This year I went to my first hedgehog show. What a wonderful experience!! I have been a hedgehog mom since 1999 but never knew there was such a thing as a hedgehog show until I joined the Hedgehog Welfare Society.

Hedgehog show?!? Could this be true? Is a hedgehog show like a car show? Do people who love hedgehogs gather to meet other people with the same addiction? I just had to go to one of those shows! When I read about the show in Milwaukee I immediately began trying to figure out how to get to it. Unfortunately Hurricane Ike wiped out any hope I had of getting to the show. I live in North Carolina and we were one of the many southeastern states hit the hardest with gas shortages. Then a silver lining appeared around my cloud. We were having an Eastern States Hedgehog Show!

First thing I did was to join the planning committee. What a wonderful group of people to work with. I was so excited about the show because I knew it was going to rock! But the actual show way exceeded my expectations! I had such an awesome time!! I have to say that attending this show was one of the best experiences I have ever had!! I now know that I will attend as many shows as I can.

I had made so many good friends on the Hedgehog Welfare Yahoo groups list and now I have met many of them and this has added a whole new dimension to our friendship. Our friendships have grown from online friendships to deeper, real friendships. I met my best friend Beth right here on the list about 9 months ago. Beth drove up from Florida and spent the night at my house. The next day, we packed up the vehicle, loaded up our 18 hedgies (17 were Beth’s) and headed for Schoharie. Fifteen and a half hours later (due to unforeseen road construction) we arrived at the Holiday Inn Express in Schoharie. We were so psyched that we made the entire trip without even turning on the stereo. We talked the whole way about hedgies, the show, hedgies, the show...well you get the idea.

Let me tell you how great hedgehog people are. Beth and I arrived at 3 a.m. and Donnasue got out of bed, came out (in her pajamas no less), and helped us unload all the hedgies, 18 condos, 18 wheels and what little luggage we could actually fit into the car after we packed all the hedgehog stuff. It was quite an undertaking.

Even though Beth and I didn’t crawl into bed until 4:30 in the morning, we jumped up at 7:30 a.m. anxious to begin our day. We joined Nigel (our Keynote Speaker) and his wife Katie, Donnasue, her sons, Nigel and Simon, and her niece, Lauren, for breakfast.

Friday evening the show festivities began. We played human bingo as our ice-breaker. What a blast! It was the perfect way to get to know people. The food was out of this world. The highlight of Friday evening for me was actually having face-to-face conversations with friends I have conversed with almost daily online. I had the privilege of not only meeting Naomi but also Kipper! Naomi is one of the loveliest people I have ever met and Kipper is such a sweet doggie. Among the many others were Murfi (I had met Sheila once before), Elaine, Tina, Cindy D., Dawn, Donnasue’s husband Carl, Billie and Ralph, Martina and Gerald, and Beth’s husband Wayne, just to name a few. I felt like I was at a family reunion except everyone here loved hedgehogs as much as I did! The evening ended with a meditation session for hedgehogs and their humans led by Dawn Wrobel. What a calming way to end a day.

Saturday morning the fun started all over again. Wow! So many people and so many hedgies! I was literally in hedgehog heaven. You cannot imagine all the hedgehog memorabilia there is at a hedgehog show. There were so many fabulous items to choose from. The silent auction items were totally awesome. I wish I could have won everything I bid on.

The morning began with a spa day for hedgies. Cindy DeLaRosa gave a demonstration on the dreaded bath and nails. She most definitely has the touch! I wish she lived

Continues on page 14...
next door to me so I could hire her to help me. Next we had our seminars. Nigel Reeve, who works with the Royal Parks in London, taught us about wild hedgehogs in Europe. I learned so much. Dr. Ricardo DeMatos, a veterinarian in the Companion Exotic Animal Service at Cornell University Hospital for Animals, was our next speaker. It was very rewarding to hear him speak. It was obvious that he shared our love and concern for our little hedgies.

Lunchtime came and once again we had delicious food. After lunch the conformation show began. This is an event you do not want to miss. Beautiful hedgies strutting their stuff and making our judge’s job difficult I’m sure. We were privileged to have Sherry Songhurst as the judge. Next we had the Square Pogs Show for those hedgies who were reluctant to compete in the conformation show. Naomi Wikane was the judge for this event. She personally held each hedgie and they each received a ribbon based on their best talent. My precious Iggy received a ribbon for the sweetest face. He was so proud! My beloved Oscar had been entered in the show but crossed the rainbow bridge a week before the show. Naomi presented him with a ribbon posthumously in loving memory. I was so touched. It meant a lot to me.

Have you ever seen a room full of hedgies running amok in critter balls? Well, that was the Schoharie Skirmish. It was so much fun! Adults laughed, children squealed and all had a good time.

Saturday night we had the banquet and Rainbow Bridge Ceremony. Daniel Beams from the Old Stone Fort Museum gave us a presentation about the history of Schoharie as the breadbasket of the American Revolution. Nigel Reeve gave a talk about wildlife in the Royal Parks. Elizabeth (Beth) Reichert and I presented the Rainbow Bridge Ceremony honoring all of our companions of the animal world that have crossed the bridge. We ended the ceremony with a special memorial to our friend Jackie Koppezky. Jackie was a friend that we had met on the list. She lived in Thailand and passed away unexpectedly last October. She was a very active member of Hedgehog Welfare as well as Pog-Chit-Chat.

We all said goodnight and planned to meet for brunch on Sunday morning. Naomi, being a native of Schoharie, had arranged for us to have brunch at the Grapevine Inn. It was such a relaxing atmosphere. We ate and really got to know each other. After brunch those of us who were not leaving for home grouped up and went sight seeing. It was hard to choose between the Howe Caverns, the Old Stone Fort Museum and the Iroquois Indian Museum!

Some of us were not leaving until Monday so on Sunday evening we had dinner with Naomi. She graciously invited us to her home afterwards. We met the doggies and kittens and looked at pictures of hedgies that once were a large part of Naomi’s life. Naomi has the most amazing collection of hedgie books and memorabilia!

When Monday came we had to load up and leave for home. None of us wanted the fun to end. When Beth and I started on our long journey, we left with our hearts full of joy at having spent our weekend with such a great group of people who were now our friends.

In summary let me just say that a hedgehog show is something that every hedgie lover should experience at least once! I know that I am hooked and can’t wait to go to my next one! See you there!!

(...Continued from page 13)
Every month, Maisey travels the world to find the latest and greatest in fashions for hedgies and is showcasing her finds here in Maisey's Costume Corner.

Send your pictures to hedgiemom@comcast.net

Do you have an idea for Lucy Laughs? You can e-mail the editor with your ideas.

~Editor

How many words can you make from the letters in ... HEDGEHOG?

I came up with 26, but my sources say there are 38.

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Want to see your Hedgie in the newsletter?

Send your photos in now so that they can be used in future issues.
Eastern States Hedgehog Show  
Donnasue Graesser

Schoharie Skirmish. The ESHS version of the Bedlam Ball, the Schoharie Skirmish was a crowd favorite.

Eye on the prize!

We were honored to have Ricardo De Matos, from Cornell University Hospital for Animals, as a last minute addition to the seminar program. We all were very impressed by his talk: Hedgehogs in the Ivy League. We were also honored to have his wife, Marta, at the show. She is also a veterinarian at Cornell.

We had not one, but two authors of prominent hedgehog books in attendance. Both Nigel Reeve and Dawn Wrobel signed many books!

The noted hedgehog ecologist, Nigel Reeve, traveled all the way from England to educate and entertain us. His seminars far exceeded our expectations. Nigel's wife, Kati, was awesome too!

The best hedgies in the East lined up to strut their stuff for Master Judge Sherry Songhurst. All pre-registered hedgies were proud to be shown on their personalized blankies embroidered by Cindy DeLaRosa.  

Of course, the hedgies were the stars of the event. Barbados was the Grand Champion Adult Male.

All the hedgies were winners at the ESHS.

Continues on page 17...
Dawn Wrobel led a healing meditation session for hedgehogs and their guardians. Several attendees commented that this session worked wonders for their hedgehogs.

Petfinder hosted a table to spread awareness of their services to support hedgehog rescue.

Seven tables packed with unique items raised over $1200 for hedgehog charity.

Folks gathered around to watch Cindy DeLaRosa demonstrate hedge baths and pedicures. Igor was the lucky pampered hedgehog.

Phileas won over our new veterinarian friends with his charm.

Phileas enjoyed learning about the local Revolutionary War history of the Schoharie Valley.

We were honored to have long time hedgehog friend, Naomi Wikane, as our local hostess. As Naomi is unable to travel, this was a unique chance for her to attend a hedgehog show and to mingle with so many hedgehog folks.

In addition to the Square Pogs show, there were so many moments that made the ESHS a wonderful experience and a life long memory for the 150 attendees and their hedgehogs. The show was truly an “international experience” as we were joined by Nigel and Kati Reeve (from England) and Ricardo De Matos and Marta Castelhano (from Portugal). At the same time, it had the feel of a “hometown event” for folks living in and around the Schoharie area. The best part about holding a hedgehog show in a new location was the new friends we all made! Hosting the show in the Northeast provided the opportunity for so many folks to be involved who are not able to travel to the more traditional hedgehog show locations in the west and Midwest. The show included Petfinder.com staff, local historians, Ivy League veterinarians, international guests, an official mealworm provider, birds and snakes, human bingo games, a plethora of hedgehogabilia, and even a journey into a cave! The weekend was filled with old favorites, new traditions, and once-in-a-lifetime experiences!

Wonder what color category Frazor was entered in? He sure matches the blue show blankies.

The hedgies weren’t the only animal stars of the day! “Out of the Cage Pet Mobile” brought along snakes, ferrets, birds and other critters.

Dozens of local children were fascinated by the hedgehogs.
In a rescue community such as the Hedgehog Welfare Society, many of our hedgehogs are truly exceptional but just not conformational. Some are huffy, some are fluffy, some are missing limbs or otherwise non-conformational. In other words, they are square pogs that just don’t “fit” into the ideal standard of hedgehog shape or temperament.

The Eastern States Hedgehog Show organizing committee designed a special event for these special hedgehogs. Rather than awarding ribbons based on aesthetics and shape, the hedgehogs were judged on their individual, extraordinary qualities! The Square Pogs competition was a perfect fit for the Das Hedgie Haus hedgegies such as Piercey, Quill-B, and Sniffani Reichert.

Their guardian Beth says:

I would say Piercey and Quill-B were not appropriate for the conformation show because I couldn’t be sure that, although they have never bitten us, they wouldn’t decide that the judge would be a good place to start. Neither care to be handled. Piercey hardly ever comes out of a ball. He received the ‘Best Round Ball’ ribbon. Quill-B received the ‘Outstanding Puffer’ ribbon. On the other hand, Sniffani is a sweetie but her little ears are really tattered and torn. She was very happy to receive the ‘Cutest Raggedy Ears’ ribbon.

Naomi Wikane was a natural fit as the judge of the Square Pogs event. She says she has always felt like a bit of a square peg herself. Naomi lovingly handled each hedgehog while the hedgie guardian told the story of what makes that hedgehog special. Based on the guardians’ descriptions and her own personal interaction with the hedgehogs, Naomi decided on a special award for each hedgehog. Naomi enjoyed the event as much as the hedgegies did:

It was everything I planned it to be...both fun and educational. I loved handling every one of those 32 hedgegies and interacting with them and their owners to decide what they won. And in many cases their stories added to our knowledge about hedgegies....especially for those newer to having hedgegies. I also enjoyed hand crafting the ribbons.

The Square Pogs show was definitely one of the highlights of the Eastern States Hedgehog Show. It included 32 hedgegies and their owners, who may not have had the chance to participate in the conformation portion of the show. Even some hedgegies who were not able to travel to the show were able to participate through their photos and guardians testimony to their greatness!

I am pleased to say that Little Frogger won the “Best Ambassador” award based on her representation at the Schoharie Valley Dog Days of Summer event a few weeks prior to the show.

Congratulations to our Square Pogs! You may not fit into a round hole, but you certainly fit into our hearts!

Best Singer – Ziggy  Most Beautiful Ears – Serra
Most Improved – Sprocket  Best Popper – Hidee
Best Ambassador – Little Frogger  Best Escape Artist – Jacquilline
Prettiest Red Eyes – Snowy  Cutest Raggedy Ears – Sniffani
Best Invisible Hedge – Q-Ball  Outstanding Puffer – Quill-B
Sweetest Face – Iggy  Bluest Hedge – Frazor
With Love in Memory – Oscar  Prettiest White Patch - Lance
Best Biter – Pickers  Sweetest Smile – Saber
Best Rescue Story – Stickles  Best Tummy Kissers - Wedgie
Best Guitar Player – Winceston  Best Chick Magnet Quill – Shenick
Best Round Ball – Piercey  Best Snapper - Henick
Cutest Brothers – Quillis & Wicket  Prettiest Dark Coat - Mace
Happy Success Story! – Jabitha
Welcome to Pog-Chit-Chat...
Where hedgies tell it like it is.

by Barbabella and Barbados Weihs-Werner (and their mom Martina)

Reporter: I am thrilled to be able to sit next to not one but two Grand Champions from the Eastern States Hedgehog Show that took place in Schoharie, New York at the end of June. They are: Barbabella, who took the title of Grand Champion Adult Female, and Barbadou who was crowned Grand Champion Adult Male. In addition, Barbabella also won the title Reserve Best of Show. Wow! So Barbabella, how do you feel now after winning so many categories? Did you expect to win so many titles and ribbons?

Barbabella: No, not at all. I was, and I am still, extremely honored to have been given such grand titles, especially at my age. After all, I might have been one of the oldest contestants at the conformation show with me being more than 3 years old. There were so many beautiful hedgehogs present that indeed it was a very big surprise to me.

Barbadou: Not just to you my dear.

Reporter: What do you mean by that Barbadou?

Barbadou: Well, I believe I was a front runner to take home the title Best of Show or at least Reserve Best of Show. But then my nerves crumbled a bit at the end with all the cameras making clicking noises and when it came to the Best of Show competition, I didn’t feel as comfortable on the show table as I had before.

Reporter: Barbadou, why do you think you were a front runner for the title Best of Show?

Barbabella: That I would like to know as well.

Barbadou [with a big grin on his face]: Well, look at me! I have a perfect Snowflake color, I am in excellent form and shape, and to top it all off I have a very calm and relaxed disposition. In short, I am champion material. [Barbabella starts laughing.]

Reporter: Don’t you agree, Barbabella?

Barbabella: Well, I can see that Barbadou might be mistaken for a handsome fellow, to err is human. But he seems to be lacking some vanity, doesn’t he? [Barbabella is grinning while Barbadou is fuming.] However to his defense I have to say as Judge Sherry Songhurst pointed out during the show, males have, in general, a genetic disadvantage compared to female contestants since male behinds are in general not as plump as female ones and therefore it is easier for females to have the perfect, distinctly tear-drop-shaped body.

Reporter: Why did you actually decide to participate in the competition?

Barbabella: Our mom was one of the many show helpers and when at the beginning not many hedgehogs were registered in the conformation show, she asked us whether we would mind participating. Neither of us knew what to expect which made it even more exciting and also frightening at the same time. But when we saw that Mrs. Cindy De LaRosa was offering the participants personalized blankets, we were all for it.

Reporter: By “all” do you mean you and Barbadou?

Barbabella: Oh no, Gigi, my roommate and BarbaRio were coming with us as well, of course. You must know that we all four live in the same household, which is more or less counterbalanced with two boys and two girls. [Barbadaou is clearing his throat.]

Reporter: Who else lives with you in the same household?

Barbabella: Well there are our human parents and many fishes, freshwater as well as saltwater fish. Naturally they had to stay home.

Reporter: Barbadou, would you like to tell us how you got to the show and when?

Barbadou [straightening himself]: On Friday we had to get up really early since we were placed in our transport condos and carried to the car around 9 am. We were glad to check in at the Holiday Inn in Schoharie four hours later and to move into our quarters and finally be able to catch some sleep. After all we were competing the next day. Then shortly before normal wake up time, we had our health check, which is a requirement to be able to participate in any show activities. Right after we were cleared, we got our registration cards and our personalized blankets that we were supposed to bring with us to the show.

Barbabella: Some of us hedgehogs also meditated with Mrs. Dawn Wrobel and our human guardians on Friday night. This was a very relaxing and calming experience for everyone and exactly the thing to do before such a big day.

Reporter: So what did you do during the night before the show?

Barbadou: The usual routine, after having a nice meal we were working it all off on our wheels racing each other.

Barbabella: Oh yes and we certainly had lots of fun since we all had to have a bath at a very unpopular hour on Saturday morning. Not that there would be any good time for a bath but having a bath at 7 am is indeed horrible.

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Barbadou looks at Barbabella with a satisfied smile.

Barbabella: That’s funny buddy, because she told me the exact same thing. [Smirking.]

Barbadou: [Trying to intimidate Barbabella] As I was saying, I was first judged in the Adult Male Snowflake class which I won. Afterwards all the adult male color class winners were competing for the Adult Male Grand Champion title which was also awarded to me.

Barbabella: It was the same process for the females. After I had won the Adult Female Standard color class, I won the Adult Female Grand Champion title as well. And last, but not least, all four Grand Champion winners, the juvenile and adult male as well as the juvenile and adult female, were competing against each other on the Best of Show table. And then came the proudest moment of my life when I was awarded the title Reserve Best of Show. [Barbabella smiling a big happy smile quickly sticks out her tongue towards Barbadou.]

Barbadou: [Huffing]

Reporter [in bewilderment]: So who won Best of Show then, if I might ask?

Barbadou: The Juvenile Female Grand Champion, Juliet, was crowned Best of Show. [Barbadou speaking to Barbabella.] At least she was pretty.

Barbabella: Yes she was really pretty and so calm and had every right to take home the title Best of Show. Considering her age, I am sure we will hear of her again.

Reporter: Well, I have to say that you two are also very good looking hedgehogs. [Barbabella blushing and smiling and Barbadou giving a very satisfied look.] Thank you for taking the time to speak to me and best of luck to you two. May I offer you some meal worms?

Barbabella and Barbadou at the same time: Oh yes! Thank you! Much appreciated! [Barbadou grabs all the worms and runs.]

Barbabella [shouting and running after Barbadou]: Come back here Barbadou and give me some worms!

Barbadou [interrupting Barbabella]: Anyway, so there I was all nervous and excited at the same time when Mom told me not to be upset if I don’t win since I am the most beautiful hedgehog to her.
While hedgehog rescue work is rewarding, it is not for everyone. Doing rescue work of any kind involves a lot of time and commitment. Our experience running a hedgehog rescue station has brought both joy and heartache into our lives, not to mention vet bills and time consuming care for needy hedgehogs.

It brings joy in the fact that we are helping a hedgehog to find a better home or another good home. Sometimes the previous owners must give up their beloved pet hedgehog due to life changes. These hedgehogs are generally very well cared for and loved. Depending on the health and/or age of the hedgehog they may need special placement. We generally keep the elderly hedgehogs here at our rescue station and they are usually with us for a short time. About the time you are bonding well with them, they leave. Hedgehogs with health issues are taken to our vet’s office immediately or as soon as we can get them an appointment. We get them the medical care they need and arrange any follow up appointments. When they are well, we either keep them or place them in homes with experienced hedgehog owners. The joy is the reward of seeing them happy and seeing “the look” that says thanks.

Rescuing brings heartache due to the fact that some hedgehogs come from neglected homes and are a real mess. Some have many health issues and need a lot of vet care and home care. We have had hedgehogs here that, when they first arrived, could not be touched without them screaming the hedgie scream of death. That scream alone can break a person’s heart. Even with the best vet care and home care, some do not make it but at least they knew love before leaving.

Vet bills are another big part of rescue work. Costs can range from a wellness check to expensive vet care and medical treatments. We budget a set amount of dollars from each pay check for vet bills. Sometimes the vet cost is over what we have set aside.

We have taken in hedgehogs with a variety of health issues. We have had to invest a lot of time in socializing hedgehogs, caring for them during and after pregnancy, and spend many hours providing supportive care like giving sub-q fluids, syringe feeding, giving medications orally or subcutaneously, and other topical treatments.

Some of the cases are as follows.

An eight month old female hedgehog that was neglected and never received medical care came to us with bilateral inner ear infections along with a fungal infection on her outer ears. She had a very bad urinary tract infection which took months to clear up because she had lots of crystals in her bladder. She was missing part of her nose because the previous owner allowed cats to play with her. The cage that came with this hedgehog smelled foul due to piles of fecal waste and urine-clumped bedding. Her water bottle had green slimy water in it and the food in her dish had gotten wet and dried to a rock-hard clump. She is still living with us today. She still does not trust other people but loves to spend time with us and has a very sweet and loving personality.

Another case was a three-month-old female hedgehog that came to us very pregnant. Her full story is in an older HWS Newsletter. The short version is she tried to give birth a few days before actually giving birth to three babies. When she did actually give birth, it was a dry birth and the first baby was stuck. When I arrived home from work, I could hear the hedgie scream of death all the way outside where I park my vehicle. We lost one baby. The

Continues on page 22...
other two are still living and will turn three years old this year. The mom had many health issues which started when the babies were only 4 weeks old. We had the time-consuming care of not only the babies, but also the mom. We had to hand feed the babies and teach them how to eat. One learned really quickly and the other (which had been aggressively attacked by the mom) took a while to learn how to eat on its own. The one that was attacked has had some on-going health issues and lives with us. The other hedgehog baby was placed with two wonderful people with hedgehog experience. We lost the mom when she was ten months of age. She died in my arms at three in the morning due to a gastrointestinal bleed out.

The last case I will cover is the case of two little female albino hedgehogs. We were told they were healthy and they had no health issues. I was to get their living container with them. The lady handed me a small box about the size of a shoe box and said, "Here is their house and they are inside." When I got home, I brought them right into the bathroom for a bath, thank goodness. They had a mite infestation so bad we could see the mites crawling all over them! I touched the one little one who’s pink skin was fire engine red and she screamed the hedgehog scream of death. I gently bathed her and cleaned her ears which were packed full of wood shavings, debris and mites. Both hedgehogs were treated with Revolution immediately after their baths. The next day the one little one still screamed when touched even slightly. I called another person with hedgehog experience to get a second opinion. We thought for sure we would be helping the little one cross the Rainbow Bridge. On Monday I brought both hedgehogs to the vet’s office. After about two months with us, we placed them in a wonderful hedgehog-experienced home. Both hedgehogs are loved and cared for by two wonderful people. We had the privilege of seeing both hedgehogs at the Milwaukee Hedgehog Show in 2008.

I want to close my article with a few questions or thoughts to be kept in mind by people who may be considering becoming hedgehog rescue contacts or adopting a hedgehog.

Many people think if they become a rescue contact or adopt that they can get “free” hedgehogs. My question for you: Is the hedgehog really free?

Are you ready to commit to giving a small life the time and attention it needs on a daily basis?

Do you have a hedgehog-knowledgeable vet lined up and are you ready to spend the money needed for vet care?

We have had hedgehogs since 2003 and have been involved with hedgehog rescue since 2004. Our most expensive rescue was pregnant when she came to us and her vet bills averaged $424.00 per month. She was with us for seven short months. We would never think of breeding rescued hedgehogs, let alone turning over a rescued hedgehog to be bred. I firmly believe that people who do any kind of rescue work need to be responsible and accountable for their actions. They need to be committed to the animals under their care including taking the animal to an experienced and knowledgeable vet.

---

**I Want One**

I know that I am more cute than words alone describe. But before you say “I want one!” look deep inside. Are you sure you're ready to take on the responsibility Of doing what you'll need to do to take care of me?

Have you asked the questions so you know what is best? Or do you think it doesn't matter, like so many of the rest. If you are willing and you are able, and you do your part, I'll be your best friend. I'll love you with all my heart.

Do you know what I should eat and drink? How often? How much? Do you know what I shouldn't eat and stuff that I shouldn't touch? What type and size of house do I need, when and how do I sleep? What temperature should I feel? Do I growl, purr, chirp or peep?

And if I growl, purr, chirp or peep, am I happy, sad or mad? If I bite or pee or poo, is it normal behavior or am I being bad? Signs of sickness to look for? If I am sick, do you have a vet? Will I be one of your family, or just an animal, just a “pet”?

But if you don't have the answers, or don't want to know, Please don’t take me home with you, please just go. 'Cuz I'm safer right here, leave me where I'm at. I don't want to become a statistic, or a fact. One of those who is lost, forgotten or abused. One of those whose trust in mankind was used. If I'm lucky, I'll be rescued and adopted by one who sought. If not, I'll be euthanized, my life will have been for naught.

- Elizabeth Hatch Reichert 2007
Sheila Dempsey and I are on the Hedgehog Welfare Society Rescue Committee. Our duties include going through applications for hedgehog adoptions and also hedgehog rescue contacts. We are also involved with hedgehogs who are being relinquished and need to be placed in new homes.

We work together reviewing and following up all adoption applications before approving or rejecting them. We give applicants the final decision on their applications and recommend improvements they might consider implementing before taking in a hedgehog.

Together we also approve or reject application from people who wish to become hedgehog rescue contacts. We study all the available information and try to reach the best possible decision for each applicant. In addition, we follow up on any complaints concerning rescue contacts which are brought to our attention. There have been times when we have had to write to hedgehog contacts to inform them that they have been removed from the Hedgehog Welfare Society’s list of rescue contacts. We always include the reason, or reasons, why this step was taken and describe the follow-up investigation that was done.

Working closely with other members of the community, we arrange placements for hedgehogs that are being relinquished. This involves reviewing all the applications in the geographical area where a hedgehog is available and contacting both the current owner and potential new owners to obtain permission to release their private contact information. Some placements go smoothly. Others become complicated if the owner does not approve any of the available applicants. Both Sheila and I have taken in hedgehogs that were difficult to place.

At this writing, we are still in the process of reviewing adoption applications in our files. Soon we will be sending e-mails to all applicants to find out if they are still interested in adopting a hedgehog and if their contact information is up to date.

Sheila and I both feel strongly about finding the best possible homes for hedgehogs. A lot of time and effort goes into keeping adoption applications, rescue contact information, and “do not adopt” files current.
RESULTS

JUVENILE MALE

Standard (1 entry)
1st - Canoe......Katie Peters

Pinto (2 entries)
1st - Hornswoggle.......Gunnar Doyle
2nd - Gideon................Hannah Goerner

Grand Champion Juvenile Male (2 entries)
Grand Champion – Hornswoggle . . . . Gunnar Doyle
Grand Champion Reserve – Canoe . . . . Katie Peters

ADULT MALE

Standard (4 entries)
1st Pistol Pete........Heather Marshall
2nd Winceton..........Beth Hatch
3rd Mace...............Beth Hatch

Snowflake (2 entries)
1st Barbadou........Martina Weihs
2nd Igor...............Skylor Moyer

White (1 entry)
1st Frazor............Beth Hatch

Pinto (2 entries)
1st Wedgie........Beth Hatch
2nd Bristles.............Colby Wold

Grand Champion Adult Male
Grand Champion – Barbadou . . . Martina Weihs
Reserve Grand Champion – Wedgie . . . Beth Hatch

JUVENILE FEMALE

Standard (1 entry)
1st Coconut........Ashley Tanski

White (1 entry)
1st Yeti...............Adrienne Zicht

Pinto (1 entry)
1st Juliet........Hannah Goerner

Grand Champion Juvenile Female
Grand Champion – Juliet . . . Hannah Goerner
Reserve Grand Champion – Yeti . . . Adrienne Zicht

ADULT FEMALE

Standard (4 entries)
1st Barbabella.......Martina Weihs
2nd Diesel..............Adrienne Zicht
3rd Jabitha........Beth Hatch

Apricot (2 entries)
1st Juniper..........Hannah Goerner
2nd Sunshine........Beth Copper

Snowflake (1 entry)
1st Gigi.............Martina Weihs

White (1 entry)
1st Velma........Diana Darling

Albino (1 entry)
1st Jacquilline.....Beth Hatch

Pinto (3 entries)
1st Harlequin.........Adrienne Zicht
2nd Crimefighter......Sheila Dempsy
3rd Chance............Sheila Dempsy

Grand Champion Adult Female
Grand Champion – Barbabella . . . Martina Weihs
Reserve Grand Champion – Gigi . . . Martina Weihs

BEST OF SHOW (4 entries)
Best of Show – Juliet . . . Hannah Goerner
Reserve Best of Show – Barbabella . . . Martina Weihs

Congratulations!