Jennifer is a native of Wisconsin who loves the fact that Wisconsin actually has four seasons. Jennifer lives with her dad, Joe, and with quite an animal family, including her hedgie Peg-leg Pete, along with 2 beagles, 3 bunnies, 5 cockatiels, 2 love birds and 4 finches – all rescues!

When asked what makes hedgehogs so special, Jennifer replied, “Can you curl up in a ball and spike people when you get mad at them?” Jennifer’s first hedgehog was Honey, who patiently helped her to learn the hedgehog ropes, so to speak. Unfortunately, one Christmas Eve, Jennifer came home to find that Honey had suddenly become very ill. Jennifer rushed Honey to the emergency room, but Honey crossed the Rainbow Bridge despite efforts to save her.

After Honey passed, the hedgehog-sized hole in Jennifer’s heart was filled by Lucy, a hedgehog in Michigan who was looking for a home. Jennifer was connected with Lucy through the Hedgehog Welfare Society. She drove around Lake Michigan in a terrible snowstorm to pick up this extraordinary hedgegie. Lucy was special in that she would come to Jennifer when she called Lucy’s name. Lucy is a bit of an HWS legend who continues to spread hedgehog joy and laughter through her *Lucy Laughs* column in the HWS newsletter. Like Honey, Lucy passed very unexpectedly. Lucy was followed by Peg-leg Pete, a three-legged hedgie formerly known as Quillson. Jennifer shares with us one of Pete’s peeves: “Pete and I have an understanding. He is touchy about his remaining feet, so I try to leave them alone. Luckily, he runs in his wheel every night so his toenails aren’t much of a problem. Yep, Pete’s the boss when it comes to his feet. “

As for involvement in the hedgehog community, Jennifer seems to do it all! She is a true hedgehog hero, because she is always willing to step in wherever needed. She takes on many of the “thankless” tasks of the HWS, most of which require a great deal of skill. Yet, she freely shares her skills and talents with the entire community. Jennifer is a board member of the Hedgehog Welfare Society. She also organizes fabulous fundraising auctions to support hedgehog charity, creates superb-quality quilt squares every year for the hedgehog quilt exchange, participates in the yearly ornament exchange, serves as our webmaster and she is the HWS membership chair, in charge of welcoming all new members and keeping an up-to-date list of member information. Whew!

If that weren’t enough, Jennifer has also taken on the enormous task of HWS newsletter editor. She had some tough shoes to fill taking over for the previous staff, but she (and her trusty side-kick Margaret Myhre) have really stepped up way beyond our expectations! From recruiting interesting articles, to expert copy editing, to layout...the newsletter never ceases to impress discriminating hedgegie readers! Jennifer always has the newsletter up on the website, the first of every other month, without fail. This is no easy feat! There is so much involved from start to finish. Jennifer’s creative and informative newsletter keeps hedgegie folks all over the world entertained and educated about hedgehog topics.

With all the time Jennifer puts into participating in the hedgehog community, taking care of all her animals, and being there for her dad and all of her friends, she does manage to occasionally participate in her other great passion, geocaching - a sort of treasure hunt using a GPS. In fact, Jennifer has introduced several of us hedgie people to geocaching, including myself, Tonya Thomas, and Sheila Dempsey.

Sheila had this to say about our hero: “On a personal level, Jennifer took an interest in Murfi and me when we said we were interested in geocaching. One day over the phone she did her best to help me understand the GPS unit I had. I’m sure she got very frustrated trying to talk to me but she never showed it! I look forward to the day when Murfi is better and we can go geocaching again. I am going to call on Jennifer for more help! Thanks, Jennifer, you are a real friend.”

Tonya Thomas and Deb Weaver also acknowledge Jennifer’s generous spirit. Tonya says, “I have to tell you, Jennifer is the most kind, sweetest person I know. Always the first to give of herself to animals and humans. I’m truly blessed to know someone like her.”

And Deb adds, “Gosh, where to start? I first met Jennifer at the 2006 Milwaukee Rendezvous hedgehog show. She volunteered to help out with getting folks to and from the airport and donated some wonderful items to our auction. Funny, I remember thinking how quiet Jennifer was. Well! In the time since that 2006 show, I’ve gotten to know her better, and have come to love her wonderful sense of humor. And that thought about “quiet,” well, let’s just say first impressions don’t always hold up! At our 2008 Milwaukee Rendezvous show, Jennifer was just one week off of having major knee surgery. Yet there she was, helping out once again driving folks, running errands (well, walking errands!), working the registration desk, helping with the auction event, and judging the costume competition. She even attended our after hours group dinners and cocktail get togethers (bringing a lava lamp along to add to the mood). Jennifer is a great person, kind hearted, and extremely generous - - a true Hedgegie Hero.”
Amanda and Brent Wooley, Carrollton, Texas

How did you get your first hedgehog?

In 1994 I saw one in an exotic pet store in New York. I just had to have him! I saved my money for weeks and did favors for my mom night and day to help talk her into allowing me to buy him. We ended up naming him ‘Hedgie’ (not particularly creative I know). He wasn't a baby when we bought him and he had been neglected. We hated to support a pet store but we didn't want to leave him there either. He was quite huffy and not social at all.

This is the part of the story where you expect to hear about how our love and good home helped to make ‘Hedgie’ into a loving and affectionate pet – WRONG! Hedgie stayed huffy to the end of his days. He had a good life with us but alas that was just HIM! I appreciated his personality. We all found his attempts to snub us to be more comical and cute than I am sure he intended them to be! I am sure he always knew how lucky he was to be with us instead of back at the nasty pet store.

What made you want to rescue?

Our family has always done our part in adopting rescued pets and in rescuing any animal we see that may need help. We always support area no-kill shelters and foster programs for cats and dogs. After discovering that there was no such shelter for hedgehogs here, we were motivated to try and do our part for the hedgies in our area. We have been contacted by the City of Dallas shelters before because, since they have no knowledge of hedgehog care, they can only put hedgehogs to sleep. Knowing that this is the common practice for area shelters motivates us do our best to try and save any hedgehogs that end up on Craigs List or in shelters.

Backyard breeders are popping up all over this area too. Most begin their ‘businesses’ by breeding rescued hedgehogs. Now we always try to help any hedgies that we can so they can get the second chance they deserve, even if it means draining our bank account.

We do not like to see animals treated as objects to be exploited and discarded. True, sometimes the unforeseen can happen and it may be necessary to re-home a beloved pet. But all too often people don't care about what happens to their hedgehogs!

We require that our new adoptive owners sign a contract and provide valid ID before they can even be considered for one of our rescues. We DO NOT think rescued animals should ever be bred. There are many obvious reasons for this but, in our opinion, it is especially cruel to put an animal through this process after it has already had an unstable home life. The dangers of breeding an animal that you know nothing about are many and need to be taken seriously for both the genetic health of any young they may produce and for the parent's health as well. A rescued pet has been through ENOUGH already and deserves a good, loving home and a second chance at a happy life.

My family has always believed that any reputable breeder should always accept and re-home rescues. If you want to put the animals out in your community, you need to be prepared to take care of the ones that need to come back to you!

Tell us something great about where you live:

We live in Plano, Texas. A suburb of Dallas. The area is very diverse in cultures and interests, making it a very exciting and busy place to live!

Tell us your favorite rescue story:

My favorite rescue was one we did last year. We were called by the City of Dallas to come save a young, grey, female pinto named ‘Tails.’ They found us online out of desperation. They were about to put her to sleep because they knew nothing about hedgehogs and couldn't...
Meet Nigel Reeve, Wildlife Ecologist for the Royal Parks, London. Dr. Reeve is the foremost authority on all species of hedgehogs and the author of *Hedgehogs* in the *Poyser Natural History* series.

Spa Day for African Pygmy Hedgehogs! Cindy DeLaRosa will demonstrate hedgie pedicures and bubble baths for your pet hedgehog.

Is your hedgehog the most beautiful in the East? Enter your hedgehog in the IHA-sanctioned conformation show.

Is your hedgehog huffy, fluffy, or otherwise non-conformational? Then he is a perfect fit for the Square Pegs competition.

Don’t miss the hedgehogs competing for loot in the Schoharie Skirmish and strutting their stuff in the hedgehog costume ball.

Join us for a banquet dinner, featuring Daniel Beams, who will teach us about the history of Schoharie as the “Breadbasket of the Revolution”

Add to your Hedgehogabilia collections! Vendors, Auctions, Prizes, and more!

*Hedgehogs, their caregivers and all those interested are invited to attend. If you have any questions,
The Hedgehog’s Dilemma  - By: Hugh Warwick

If you were permitted to own one book—and only one book—about hedgehogs, you would want to find a book that covered everything you might ever want to know about them. It should include their origins, their history, and their place in the animal kingdom, the varieties of hedgehogs that exist or have existed, the ways hedgehogs have affected our culture, and the reasons that hedgehogs are so appealing to human beings. You might assume that such a book does not exist but you would be mistaken. The book you are searching for is *The Hedgehog’s Dilemma* by Hugh Warwick.

Chapter one begins logically with an explanation of what a hedgehog is—and is not. It is a small, usually brown, spiny animal, an omnivore. It is not the same as, nor is it related to, a porcupine. Many hedgehog facts are included in this chapter. Here is a small sample of what can be learned there:

- Adult hedgehogs have 5,000 to 7,000 spines which are actually modified hair.
- *Panniculus carnosus*, the frown muscle, is the muscle that allows a hedgehog to roll into a ball.
- And—an answer to the question that all hedgehog owners are likely to be asked at least once—“How does the mother hedgehog survive the delivery of those prickly little babies?” During delivery a baby hedgehog’s skin is inflated with fluid which keeps the prickly spines beneath the surface. After birth the fluid is absorbed and the sharp little spines emerge.

In subsequent chapters Warwick discusses his experiences tracking electronically tagged hedgehogs through the British countryside in the dead of night as well as his excursion to Scotland’s Outer Hebrides and the small island of Uist. The island was rumored to have ten thousand hedgehogs who were accused of decimating a population of rare wading birds by devouring their eggs. The hedgehogs were doomed to being culled by means of lethal injection until Warwick proved that the hedgehog population was far smaller than ten thousand and, furthermore, wader eggs accounted for less than 4% of the hedgehogs’ diet.

The importance of hedgehog rescuers receives broad coverage in this book. As the hedgehog’s natural habitat of fields and lanes becomes ever smaller, rescue groups work to save injured and distressed hedgehogs. The biggest influx of hedgehogs needing rescue occurs in the fall when late-summer babies have left home and are struggling to survive on their own. These are cared for during the winter and successfully released into the wild in the spring. Large, well-funded establishments such as *St. Tiggy-Winkles* are described as well as smaller, less well-known rescue operations where money is always an issue.

Warwick also describes the place hedgehogs occupy in our culture. He examines ancient folktales and beliefs about them and credits Beatrix Potter’s 1905 publication of *The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle* with transforming the hedgehog’s image from smelly, flea-bitten scoundrel to charming, huffy friend. Were it not for Beatrix Potter and Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, Sonic the Hedgehog might not exist today!

The author goes on to list several recent commercials in the UK which feature ubiquitous hedgies in a variety of roles. Links to these...
are listed in this issue of the newsletter. He concludes this section with this observation:

All around the world references to hedgehogs have snuffled into the vernacular. They have been appropriated by every art and craft; used as metaphors in philosophy; they sell us shoes, banking and expensive bondage equipment. But in the post-Potter world, there is a common theme of gentle compassion. (164) ¹

Of course the chapter which will prove most interesting to members of the Hedgehog Welfare Society is the one describing Warwick’s 2007 visit to Denver, Colorado for the Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show. He describes his visit with Standing Bear as well as the hedgehog Olympics and other events in great detail.

The biggest difference between British and American hedgehog enthusiasts is that North Americans view hedgehogs as pets while the British (and probably the rest of the world, too) view them as wildlife. Hedgehogs haven’t existed in the wild in North America since the dinosaur variety that lived in the Miocene era became extinct. We don’t have the option of catering to hedgehogs in our gardens. Instead we have our hedge condos, our hedge exercise wheels and our meal worm farms. This changes everything. As Warwick says, “The sacrifice an animal makes in becoming a pet is to be infantilized. Not only does this make a pet more pleasant company, but it also ensures nurturing is required for life.” (165) ²


These advertisements are referred to in The Hedgehog’s Dilemma (see the Literary Hedgehog). They all feature hedgehogs in one way or another.

Abbey National Banking Services
http://www.visit4info.com/advert/Abbey-Mortgages-Hedgehogs-Abbey-National-Banking-Services/41844

Black & Decker Hedgehog Hedge Trimmer

Bonds of London — Hedgehog Pipe Reaming Tool

Erotic hedgehog — http://www.erotichedgehog.co.uk/

Green Cross Code Hedgehog
http://www.lgfl.net/lgfl/leas/redbridge/web/RedbridgeLocal/BarnabyandRoadSafety/GreenCrossCode/

Happy Hedgehog Wrought Iron Works — http://www.happyhedgehog-wroughtiron.co.uk/

Heavenly Hedgehog Ice cream — http://www.heavenlyhedgehog.com/faq

The North Face Hedgehog shoes
There’s excitement in the air! The hedgehog world has not one but two national hedgehog shows coming up. The Eastern States Hedgehog Show will take place in Schoharie, New York, June 26-28 and this fall the Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show is scheduled to take place in Colorado Springs, Colorado October 2-4, 2009.

Both shows will offer conformation competitions, sporting events, educational speakers, vendors, and auctions, as well as the opportunity to unite with other hedgehog lovers and their animals. These are two great opportunities to learn more about our beloved companions, meet some great people, and show off our animals. And there’s nothing quite like the feeling of having the conformation show judge hand you that Best of Show ribbon (thanks Molly)!

Can’t make it to a show? There are other ways to be a hedgehog show supporter. Both shows are planning auctions and the show organizers are in need of items to sell to the highest bidder. At the 2008 show here in Milwaukee we auctioned beautiful handmade items including photographs taken by members, jewelry, hedgehog memorabilia, and books on hedgehogs, to name just a few things. So take a look around, what do you have that someone else might want?

Another fantastic and easy way to support the shows is through the sponsorship opportunities that are available. Sponsorships are offered for as little as ten dollars. Every dollar helps show organizers host a fabulous and affordable event. Consider being a show sponsor today.

Links for both shows are on our web site (www.hedgehogwelfare.org). The Eastern States Hedgehog Show information can be seen on the Schoharie Holiday Inn Express Hotel web site (www.hospitality88.com) and at the show’s web site (www.hedgehogshow.com). The Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show information is posted at the Colorado Springs Clarion Hotel and Conference Center web site (www.choicehotels.com) as well as at the show’s web site www.rockymountainhedgehogshow.org.

See you there!!!!!

MAY

May 10 Wizard Woodring
May 10 Esmirelda Wrobel
May 24 Babette Storm
May 25 Pepper Storm
May 31 Noodles Ophoff

JUNE

Jun 11 Piglet Muckenfuss
Jun 14 Little Frogger Graesser
Jun 15 Eclipse Storm
Jun 20 Caramel Fleming
ACROSS
4. Favorite treat of many hedgehogs
7. Sound typically made by annoyed hedgehogs
8. White with pink eyes
9. This HWS issue includes a recipe for these.
10. The couple featured in The Rescue Spotlight live in what state?
13. What covers most of a hedgehog's body?
14. Kind of fruit discussed in Hedgehog Trivia article

DOWN
1. First name of ecologist scheduled to speak at Eastern States show
2. First name of our editor
5. City where Eastern States show will take place
6. A favorite hedgehog exercise item
11. Cyndy's article describes medical experiences of Erica and who?
12. Last name of author whose book is reviewed here.

Puzzle created by Margaret Myhre. If you have an idea for any hedgehog related puzzles or jokes, send them to:

newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org
Wheelathon 2009 – A Great Success!

Thanks to all the wonderful wheelers and their guardians who participated in Wheelathon 2009 on February 2. These hedgies and their people were able to raise $2,055. All the money will be used for hedgehog rescue, research, and education of hedgehog guardians. That will cover a lot of vet bills to make a lot of rescued hedgies a lot healthier! Thanks to all the prize donors as well. Participants in Wheelathon 2009 included:

Linda Woodring
Nancy Denny
Lisa Ann Kueter
Margaret Campbell
Amy Warnke
Katie Carbonara

Deb Weaver
Christine Perry
Elaine Becker
Beth Reichart
Heather Campbell
Donnasue Graesser

Where is Phil?
Does he have a twin?

Stay tuned for the further adventures of Phileas Hogg II & the Mystery Hogg!