Did you know that three of the fourteen known species of hedgehogs in the world live in China? They are the Daurian hedgehog (Mesechinus dauuricus), and Hugh's hedgehog (Mesechinus hughi).

The Amur or Manchurian hedgehog (Erinaceus amurensis) lives in northeast China, Manchuria and the Korean peninsula. It is 12 to 15 inches long and weighs 700 to 1,000 grams. It has two different kinds of quills. One kind is entirely white. The other kind has white or yellowish-brown basal and terminal bands plus a brown middle band.

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Together these colors give the hedgehog a brownish-gray appearance.

The Amur hedgehog can be found in several kinds of habitats including farm land, deciduous forests, steppes and sub-alpine forests. It is nocturnal, feeds on insects, worms and other invertebrates, and hibernates during the winter.

The Daurian hedgehog (*Mesechinus dauuricus*), is found in the eastern Gobi Desert region from Lake Baikal to northern China. This hedgehog has faintly grooved, brown banded quills. It is eight to eleven inches long and its weight ranges from 450 to 700 grams. Its ears are large enough to be seen above the spines.

A study of the Daurian hedgehog conducted by the Ilkh Nart Nature Reserve in Mongolia revealed that the Daurian hedgehogs’ day-time nests are usually located at the base of shrubs or in rocky out-crops. Their diets consist mostly of beetles, cockroaches and grasshoppers. Analysis of their droppings revealed that they occasionally consume birds, reptiles and small rodents (Murdoch).

Hugh’s hedgehog (*Mesechinus hughi*), also known as the Central Chinese hedgehog, lives in the Shaanxi and Shanxi provinces in central China. It is named after the Reverend Father Hugh Scallan, a missionary and botanist who lived in central China at the end of the 19th century.

Very little is known about its population status, biology and ecology, habitat status, and threats to its survival. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources list Hugh’s hedgehog as vulnerable due to over harvesting in the areas it is known to occupy. *The Hedgehog’s Dilemma* by Hugh Warwick tells the story of the author’s search for Hugh’s hedgehog in China.

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Continued on page 3
These chestnuts in their spiny husks were photographed by Elaine Becker during a recent visit to Thomas Jefferson’s home, Monticello, just outside Charlottesville, Virginia.

Continued from page 2


One of the decisions that must be made when you acquire a hedgehog is how you will provide drinking water for your pet. A survey conducted by the Hedgehog Welfare Society in 2005 and published in *HWS Newsletter #18* revealed that 62% of hedgehog households preferred water dishes or bowls, 23% used water bottles, and 15% offered their hedgehogs a combination of water dishes and bottles. It should be noted that there have been reports of hedgehogs chipping teeth or even getting their tongues stuck while drinking from bottle tubes. Here is a look at some of the small animal water bowls and bottles that are currently available.

Round ceramic bowls such as the one shown here are available at most pet supply stores. You may find them with the reptile supplies. The bowls are squatty and fairly heavy which makes it difficult (although not impossible) for a hedgehog to flip them over. They are available in various colors and in several sizes ranging from 2.5 to 4 inches in diameter. $1.99 to $3.99 at Petco.

*Small Animal Kingdom* plastic, tip-resistant dishes are available in a variety of colors. Although they are much lighter than the ceramic dishes their wide base makes it difficult to tip them over.

A sturdier version of the tip-resistant plastic dish is the *All Living Things® Nibble Bowl*. It does not have the little nose-shaped grooves featured on the model above and this may increase its resistance to tipping. Available in three sizes: Small: 3”L x 3”W x 1.5”H., Medium: 4.5”L x 4.5”W x 1.75”H, and Large: 6”L x 6”W x 2”H. $.99 to $2.49 at PetSmart.

The *Locking Smart Crock* should resolve dish tipping issues IF the hedgehog is residing in a cage with bars. Its patented built-in fastener can straddle a single vertical or horizontal bar or it can fit between two parallel bars. It can be tightened into place with the attached knob. The dishwasher safe crock has a capacity of three ounces and measures 3.25” by 2.25” by 1.25”. $3.99 at Doctors Foster and Smith

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The Super Pet Small Animal Hang-N-Lock Corner Crock is advertised as the first food bowl specifically designed for small animals. Two specially designed brackets secure the bowl to any wire cage. It can be detached for cleaning and refilling. It is dishwasher safe and available in several colors. At 6"L x 5"W x 3"H it is so large your hedgehog might mistake it for a hot tub.

A customer review for this item complained that the corner crock did not lock very securely on a cage with horizontal bars. The customer’s ferrets were able to detach it!

$9.98 at Amazon

The Lixit Flip-Top Bottle is designed to fit on cages with bars. The PET plastic, BPA-free bottle comes with a flip-top lid and is flattened on the side that comes in contact with the cage wall for a more secure fit. Graduated markings on the bottle make monitoring water intake easy. The set includes a removable bungee holder to secure the water bottle to cages with horizontal bars. The bottle features a stainless steel, lever-action drinking tip. I found no information regarding how hedgehogs fared using this tip.

Available in 10, 20 and 32 ounce sizes ranging in price from $12.99 to $21.99 at Doctors Foster and Smith.

One container that is actually advertised as being suitable for hedgehogs is the Oasis 4 Oz. Bell Bottle Value Pack. It features a break-resistant plastic water bottle and a metal holder that holds the bottle securely. An adjustable strap that can be hung over the top of most aquariums and wire cages is also included. The set comes with a five-year guarantee from the manufacturer.

This set received a very favorable review from a hedgehog owner who had this to say:

"This is the perfect size for my hedgehogs! 8 oz bottle nozzles were too big so when they would drink, some would go up their noses and they would have sneezing fits. However, my little boy likes to bang around his cage with various toys and makes the water drip. My little girl is less rambunctious and hers doesn't drip at all."


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I am writing this article to make people aware that gas should be used only when absolutely necessary. There is always a risk and no one, not even your vet, knows how the animal will react to the gas. Here are some points to consider:

1. Does my hedgehog really have to have gas for this procedure or is it being used for the convenience of the staff?
2. How long will my hedgehog need to be under for this procedure?
3. What are the side effects I should monitor for after bringing my pet home?
4. How long will I need to monitor my pet?
5. What type of gas is being used?

I am sure there are a lot more questions that may come to mind but my point is that gas should be used ONLY when absolutely necessary.

So far, we have had two hedgehogs that had reactions to ISO gas. Cuddles' reaction was mild compared to Cocoa Marie's reaction. We almost lost both to their first exposure to ISO gas.

While Cuddles was very slow to recover from the gas and had mobility issues for about 4 hours afterwards, Cocoa Marie’s reaction was more severe. Like Cuddles, Cocoa Marie had to have gas for a procedure. She needed to have blood work before her spay. We had the option to have the blood work done on the day of the spay but something told me to have the blood work done beforehand. I am glad I went with my gut feeling because no one was prepared for what happened.

Cocoa went in for her blood work at 9:40 AM on Oct 19th. She was under for about 10 minutes. When the vet started to wake her up she was unresponsive. After about 30 minutes she started to move a little while I was holding her. She looked like she had passed away multiple times during the

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two hours we were at the vet’s. The vet allowed her to go home once she was more alert and told me to monitor her closely. I checked on Cocoa frequently and our vet called nearly every hour to follow up on her. Around 2:15 PM I decided to get some sleep because I had to work that night and Cocoa seemed to have recovered. There was just the tiniest spot at the blood draw site.

When I woke up at 5:00 PM the first thing I did was check on Cocoa Marie. She was swollen from her lower jaw down to the front of her chest. I called the vet’s office and told them what had happened and that I was bringing her in ASAP. The person answering the phone said it was probably a hematoma.

Upon arrival at the vet’s office, I showed Cocoa Marie to one of the vet techs who immediately whisked her into the back room. When the tech came out I was told that Cocoa would be spending the night because the vets were concerned about her ability to breathe and swallow. I went home to get Cocoa’s sleep area stuff, food and dishes. The staff monitored her closely over night. I am so glad our vets have 24 hour vet care!

The next morning when I picked her up, the swelling had gone down a lot and there was just a hint of a bruise. The vets told us that if we had done the blood work on the day of the spay, we most likely would have lost her.

Two days later I took a picture of the bruise and the area that was still swollen. Five days later the bruise was black. It actually looked necrotic. We were still faced with the fact that she needed to be spayed. Our vets were all worried because this put Cocoa Marie at a very high risk for surgery. The surgery was going to have to be as short as possible and would be done with Sevo, a different kind of gas.

Cocoa was spayed on November 17th and came through the surgery just fine. She woke up fairly quickly with no side effects or reactions to Sevo. She still had a bruise under her chin. The day after her spay she was back at the vet’s office because she was chewing and scratching her abdominal area raw. Amazingly her incision was still intact and the vet was able to close the worst parts of the wound with glue. She was put on additional medication for comfort and is now doing fine.
As we read this, many of us may be recovering from New Year’s festivities and writing down our resolutions for the coming year. Others may be planning to celebrate Chinese New Year which begins on February third this year and ends on the full moon fifteen days later.

Although this will be the Year of the Rabbit, traditional New Years food in China and Thailand includes steamed, filled buns known as bao, bau or baozi which are often shaped like hedgehogs because they are thought to be carriers of good luck. Their pointy spines protect them from danger and may also be useful for trapping paper money!

In some Asian households, two little hedgehog bao are placed in the doorway on the night before the New Year begins. Their faces are turned toward the inside of the home in the hope that the hedgehogs will bring good luck to the family within.

Several recipes for bao are available on the Internet. Including one from a cooking site called Anyrecipe.net. This link will take you to their recipe for Chinese steamed buns:

http://www.anyrecipe.net/asian/recipes/chinese_bun.html

Another recipe is available from Wikibooks at:

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Cookbook:Baozi

An excellent video which shows exactly how a ball of dough can be turned into a hedgehog is available on YouTube at this link:

http://youtu.be/G0_UK1lajfk
Thoughts from the CVO

The HWS election has just recently concluded. To those that participated in the election, thank you!

I’d like to thank those that ran for a position but were not elected. Your willingness to roll up your sleeves and get involved in the hedgehog community is greatly appreciated. I hope that you are not discouraged by the election results and that you will continue to be active participants in our hedgehog community (and to consider running again for a position).

I’d like to welcome Linda Woodring back to the Board in the roll of Vice-CVO

To outgoing Board member Anne Traylor, I would like to offer my deepest thanks and appreciation for the job that you’ve done during the past two years. As many of you are probably aware, Anne lives in Dallas. The Tumbleweed rescue would not have been possible without Anne’s hard work. In addition to her hard work at the rescue facility, her dedication to housing and caring for the hedgehogs that were too young to travel, for weeks and weeks in her own home, is to be admired by us all. Thank you Anne!

And lastly, to all the Board members of the HWS, thank you all. It is my great pleasure to work with each of you.

Happy New Year Everyone!

Deb Weaver
selves and drift off again. Squirrel suggests singing as a means of staying awake. Soon they are belting out sea shanties at the top of their lungs!

This awakens a disheveled, haggard looking bear. Bear realizes that there will be no rest until Squirrel and Hedgehog have seen snow. Thinking quickly, considering his condition, he asks: What if the first snowflake has already fallen? What if it’s lying around somewhere? What if it’s already winter?

All three start looking through the forest for something that is white and wet and cold and soft.

Hedgehog finds a white, wet, cold toothbrush! He imagines the night sky filled with hundreds of dropping toothbrushes. Winter will be wonderful!

Squirrel finds a discarded tin can that is white and cold and even a little wet on the inside. Wearing it over his head he rushes off to find his friends as he imagines tin cans dropping from the sky.

When they find Bear, he reminds them that these things can’t be snowflakes. They are white, wet and cold but not soft at all. Proudly he displays the white gym sock he found in the forest. The three friends sit in a circle gazing at the sock in anticipation of winter.

Just as they are drifting off to sleep, a real snowflake lands on Bear’s nose. The friends look at it in astonishment. Soon the lone flake is joined by thousands of actual snowflakes filling the dark blue night sky. Hedgehog, Bear and Squirrel build their first snowman before falling asleep in an exhausted heap. The last page shows Squirrel stretched out behind Bear’s ear, while Hedgehog (beetle and leaf still attached) nestles into the thick fur on Bear’s neck.

This beautiful book successfully captures a child’s feeling of wonder and excitement upon seeing the first snow of the year.

Sebastian Meschenmoser is a gifted creator of children’s books who lives and works in Frankfurt, Germany. Waiting for Winter is the second of his creations to be translated into English. It is a gentle story about three animals who decide to postpone their annual hibernation so that they can see snow for the first time.

Deer has explained that snow is “white and wet and cold and soft.” This is enough to inspire Squirrel to stay awake and wait for it. He perches eagerly on the end of a bare tree branch, his head raised in anticipation. He is a rumpled, rust-colored squirrel amid a pencil-sketched forest of bare trees and stumps. Squirrel waits and waits and waits. His head begins to droop and soon he is stretched out on his tummy with his chin resting on the branch. In an effort to stay awake he resorts to exercise racing frantically up and down the tree.

The commotion awakens Hedgehog who has just settled into a nest of dry leaves under a tree root. He emerges from his nest. Leaves are impaled on his quills and a red beetle is exploring his backside. Now that he’s awake, Hedgehog decides he’d like to see snow too! He joins Squirrel on the tree branch. Side by side, they slowly drift off to sleep, wake themselves and drift off again. Squirrel suggests singing as a means of staying awake. Soon they are belting out sea shanties at the top of their lungs!

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Waiting for Winter  By Sebastian Meschenmoser. Kane Miller Publishers, 2009  978-1935279044
This section of the Hedgehog Welfare Society Newsletter exists to present the most unusual and bizarre ways in which the word “hedgehog” can be used to describe an animal, a plant, a fungus, or anything else that in some way inspires a comparison to our quilly friends. In this issue, Hedgehog Trivia has reached new heights with coverage of the band Hedgehog!

Founded in January, 2005, Hedgehog was a power pop, indie rock band from Beijing, China. The band consisted of three members. Guitarist and vocalist Zo energized the group by slashing out chords while jumping, twirling and even falling over. Box, the group’s bass player, held the songs together with tight bass rhythms. Percussionist and vocalist Atom was described as “a tiny girl who just barely peeps over the top of her drum kit but who bangs out rhythms like a monster possessed” (Charlie). By 2007, the group, which was known for its song-writing skills, had become one of the most popular rock groups in China.

In March of 2009, Hedgehog released their album Blue Daydreaming. An online review of the album, which appeared in the blog Layaboz, describes the band’s sound as “friendly, well produced melodies creating a catchy rock that will keep you hung on your speakers (Dupuis).”

A review in BC Magazine had this to say about the album:

From the melodic, neat and bitter title track Blue Daydreaming together with Tree and Christmas Ends to the stripped-down and dark Fat Girl Thinks and Waiting For The Last Bus, drummer Atom, guitarist and vocals Zo and bassist Box have shown how much the trio has grown in maturity yet remains true to their high-energy noise-pop/post-punk sound in 24 Hours Rock Party and Pseudomorph. Continued on page 12
Shaun Randol, Founder and Editor in Chief of the web

In Hedgehog I hear hints of Beach Boys surf rock mixed with trippy, loopy, infusions of Dengue Fever. Throw in some Chinese lyrics and you have yourself a premier Chinese indie rock trio. Their set alternated between melodic hypnotization and rock and roll bounce. Hedgehog performed "Toy & 61 Festival" flawlessly before seamlessly bleeding into “Love Tosh”—the mostly Chinese crowd took this part of the set in stride, but I wanted to jump through walls it was so good. This was the point when the band seemed to come alive. The crowd eventually caught on, lit up, and bounced around a little more.

A video of Hedgehog performing 24 Hour Rock Party, a song from their second album, is available online at:

http://mtviggy.com/content/42562

This '80s style rock video appeared on YouTube in January, 2008:

http://youtu.be/XSI8SCwiw_8

Another sample, shows off Atom's drum technique during Hedgehog's appearance at the Modern Sky Festival in October of 2008.

http://youtu.be/FMe1YWdxVco

Sadly, Hedgehog met its demise with the departure of Box in January, 2010. The two remaining members of the group, Atom and Zo, immediately formed a new group, B-side Lovers. They have made it clear that their new band will not be performing any of the material recorded by Hedgehog.

Albums by Hedgehog:

Happy Idle Kid
Noise Hit World
Blue Daydreaming

Sources:


Hedgehog Skeleton

Skeleton drawing from:
THE BIRTHDAY BUNCH

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS
Jan. 1  Cactus Denny
Jan. 1  Herisson Ford Denny

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS
Feb. 15  Waylon Denny
Feb. 15  Willie Denny
Feb. 15  Tiegan Sikorski
Feb. 17  Gromit Woodring
Feb. 19  Cassie Ernst

Cyndy Bennett’s Girls sent this photo of their beautiful Christmas tree.

Prince Caspian, AKA Casper, snuggles with Amy Warnke.
Nick and Daisie

Daisie’s naptime

Daisie loves Nick

Nick loves Daisie

Whispering Secrets

Nick hugging Daisie

A good place to annoint

These photographs were submitted by Terri Pearce who lives in Ontario, Canada.