: What do you think it’s like across the Rainbow Bridge?

A: (Payton) Well, I’m hoping it’s really nice over there because my Daddy Hoover just crossed in March, and one of my bestest friends, Gabby, just went over there recently. I think there are probably big bowls of mealy worms everywhere, and you can just eat them whenever you want to.

Q: How do you show your affection for your human caretaker(s)?

A: (Bucky) Oh, I just love my Mom and Dad. I never bite them and I like to cuddle under Mom’s arm or on her neck, but my special thing is to crawl inside her shirt and fall asleep. I also like to let her rub noses with me. It tickles...tee hee.

Q: How do you want to be remembered?

A: (Bucky) I want to be remembered as the cutest hedgie that ever lived. I mean I have a beautiful pale complexion and bright red eyes.
A: (Payton) I’d like to be remembered as having the largest huff ever.

Q: If your human caretaker quotes you in email messages, do you think your thoughts are communicated accurately?

A: (Payton) Quote us?...we write our own e-mails
A: (Bucky) Mom knows exactly what I’m thinking all the time, but I do usually write my own.

Q: What is something that very few people know about you?

A: (Payton) I’m really a marshmallow, but shhhhh, don’t tell anyone.
Fundraising and Ruby’s Rescue Shop  
(Donnasue Graesser, manager)

We received two private donations this quarter, directed for specific rescue sites. We also contributed items for fundraising to the Detroit Hedgehog Show silent auction in September. We are awaiting information from the show organizers regarding the amount of funds raised by the silent auction, and what rescue sites the donations will assist.

Ruby’s Rescue Shop has been temporarily closed due to a move in the store inventory location.

Health and Education  
(Donnasue Graesser, reporting)

The H&E committee has contributed information and articles about hedgehog health in the USA and to several European veterinary journals. We have opened up collaborations with veterinarians in the Netherlands, Germany, and Finland, regarding different areas of health and nutrition.

Two seminars were presented at the Detroit Hedgehog Show by Jennifer Plombon. One seminar focused on the use of Piroxicam in oral cancer and the other on the care of hedgehogs with Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome.

We also sponsored the educational seminar component of the Detroit Hedgehog Show in September.

Public Relations  
(Donnasue Graesser, chair)

In September, members of the HWS, including Elana Adler, Amy Kartage, Kerri LeMotte, Yolanda McLean, and Kelly Sosik-Hamor, attended the annual PetRock Fest in Worcester, Massachusetts. This is a large event of northeastern animal welfare organizations, attended by over 20,000 participants. It was a great opportunity to pass out membership information about the HWS and other educational materials.

Special thanks to Yolanda McLean for organizing the HWS participation in PetRock this year.

Financial Report  
(Donnasue Graesser)

Month-by-month detailed financial reports are available to any HWS member, or other interested party, by writing to donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu. HWS yearly financial reports are submitted to the Oregon State Department of Justice, charitable organizations division, and are available for public viewing on the ODJ web site.

Advocacy Committee  
(Co-Chairs: Jennifer Plombon, Heather Johnson)

The Committee assisted concerned HWS members in contacting the USDA to report poor conditions seen in pet stores. The Committee assisted others in determining the licensing status of pet stores and breeders, and ensured that contact information for the USDA remained up-to-date on the HWS Website.

Care Packages Committee  
(Co-Chairs: Jennifer Plombon, Heather Johnson)

Since July 1, 2004, the HWS Rescue Care Packages Committee has shipped 4 Care Packages, hats, and food samples, to hedgehog rescuers throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Expenses for shipping and postage come to $18.50.

Expenses for purchase of supplies including fabric, Rescue Remedy, foods, treats, and wheels, come to $245.42.

Total income, from iGive ($31.49) and hat sales ($180.00), comes to $226.49.

Membership Committee  
(Kerri LeMotte, Acting Chair)

As outlined above, there have been 20 new members to the Hedgehog Welfare Society, for a total of 464 members. There have been 58 new members to the Hedgehogwelfare Yahoo! Group, for a total of 326 members. During the second quarter, there were 40 new members to the Yahoo! Group, resulting in a total of 309 members. Including members who have left the group, the total number of the Yahoo! Group has increased 17 members from Q2.

In August, requests were sent to the HWS Yahoo! Group requesting all members send their contact information. Aside from keeping the membership list current, contact information was updated in order to distribute the election ballots electronically. All responses were compared to the master member list and all necessary updates were made. A total of 73 replies were received. The replies were used to update the contact information for 40 members and to add 3 members to the list.

In September, the HWS was present at the Pet Rock Expo in Worcester, MA. Membership information and applications were available at the registration table.

During the current quarter, the on-line form available on the HWS website will be reviewed. Web submissions often contain incorrect or missing information. Any necessary updates to ensure ease of use will be made to the on-line form.

Election ballots will be distributed electronically this quarter. Those members who do not have active e-mail addresses on
file will receive a card via postal mail. Those who wish to remain members of the HWS will be required to reply with their current contact information. Those who do not reply within the specified time frame will be removed from the membership database.

**Quills and Comfort**  
(Judie Peters)

As in the past few quarters, Quills and Comfort continues to focus on the Circle of Light program which is conducted by Carol Fish Kregear. On July 31 a special ceremony was conducted to coincide with the second full moon of the month, a celestial occurrence often referred to as a blue moon. The HWS Blue Moon ceremony welcomed anyone wishing to honor a hedgie, companion animal or loved one who has crossed. A Blue Moon graphic was designed to commemorate the event, and depicts those who were honored in the ceremony. Copies can be made available to the HWS membership.

Quills and Comfort is also focusing on a support service called “Comfort Cards.” Q&C will send a Comfort Card to anyone who has lost a hedgie. Tonya Thomas donates her time and energy to send the cards and with the passing of so many hedgies, Tonya is kept very busy. There are now a series of five Comfort Cards: Hedgie in the Moon, The Hedgie Angel, The Heavenly Welcome Wagon, Bon Voyage Maisey and the Hedgie Fairy. The series is entitled “All Hedgies go to Heaven” and more cards will be added to the series in the near future.

**Rescue Committee**  
(Laura Ledet)

Number of hedgehogs taken in by our rescue contacts: 10 reported

Number of those successfully re-homed: 3

Number/location of new rescues approved for this quarter: 1 (by me)

Number of applications denied and why: 0

All rescues reported that they still wish to remain listed with us.

I am actually very pleased to see so many new states with rescue contacts across the US and Canadian map I have above my desk. The gaps are finally beginning to fill up! In addition to the legal states we cover, we also have a number of people willing to help out in California, one very great contact, Laura Dunklee, who is愿意 to also cover adjoining states. I would like to see this happen in other places where they are deemed illegal.

Areas we DO NOT have any listed rescues in include: Alabama, Arizona, West Virginia, Indiana, Maine, Kentucky, North Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Iowa, Mississippi, Nevada, Utah, Montana and New Mexico.

Perhaps we can enlist our current approved rescues in an effort to locate folks in these areas.

I have decided due to the lack of past responses and glitches in my server’s e-mail style to keep sending requests for quarterly reports to each rescue individually (as well as reminders or other requests and information) rather than to place them in the Yahoo rescue group as some of our participants are not active on this list.

I will be setting up new guidelines for our rescues to follow in the near future.

**HWS and Petfinder Web Site Maintenance**

No report

**Newsletter Committee**

No report

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**Detective Hedgie**  
by Justin Jones

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A question for the pogs?  
Favorite Rescue Story?  
Favorite Photo(s)?  
Letter to the Editor?

Please send it/them to us either electronically at newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org or via snail-mail to HWS Newsletter c/o Kathleen Knudsen P.O. Box 70408, Seattle WA 98107