We arrived at the Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show on Thursday October 1. The drive into Colorado Springs was beautiful with the sun setting behind the mountains. Those who arrived Thursday evening went out to dinner together and had a good time meeting people.

Friday everyone had free time until about 4 PM. Jeanne Robtoy gave a talk on the International Hedgehog Registry and the importance of registering your hedgehog. She also did a wonderful job answering questions. Then the costume contest was held with many hedgies showing off their cute costumes. Even Quill got into the act.

On Saturday the first Conformation Show was held. There were many beautiful hedgehogs to be judged.

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The Garden of The Gods and many people toured the Gardens and admired the beautiful scenery.

Standing Bear gave a talk about the Kings and Queens and as always was very interesting. The people who were staying overnight on Sunday gathered together for one last meal together before everyone left for home.

Lunch was wonderful and again there was time to meet and talk with other hedgehog people. Floyd Aprill presented information about the point system used for the shows. The agility contests were also held. Dinner was served at 5:30 and was followed by the Rainbow Bridge Ceremony. The closure of the silent auction was followed by the live auction. Those brave enough were allowed to share the mealworms with the hedgies.

Sunday the second Conformation Show was held and again many beautiful hedgehogs were competing.
Tina Winchell, National City, Michigan

How and when did you get your first hedgehog?
I got Snowball on January 15, 2007. At work I had a picture of a hedgie sitting in a scale. I got interested in hedgies from that picture and told Dale I wanted one. Dale, being the patient hubby that he is, found me a hedgie. Snowball came from a pet store in Saginaw.

What made you want to do rescue?
I'm not sure how I got into rescue, it wasn't a conscious decision. Hedgies needed a home and I gave it to them. I haven't had a real heartbreaker rescue yet but I'm sure it's gonna happen.

What do you do for a living?
I work in the parts department of a car dealership. I have been here for 10 1/2 years. I have been interested in cars since I was old enough to know what a Corvette was.

Tell us something great about where you live.
I live in the boonies of north-eastern Michigan. It was a big deal when we got a Wal-Mart a few years ago. It is a small town where everyone knows you. I think I have become known as the crazy hedgie lady. Of course my hubby has become known as the crazy snake man. He has three right now.

Tell us something about your family.
My dad was a 20 year navy man. When he retired, he and mom moved back to their farm near their home town. My sister, brother, and I were raised on the farm having, riding horses, and driving tractors. I was notorious for bringing home strays even then.

What is your favorite rescue story?
My favorite rescue story was Bubba Grump. He was in a pet store and the guy told me he was a two year old who wasn't very friendly. I couldn't get any one to wait on me and finally left. I spent the whole night feeling upset. The next day I was on the phone when they opened and paid for him over the phone since I was an hour and a half away. They told me they were selling him as we spoke. On a hunch I asked if the purchaser looked like Grizzly Adams with dark hair. Dale was in there buying Bubba Grump for me!
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

Cocoa Marie Bennett

Alice Myhre in “Attack of the Teazels”

Want to see your Hedgie in the newsletter?

Send your photos in now so that they can be used in future issues.

Daisy Mae Bennett

Alice Myhre gets ready for the holidays.

Happy Hanukah!

SPCA Grant
By Sheila Dempsey & Donnasue Graesser

On August 18, 2009 the Hedgehog Welfare Society received an email from Jennifer McKim of the SPCA International in Washington, D.C. It said we had been nominated to receive a grant and to please call to give more information about our organization.

I called Ms. McKim and within a couple of days was able to supply her with the information she was looking for, including about 10 pictures of hedgehogs to use when we are featured as their “Shelter of the Week.” They also wanted to know how many members we have (over 700, around the globe!) and how many rescues we do a year. Based on the Rescue & Rehome Surveys that are submitted, we average 135 rescues a year. I also told them that we have just over 70 Rescue Stations across the U.S. and Canada.

On September 19, 2009 the HWS received a letter from the Executive Director for the SPCA International. The letter read:

Congratulations, out of thousands of organizations you have been nominated and approved. We are honoring the Hedgehog Welfare Society through SPCA International’s Shelter Program. Enclosed you will find a grant check in the amount of $1000. The grant is being given in recognition of the outstanding work that your organization is accomplishing, and to support your continued efforts improving the lives of animals in your community.... All of us here at SPCA International applaud your tireless efforts.

Imagine all the hedgehogs we can help with this funding! Thank you to the SPCA International for recognizing that rescuing hedgehogs is important work. Congratulations to all the hedgehog rescuers out there who will benefit from this grant.

Sometime soon we will be featured as the Shelter of the Week on their website – www.spcai.org. Keep a look out for that exciting event!
As a life-long volunteer, I was interested to read the other day that nationally nearly 62 million people volunteered their time in 2008. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that oversees service programs, that’s up by 1 million from 2007. Perhaps you were one of the 62 million?

What hits your hot button? Food pantry? Youth organization? Animal rights? Religious organization? Environmental? Perhaps you partake in one of the national call to service days such as President Obama’s call to volunteer on September 11th, or USA Weekend’s Make A Difference Day on October 24th. USA Weekend has 48 million readers and is published in 700 newspapers nationwide. Or is it a community call for volunteers - - perhaps as part of a United Way campaign - - that get’s you out of the house and doing for others? Another way to help is to pick up your checkbook to help fund a worthy cause. There isn’t an organization in the world that doesn’t need funds!

Volunteering is a good thing. It nurtures one’s soul and makes us better people. But often it’s something we need to plan for. That 3 hour shift every Thursday night or that Saturday morning twice a month has to be blocked out on our calendar. What more could we be doing on a daily basis to make our society a better place to live?

I have an idea! I’d like to encourage everyone reading this to start practicing Random Acts of Kindness (RAK). Random means no pre-planning in our already busy lives so it’s a perfect fit. Here are a few things that I think qualify as RAKs: letting that driver, who didn’t merge back when they should have, cut in to line in front of you with a friendly wave (I mean really, what’s another 20 feet?); holding the door open for others; picking up trash while walking out to your car; saying hello to strangers. Simply having more patience with others we deal with would count.

I find our hedgehog community to be an extremely generous and empathetic group of individuals. Each of us has the power to make a positive impact each and every day. I challenge you to do so.

On another note, I’d like to take this opportunity, on behalf of everyone of the Board of Directors, to wish each and every one of you a prickly-free holiday season and a blessed new year!

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Roast Hedgehog Potatoes (Perfect for Thanksgiving Dinner)

Looking for a way to perk up meals at your house? Hedgehog potatoes, also known as hasselback potatoes, are easy and inexpensive to prepare. All you need are two dozen smallish potatoes—about the size of an egg, seasoning, and olive oil, melted butter or margarine.

Preheat the oven to 375°. While it’s warming up, wash the potatoes. Peel them if you wish, or just leave the skin on. Cut a series of crosswise slices into the each potato. The slices should be about ¼ inch apart. Stop about one quarter inch short of cutting through the potato. Some recipes suggest putting the potato in a large spoon while you slice it. The spoon will prevent you from slicing all the way through the potato.

Open the slices enough to put seasoning between the sections. The seasoning could be garlic slices, pieces of bay leaf, or sprigs of thyme or rosemary.

Put the potatoes in a roasting pan just large enough to hold them. Drizzle melted margarine, butter or olive oil over the potatoes and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Some recipes call for cayenne pepper.

Place the roasting pan in the hot oven and allow to bake for 45 minutes to an hour. Baste them occasionally with the fat until they are crisp and brown.
It was a beautiful morning in late summer. The sun was shining, the grain was waving in the breeze, the lark was singing in the clear blue sky, and the bees were buzzing about the flowers.

All things seemed happy, even the hedgehog, standing at his door, singing a hedgehog song. Indoors his wife was washing and dressing the children.

“I will go and see how our turnips are getting on,” said the hedgehog to himself. The turnips grew in a field near by. He and his family ate them and looked upon them as their own.

He shut the house door and off he started. He had not gone far when he met a hare. The hare had come to see how the cabbages were growing.

“Good morning,” said the hedgehog.

Now the hare was rude, and bad tempered, too. He did not even say good morning.

“What are you doing in the field so early?” he asked rudely.

“I am taking a walk for pleasure,” said the hedgehog.

“Taking a walk for pleasure!” laughed the hare. “I should think it would be all your crooked legs could do to carry you where you need to go.”

These words made the hedgehog very angry. He hated most of all things to have anyone speak of his crooked legs.

“Do you think that your legs are better than mine?” he asked.

“Of course they are better,” said the hare.

“Let us put it to the test,” said the hedgehog. “I am sure if we run a race I shall win.”

“What a joke!” laughed the hare. “Do you really think that you can beat me in a race? If you can, I will give you a bright new gold piece.”

“Agreed,” said the hedgehog.

“Let us start at once,” said the hare, “and run across this field.”

“Oh, no,” answered the hedgehog. “There is no need for such haste. I will go home first and have breakfast. In half an hour I will be back.”

The hare agreed to wait, and off went the hedgehog. When he got home he called his wife.

“Wife, wife,” he said, “come at once to the field with me. I am to run a race with the hare and a new gold piece is the prize.”

“Have you lost your senses?” asked Mrs. Hedgehog.

“Why, the hare can beat you without trying.”

“Say not a word,” said her husband. “Come with me, and I will show you how I mean to win.”

As they walked along he said, “See that large field. The race is to be across it. The hare will run in one furrow and I in another. You must hide yourself in a furrow at the end of the field. I will start in the same furrow at the other end. When the hare comes near, pop up your head and say, “Here I am!”

The Hedgehog now left his wife and went to the place where the hare was waiting.

“Do you really mean to race with me?” asked the hare, with a rude laugh.

“Yes, indeed,” said the hedgehog. “I am ready now to start.”

Each placed himself in a furrow. The hare counted, “One, two, three,-- go!” And away he went like the wind. The hedgehog ran only a few steps. Then he lay down in the furrow and kept quite still.

Soon the hare, at full speed, drew near the end of the field. Then the hedgehog’s wife raised her head and cried, “Here I am.”

The hare stood still in wonder. The wife was so like the husband that he did not doubt it was Mr. Hedgehog. Still he thought, There is something wrong about this.” So he cried, “Let us race back to the other end of the field.”

Away he ran so fast that his ears flew behind his tail. Soon he reached the other end of the field. There was the hedgehog. When he saw the hare coming, he cried, “Here I am.”

The hare was more puzzled and angry than ever.

“Let us try it again,” he panted.

“Very well,” said the hedgehog, “I will keep on as long as you wish.”

The hare ran again and again. Up and down, down and up the field he went. At one end the hedgehog said, “Here I am.” At the other end his wife said the same.

At last the hare was too tired to run any longer. He fell to the ground and owned that he had lost the race.

The hedgehog took the bright gold piece. Then he called his wife out of the furrow and they went home. And if they are not dead, they are living still.

Fire Up for Wheelathon 2010!

Donnasue Graesser

What the heck is a Wheelathon? The Wheelathon is an annual fundraising event organized by the Hedgehog Welfare Society. Participants solicit pledges for the event based on their hedgies’ wheeling activities.

When is the Wheelathon 2010? The event is always held on the night of Hedgehog Day, February 2.

How much does my hedgie have to wheel to collect pledges? It doesn’t matter how far or how fast your hedgie wheels. It’s the enthusiasm for wheeling and fundraising for hedgies that counts.

Who do I collect pledges from? You can collect pledges from coworkers, friends, family, your veterinarians office, or even other members in the hedgehog community.

Are the pledges tax deductible? YES! The HWS is a federally recognized 501(c)3 organization, and as such all donations are tax deductible. Just request a receipt on the pledge form, and one will be sent.

How much may people pledge? Anywhere from one cent to a million dollars and anywhere in between. Every penny adds up to help hedgehogs in need.

What is our Incentive to wheel? Besides raising money for a good cause, the top wheelers receive nifty prizes. Last year, so many prizes were donated that everyone got a prize, and some folks got several prizes. In addition, anyone raising over $100 gets a cool T-shirt with the Wheelathon 2010 logo.

How do I get more information and pledge forms? Just keep your eyes open on the hedgehogwelfare yahoo group for more information. You can also write to donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu to find out more about Wheelathon 2010.

Submitted by Margaret Myhre.

Lucy Laughs

You just read the tale of “The Hare and the Hedgehog”, now see if you can put this puzzle together.