Many of you have had companion animals that have needed medication. And many of you (or your veterinarians) have wondered “How will I find a form of the needed medicine in a small enough dose, in a doseable formulation, in a flavor this animal will like?”

The answer is, find a compounding pharmacist!

Compounding pharmacists are traditional, licensed, regular pharmacists who have obtained additional training, and most importantly, have purchased additional (and very expensive) equipment to enable them to create individualized medications in a variety of formulations, for animals and people. As the above logo illustrates, medications can be formulated for women (usually hormones); for children (often because they need smaller doses, or doses that taste better, or doses that can be more easily taken, or medicines lacking fillers and allergens); and for veterinary use.

My compounding pharmacist, Dr. Verne Betlach, R.Ph., FIACP (Registered Pharmacist, Fellow of the International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists), told me that he sees the need for compounding when he hears of a pet owner being told to make their pet swallow 1/16 of a tablet; impossible in so many ways!
The need for compounded medications is great, but the supply of experienced and accredited compounding pharmacists is small, though it has improved. There were fewer than 50 compounding-only pharmacists in the country when Dr. Betlach began his practice. The IACP (International Association of Compounding Pharmacists) now has a membership of over 1,700 pharmacists, which is still miniscule compared to the number of traditional pharmacists in the world. Why so few, even today? First, the coursework, which used to be required in PharmD programs, has become elective. Second, insurance programs either do not pay for, or pay a very tiny fraction of, the costs of compounded medications. Third, the equipment (very accurate scales and balances, mixers, sterile hoods, to name a few) and the supplies (flavorings, oils, unformulated pure medical chemicals, packaging, etc.) are very costly and seldom found in “regular” (i.e., large, chain-store) pharmacies. Thus compounding pharmacists are usually independent business owners, working without the safety net of a large chain pharmacy, who must depend on customers paying out-of-pocket for their or their pets’ medications.

And yet, they thrive, more so in Europe and Australia/New Zealand and other areas with a longer tradition of compounding. Why? They can recreate a “retired” medication that chain-store pharmacies would find impossible and costly to make; they can create, in small frequent doses, medication that cannot be made in large commercial doses; they can make a tasty oral dose of a traditional bitter pill or injection so a pet or child can take it; they can create small, individual doses of hormones for people to avoid the risks found in standard large doses that have been found to be risky; they can create very pure doses of medications that might normally contain substances that would harm the taker; and they can create medications for non-standard uses that a chain-store pharmacy could not make. One interesting example Dr. Betlach gave is the non-standard use of Dilantin, or phenytoin. Commonly used to treat seizures, it has been found to be very helpful in encouraging the growth of granulation tissue in chronic wounds. Only a compounding pharmacist can create the phenytoin ointment that can do this, and it may make all the difference to a person or animal who has tried many other (but ineffective) ways to heal a wound.

Dr. Betlach sees a trend toward more compounding pharmacists seeking out the training and accreditation, and the trend toward licensing them and then licensing their laboratories, which is promising. Unfortunately, the current licensing of the equipment is extremely expensive and time-consuming, since it was set up to look at all pharmacies, including the chain-store facilities with less equipment and a greater (and yourself, in many cases) I highly recommend finding a compounding pharmacist if needed to make your medications. They need not be close; for instance, Dr. Betlach will ship compounded medications overnight within the U.S. Your veterinarian may already use a compounding pharmacist and can refer you.

Dr. Betlach’s patients find him through alternative medicine practitioners, enlightened physicians or pharmacists that see the need for individualized medication, and veterinarians. Approximately 30% of his business involves creating individualized hormone preparations for humans (mostly women), and approximately 45% of his business involves creating medications for a wide variety of animal clients. For pet guardians, (many medications must use the pure chemical elements in ointment form), they risk harming their patients.

Dr. Betlach finds his career extremely rewarding. He meets his patients, both human and animal, in person. I brought Skeezix in to meet him and his staff, and there is usually a dog or two in the office. He counsels his patients, he knows what they need and the effects of their medications, and he receives their “thank yous” when they finally find a form of medication they or their pets can take. His office is festooned with photos of his animal patients, including those of Skeezix and Deb’s Gabby. His pharmacy technicians love their jobs and would never return to a traditional pharmacy technician job, which involves counting pills, talking to insurance companies, and dealing with mounds of insurance paperwork. At Dr. Betlach’s laboratory, they are mixing medications, working with sophisticated equipment, and personally meeting their clients. One tech told me that she “loves to come to work every day.”

Most of Dr. Betlach’s patients find him through alternative medicine practitioners, enlightened physicians or pharmacists that see the need for individualized medication, and veterinarians. Approximately 30% of his business involves creating individualized hormone preparations for humans (mostly women), and approximately 45% of his business involves creating medications for a wide variety of animal clients. For pet guardians, (many medications must use the pure chemical elements in ointment form), they risk harming their patients.

Dr. Betlach’s web site is www.customrx.com and contains much useful information about his services. The web site for the IACP, which has a list of compounding pharmacists and much more information on what they do, is www.iacprx.org.
Healing Candle Ceremonies

The Healing Candle Ceremony is observed by hedgehog companions worldwide who ask for healing and comfort for all hedgehogs in need. Those gathering for the Ceremony light candles at exactly the same time around the campfire. Other hedgehogs have subsequently expressed the campfire image to their own communicators and have felt a flow of energy and the power of collective prayer.

The Healing Candle Ceremony was called three times in October and early November. As always, Hobie lights his campfire and leads the Ceremony. Linda Woodring has graciously accepted the coordinator “baton” from Naomi Wikane.

Quills and Comfort

by Judie Peters, Bluffton, SC

OCTOBER 5

For all hedgehog guardians and other animal caregivers to be given the gifts of patience, insight, understanding and strength, and for the following:

Noah James, guardian Jacque
Rambo, guardians Sondra & Kimberly
Buckwheat, guardian Naomi
Hobie, guardian Naomi
Payton, guardians Jim & Linda
EL, guardian Judy B
Zoey, guardian Jeanne
Miss Pepper, guardian Laura D
Miss Penelope Anne, guardian Laura D
Grover, guardian Deb Weaver
Timmy (rabbit), guardian Jennifer
Molly and Ruby, guardian Cindy C
Jerry, Chris Houze’s Dad
Sweet Pea, guardians Rick and Tonya
Cidhis, guardian Susan M
Murfi
Hatch, guardian Susan M
Pinny, guardian Naomi
Emma, guardian Elena
Roger, guardian Elena
Oliver, guardian Susan M
Un-named rescued kitty, guardians Julie & Francis

OCTOBER 26

For all hedgehog guardians and other animal caregivers to be given the gifts of patience, insight, understanding and strength, and for the following:

Rambo, guardians Sondra & Kimberly
Buckwheat, guardian Naomi
Hobie, guardian Naomi
Payton, guardians Jim & Linda
EL, guardian Judy B
Zoey, guardian Jeanne
Miss Pepper, guardian Laura D
Miss Penelope Anne, guardian Laura D
Grover, guardian Deb Weaver
Timmy (rabbit), guardian Jennifer
Molly and Ruby, guardian Cindy C
Oliver, guardian Tawana
Jerry, Chris Houze’s Dad
Sweet Pea, guardians Rick and Tonya
Cidhis, guardian Susan M
Murfi
Hatch, guardian Susan M
Pinny, guardian Naomi
Emma, guardian Elena
Roger, guardian Elena
Oliver, guardian Susan M
Un-named rescued kitty, guardians Julie & Francis

November 2

For all hedgehogs suffering from the mysterious illness that is prevalent and that a cure will be found

For all the vets who dedicate their lives to helping our little friends, that they determine the cause of the “mysterious illness”

For all hedgehog guardians and other animal caregivers to be given the gifts of patience, insight, understanding and strength, and for the following:

Rambo, guardians Sondra & Kimberly
Buckwheat, guardian Naomi
Hobie, guardian Naomi
Payton, guardians Jim & Linda
EL, guardian Judy B
Zoey, guardian Jeanne
Miss Pepper, guardian Laura D
Miss Penelope Anne, guardian Laura D
Grover, guardian Deb Weaver
Timmy (rabbit), guardian Jennifer
Molly and Ruby, guardian Cindy C
Oliver, guardian Tawana
Jerry, Chris Houze’s Dad
Sweet Pea, guardians Rick and Tonya
Cidhis, guardian Susan M
Murfi
Hatch, guardian Susan M
Pinny, guardian Naomi
Emma, guardian Elena
Roger, guardian Elena
Oliver, guardian Susan M
Un-named rescued kitty, guardians Julie & Francis

November 5

For the following:

Allie
Yoda, guardian Kristen
Archie, guardian Standing Bear
Arella, guardian Steph

November 26

For all the vets who dedicate their lives to helping our little friends, that they determine the cause of the “mysterious illness”

For all hedgehog guardians and other animal caregivers to be given the gifts of patience, insight, understanding and strength, and for the following:

Rambo, guardians Sondra & Kimberly
Buckwheat, guardian Naomi
Hobie, guardian Naomi
Payton, guardians Jim & Linda
EL, guardian Judy B
Zoey, guardian Jeanne
Miss Pepper, guardian Laura D
Miss Penelope Anne, guardian Laura D
Grover, guardian Deb Weaver
Timmy (rabbit), guardian Jennifer
Molly and Ruby, guardian Cindy C
Oliver, guardian Tawana
Jerry, Chris Houze’s Dad
Sweet Pea, guardians Rick and Tonya
Cidhis, guardian Susan M
Murfi
Hatch, guardian Susan M
Pinny, guardian Naomi
Emma, guardian Elena
Roger, guardian Elena
Oliver, guardian Susan M
Un-named rescued kitty, guardians Julie & Francis

November 10

For the following:

Yoda, guardian Kristen
Cuddles, guardian Cyndy
Jacque’s mother and sister-in-law
Emma Rose, guardian Laura
Balki, guardian Darcie
Spaz, guardian Kimberly
Kyra, guardian Zoe
Darla, guardian Donnasse
Chevy, guardian
Dymaxion, guardian Dawn
Quincy, guardian Lois (temporary guardian Dawn)
Molly, guardian Deb
Zera, guardian Floyd
Elena’s mother
Gumball, guardian Tiffany
Rilla & Tiegren, guardian Krissa
Bean, guardian Carol
Poco, guardian Carol
Tinker Bell, guardian Vicki
Warwick/Christopher Robin, temporary guardian
Francis, guardian Julie
Miss Margie, guardian Laura D

November 30

For the following:

Francis, guardian Julie
2 girls and 1 boy rescue, guardian Julie
Sauza & Fat Albert, guardians Step & Joe
Andra, guardian Joey
Sam, guardians Step & Joe
Madeleine, guardian Tawana
Zoey, guardian Selena
Mimi, guardian Nicole

November 10

For the following:

Francis, guardian Julie
2 girls and 1 boy rescue, guardian Julie
Sauza & Fat Albert, guardians Step & Joe
Andra, guardian Joey
Sam, guardians Step & Joe
Madeleine, guardian Tawana
Zoey, guardian Selena
Mimi, guardian Nicole
We hedgehog guardians love our veterinarians! We love them because they help our hedgehogs to feel better, to live better, and to leave us comfortably and painlessly with kindness if necessary. We love them because they want to learn from us as much as we want to learn from them. Many of them have asked us to participate in talks, hands-on demonstrations, and open houses to share our knowledge and hedgehog-handling skills. We love them because even though our hedgehogs usually prickle up, pop, hiss and try to bite (it would seem as if maybe they don’t all love their vets as much as we do) they handle our hedgehogs with loving care and humor.

And we love them because they are each unique, individual, and have a story to tell. This is the first in what we hope will be a continuing series, telling a vet’s story, and we hope the rest of you will tell us about the vets you love.

Dr. Nikki Burk, of South Hyland Pet Hospital in Bloomington, Minnesota, is my veterinarian. Dr. Nikki is unusual in her dedication to becoming a veterinarian, because she didn’t grow up in a household full of pets. A veterinarian attended her kindergarten class for a career day event, and then and there, Nikki decided that she would be a veterinarian when she grew up. Nikki attended her classroom for a while, and unfortunately, it was there that Dr. Nikki’s husband learned that they were male and female hedgehogs, when they had a litter which was cannibalized right in the classroom. A traumatic way to learn hedgehog gender and habits, to be sure, but Sonia and Spike went on to live (separately!) for several more years with Dr. Nikki.

I asked Dr. Nikki for words of advice regarding our quilly friends and she said, “annual visits!” An annual check-up, to include an oral exam and teeth cleaning, is very important for good hedgie health. Furthermore, she says that “good husbandry” is vital; a varied diet, access to daily exercise, frequent and gentle handling to catch any incipient problems early, and a large clean enclosure are important. She recommends spaying female hedgehogs if possible, since uterine and mammary problems including cancer are common and can be devastating to their health.

I love Dr. Nikki! My girlz love her, too, and I am quite certain that her suggestion to try Piroxicam for Skeezix’s oral cancer bought her 5 months of healthy life, and has helped other hedgehogs throughout the land, as more people have heard of it and tried it. Dr. Nikki attended a conference on cancer shortly after Skeezix was diagnosed, and sought out and attended a talk on Piroxicam, which was most fortunately given by a compounding pharmacist right here in Minnesota. She immediately put me in contact with the pharmacist, and assiduously followed Skeezix’s progress. When Skeezix finally needed to cross the Bridge, Dr. Nikki made sure that her final visit to the office was a warm, gentle, loving visit, with Skeezix’s favorite vets and techs in attendance. She even arranged for me to personally attend Skeezix’s cremation so that she was never away from me. I couldn’t ask for a better veterinarian, and neither could my girlz.

Please visit Dr. Nikki’s web site; her current newsletter is all about hedgehogs!

http://www.southhyland.com/
Christmas is coming!

Maisey’s Costume Corner

Maisey hedgehog is traveling the globe to bring you the latest in hedgie costume fashions. This month, Maisey’s theme is winter and the holidays.

Bucky Woodring atop some packages (above)

Angel Emma Leber (right)

Cinder, Emma and Peaches from Nancy Denny (below)

Krista’s Boule de neige (above)

Hoover and Payton Woodring (below)
The Mile High Hedgehog Show was held from October 14-16, 2005 at the Clarion Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Susan sent this summary on behalf of the Colorado Hedgehog Society for folks who couldn't make it!

Friday

On Friday evening the weekend started with a Hospitality Night and Fun Show. The Hospitality Room was filled to capacity with people checking in at the show and entering the Fun Show with Judge Dee Warner from Manitou Springs, CO. She is not a hedgehog person, but had a good time judging all of the various costumes and antics of our hedgehogs. Food was delicious thanks to Narciso and Brenda Sandoval, who did an excellent job. A caricature artist drew wonderful pictures of the participants and their hedgehogs.

Saturday

Events got underway with an IHA conformation show held at 10:00 and judged by Sherry Songhurst. All the classes were filled and Jeanne Stanoch and her Narnia won Best of Show Grand Champion, Boris and owner Sarah Shore won Reserve, and Honorable Mention went to Jane Kuta's Ambrose. Lunch was served in the vendor room and Terri O'Hara gave a wonderful talk on animal communication. Thanks to the HWS for sponsoring her talk. Our vendors were Exclusively Hedgehogs (Valerie and George Stein), Pins and Needles (Sherry Songhurst), Designs by Darcie (Darcie Carter), Select Diet (Jim Nutter), Penny Black Stamps (Darnell Wimmer), Art by Amber (Amber Dressen, who also did the Grand Champion Prizes for us), Hedgehog soaps, TNT (Tiffany Williams), Teresa Johnson, and new to the hedgehog scene, a new bucket wheel maker – Chet and Dana Fields and Jan Webber. We also had the Hedgehog Welfare Society with many lovely items on their table, including handy first aid kits, and art by Judie Peters. The Hedgehog Breeders Association, the International Hedgehog Association, and the USDA were all represented.

At 2:00 the second IHA Conformation Show was held with Judge Bryan Smith, and again all classes were filled. Best of Show Grand Champion was Lulu, owned by Floyd Aprill, and Reserve was Cotton Candy, owned by Tiffany Williams.

We adjourned to the Banquet Room for the evening. Colorado's own Priscilla Dressen, DVM, gave a very inspirational talk on our hedgehogs and the wolves that she cares for in Fort Collins. She presented Sherry Songhurst, Fran North and Susan Morrison with a wonderful hedgehog whose quills were acupuncture needles glued in, much to Susan's dismay. IHA took a minute to honor one of its own: Jeanne Stanoch was named IHA Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for her hard work and dedication to rebuilding the International Hedgehog Registry. She was given a silver computer mouse and a spa treatment from the Board. Thank you Jeanne for all of your efforts. Fran North did a beautiful job on the Rainbow Bridge Memorial, and thanks to Teresa Johnson for the lovely candles in rainbow colors. Then George Stein took over and auctioned off many a wonderful item, raising many a dollar for all rescues. We then had the worm eating fundraiser, and our special rescue this year was Linda Edwards in Canada. Permanent Grand Champion Awards were presented to Floyd Aprill for Camilla, Linda Cassell (Jeanne accepted for her and will continued on page 7
send it on to Gillian Holmes) and Quilliam, and to Sarah Shore for Boris, our Grand Gentleman. Pat Storm was awarded an honorary first place to Ivan, the tenrec. Ivan tried to enter the conformation show, but was sadly rejected - wrong color class. “Laughter and tears” was the theme of the evening.

Sunday

The IHOG was held in the morning and judged by Dawn Wrobel. It was a great time; we don’t have the results to post, but they should be posted on the hedgehog lists soon. I do remember that Junior Handler Andrew Gannon’s hedgehog Snowballs won a gold.

The other morning event was an IHA judge training conducted by Bryan Smith, and new judges will be announced soon. Colorado is very proud of our own Sherry Songhurst, who was promoted to Master Judge. Congratulations to Sherry!

We adjourned to various automobiles and took a road trip to Flash and Thelma Memorial Hedgehog Rescue in Divide, Colorado, just up the road from Colorado Springs. Z. G. Standing Bear was his usually gracious self, preparing a lunch for the whole group and giving tours to one and all. Afterward, we all wandered down the mountain back to Colorado Springs, Denver, and other various locations; we were sad to see everyone leave and hope all had as good a time as we did.

Contributions and thanks

We are proud to say that we are making contributions to Hedgehog Heights Rescues, Hedgehog Welfare Society, Twinkle Fund, and Flash and Thelma Memorial Hedgehog Rescue. Some of the smaller rescues will be getting some funds from the Twinkle Fund.

The success of this show was due to many wonderful people who worked very hard for the last two years on the central committee, show committee, event committee, and general committee to make it happen. The committee members are:

Darcie Carter, Doug Carter, Kari Espelien, Lisa Farrell, Jane Kuta, Susan Morrison, Fran North, Sami and Tammy Oldson, Oliver (2nd Marine Division), Brenda Sandoval, Narciso Sandoval, Sherry Songhurst, Standing Bear, George Stein, Darnell Wimmer, Zami, Karen Zoltenko

Thanks for photography contributions from Gioia Kerlin, Sarah Shore, and Linda Woodring.

As you see, many people and many hours. We also, thankfully, had a wonderful group of volunteers from outside and inside the hedgehog community. Thank you, thank you, thank you. To all the sponsors, a heartfelt thank you; without you many things would not have happened. But most of all THANK YOU to everyone who came, encouraged us, and stood beside us; and to our family and friends whom we neglected for a short while. We truly appreciate everything.

As of this show, the Mile High Hedgehog Show name has been retired and we are now the Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show. Start planning; October 2007 will be the next show in colorful Colorado!
The Hedgehog Ornament Project

by Linda Edwards, Waterloo, Ontario

In April of 1997, Gary and I excitedly welcomed the arrival of our first baby hedgehog, Charlotte. Little did we know at that time that she would literally change our lives forever. She captivated us and transformed my every waking thought and action around her. I was hopelessly in love! Consequently, it was a natural transition for my 20+ year tradition of making handmade Christmas tree ornaments for family and friends to evolve into hedgehog-themed ornaments. Although my friends and family were grateful for my thoughtfulness, they didn’t truly appreciate my creations to the extent that I knew my “hedgehog family” would. So I focused my efforts in that direction.

By 1998, I was an active member of several hedgehog lists and was warmly welcomed into the hedgehog community. I casually polled other list members to see if anyone would be interested in participating in an ornament exchange project. The response was positively overwhelming. I was thrilled to think that I would actually have a Christmas tree filled with hand-made hedgehog ornaments! That first year we had 25 participants and over the subsequent years the numbers have fluctuated, usually hovering around 30.

The process is basically the same as it was the very first year, except that two additional ornaments are now made for fundraising purposes. For example, with 25 participants, each person is required to make 25 (plus two for auction) hedgehog-themed ornaments. The ornament sets are all sent to me, and I return a complete set of the 25 unique ornaments to all participants.

Many participants begin making their ornaments as early as January, pacing the work accordingly so that they meet the mailing deadline of September 1. After I receive all the ornaments, if not already done, I place each one in a small plastic baggy, identifying its creator. I then place one of each of the ornaments into a box and mail it back to each participant. In the past, we have been very fortunate to have the skillful assistance of Lori Keller and Aimee Hassler hosting auctions for the extra sets of ornaments, in order to raise desperately needed funds for various rescues and organizations, including the Hedgehog Welfare Society.

Occasionally, a member finds it necessary to withdraw from the project partway through the year. Instead of suffering the loss of those ornaments, I try to make extra sets to fill the vacancies. This actually results in our having more than the original two sets to auction off or donate to auctions at one of the hedgehog shows.

It’s hard to believe that we have just wrapped up our eighth consecutive successful year of the “Hedgehog Ornament Project”!!!! What’s even more amazing is that each year has been as fresh and exciting as the very first. A select few of you have faithfully participated every single year. Others have drifted in and out making special guest appearances.

We’ve exchanged ornaments from Canada, the USA, South Africa, the Netherlands, and Denmark. Every imaginable medium has been used to create the ornaments, and every imaginable size, color and shape of hedgehog - each one a unique treasure!

Most of us are not professional craftspeople, although some of you may be. My criteria has always been “if it’s good enough to hang on your own tree, and you would be proud to give it as a gift, then it’s good enough for us.” I’ve never been disappointed and the participants never cease to amaze me with their creativity, talents, and the love they mold into their ornaments.

It is such a thrill for me to have the privilege of hosting this project and I enjoy each step of the journey. There’s the initial yearly announcement, which stirs up a lot of excitement as I begin to recruit members. Then there’s the monthly “cheerleading” (OK, sometimes it’s called harassment) to make sure everyone is on track. Then one by one, I get e-mails notifying me that the ornaments are in the mail. I excitedly come home after work each night wondering whose box of ornaments will await me next. The excitement is also shared by Gary as we, like two children on Christmas morn, sit down on the floor and frantically, but carefully, tear apart the packaging to reveal the contents and marvel at the various creations. Once they are all received, I methodically line them up on my living room floor.

Then, Gary and I form an assembly line, carefully repackaging each box and bringing them to the post office. Our excitement is echoed by e-mails announcing continued on page 9
The 2004 ornaments were the most special for me. Since I was taking chemotherapy and could not participate, I was saddened not to be able to make or receive any ornaments. But that was not to be the case! Even though I had not made any ornaments everyone got together and sent me the collection anyway! That was one of the highlights of my Christmas and I’ll never forget it. I missed out on a lot of things during my treatments and to not be able to participate in the ornament exchange was just another of those things that I would have missed out on. I thank all who were involved in the process.

Love Deborah Kirksey

When we began this project eight years ago, I never dreamed it would be as successful as it has been or that it would still stir such an interest. I also didn’t anticipate the many friendships that have evolved because of this project. Together we grieved the losses of our hedgies, and many have grieved the losses of our parents, spouses, children, or other family members. Many of us have become engaged, married, divorced, grown our families, moved to different parts of the world, achieved career goals, lost employment opportunities, acquired homes, lost homes, faced serious illnesses, and endured many natural disasters, etc. Through it all, we’ve kept on making our ornaments. When I look at each ornament, that’s what I think about and that’s what I see. I envision the contributors, sitting around their kitchen tables with their kids, or whomever, dealing with daily challenges, yet still channeling their devotion and love of hedgies into these ornaments. We have shared all those happy, sad and difficult moments together as a family. That is the true spirit of what the “Hedgehog Ornament Project” is all about. With your help, I look forward to many more successful years!

by Tawana and Annabelle Hanamann, Appleton, Wisconsin

Annabelle’s Big Day

On June 4, 2005, the Fox Valley Humane Association held its 26th annual fundraiser, known as “Bark in the Park,” to raise funds to help keep our doors open to serve the homeless animals of all species we see each year. We raised over $47,000! Traditionally, past and present canine alumni, their human counterparts, and animal lovers attend this event. There are local “celebrity” judges, vendors, the one- or three-mile walk, and of course contests for the animals. This year’s theme was “Viva Las Vegas” and there was no shortage of Elvis sightings!

Seeing how I do not have a canine member of my ever-growing “zoo,” Annabelle and I decided we better make sure the noble breed of hedgehog was represented. We entered three contests this year: The Sexiest Walk (which Annabelle captured at last year’s event), The Shortest Legs, and The Most Unusual Animal. Annabelle recaptured her title of the “Sexiest Walk”! Who says you can’t be big and beautiful?

Annabelle is donating her cash prize to the Hedgehog Welfare Society in memory of two of her hedgie brothers, Wally and Tico, who now reside at the Rainbow Bridge.

I asked Annabelle if she wanted to say anything else. This is what she told me to write: “I just want 2 help other hedgehogs who need to find good homes like I have. And, I’m already getting ready for next year’s event. I’ve got to defend my title.”
Greetings Hedgie People! Please allow me to share with you the highlights of the last two months of my journey:

Celebrating with Judie and Bruce Peters on their 30th wedding anniversary, in South Carolina. The waiters at the country club thought I was a stuffed bear! How rude!

Bonding with the Manly Hedgeboyz at the campfire during the Mile High Hedgehog Show in Colorado.

Most of all, being united with my new travel companion. She is a lovely poodle named Sweetie Pie. Maybe I’m not such a Manly Hedgeboy after all??

Next stop: Austin, Texas, and then on to Seattle, Washington.

I have many amusing stories to share. You can read them all at http://www.phileasbogg2.blogspot.com
Is That a Mealworm in My Stuffing??

The second cookbook in the "Hog Heavenly" series is now available.

This edition contains over 200 recipes compiled by members of the Hedgehog Welfare Society. From Jello, to Stuffing, to Pies... all the recipes you'll need for a Hog Heavenly Christmas.

The HWS would like to thank Cindy DeLaRosa for her tenacity in collecting recipes all year long, Maurita Plouff for patiently formatting the cookbook, and Judie Peters for her fabulous cover art. The artwork on the cover alone is worth the price!

All the proceeds from cookbook sales go to help rescued hedgehogs in need of veterinary care. The cost is only $20.00 (including shipping). Orders can be placed by PayPal (donations@hedgehogwelfare.org), or by sending a check to: Hedgehog Welfare Society, PO Box 242, Chaplin, CT, 06235.

Don't be a Scrooge! Get your cookbook in time for Christmas!

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

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 
P.O. Box 70408, Seattle WA 98107