Hedgehogs in Egypt

Two species of hedgehogs are found in Egypt: The Long-eared Hedgehog (Hemiechinus auritus) and the Ethiopian Hedgehog (Paraechinus aethiopicus).

The Long-eared Hedgehog, pictured above, has pale brown fur and no spines in the facial area. The snout is long and pointed. The distinctive large ears are rounded, translucent and whitish. It has a short tail and it's belly is white and often tinged with yellow.

There are two sub-species of Long-eared Hedgehogs: Hemiechinus auritus aegyptius and Hemiechinus auritus libycus. The latter, libycus,
Continued from page 1

is found across the Mediterranean coastal desert and on the western edge of the Delta. *Libycus* is somewhat paler in color than *Aegyptius* and has a shorter tail. *Aegyptius* is found in North Sinai, the Delta and on both sides of the Nile Valley.

Long-eared Hedgehogs are often found in places where there are human settlements. They prefer gardens, farms, and buildings. They also like salt marshes and areas of dense coastal vegetation. They are nocturnal and excavate their own burrows where they stay during the heat of the day. Their burrows may be as much as 150 centimeters deep and are often located under small bushes. The burrows usually have one entrance and one occupant except during breeding season.

Unlike other varieties of hedgehogs, Long-eared Hedgehogs do not roll themselves into a ball when threatened. Instead they growl and make hissing noises like a cat!

Pictured on page 3, the Desert, or Ethiopian, Hedgehog (*Paraechinus aethiopicus*) can weigh as much as a pound and measures 7 to 10 inches in length. It has an extended snout and its ears are wide at the base and extend beyond the spines. The face may be dark or may have a dark chin, throat and snout with a lighter, contrasting color on the forehead and sides of the face. The tail is short. The spines are light brown with two dark bands and the legs are dark brown. It’s belly is covered with a mix of soft black, brown and white fur.

This hedgehog is widely distributed throughout northern Africa including Morocco, Mauritania, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia as well as the Middle East and most parts of the Arabian Peninsula. *Paraechinus aethiopicus* lives in desert and dry steppe regions and particularly likes wadis (ravines or valleys that are dry except during the rainy season) where food is more plentiful. It is nocturnal and usually sleeps in its burrow during the hottest part of the day. It digs its own burrow, often locating it under thick shrubbery.

Like other hedgehogs, the Ethiopian Hedgehog eats grubs, insects, the eggs of ground-nesting birds and scorpions. It is thought to be more carnivorous than other hedgehogs and may eat chicks and smaller vertebrates.

Both Desert Hedgehogs and Long-eared Hedgehogs breed once a year—usually in July through September. Long-eared Hedgehogs average one to four babies per litter while Desert Hedgehogs may have as many as

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six in a litter. The gestation period of Long-Eared Hedgehogs is 35 to 42 days while that of Desert Hedgehogs is 30 to 40 days. Long-Eared hedgie babies are weaned in a month, Desert hedgie babies in 40 days.

Both varieties hibernate during the colder months and may also enter a state similar to hibernation during the hottest months or when food is in short supply.

Sources:


This year’s Eastern States Hedgehog Show was held in Ithaca, New York. Ithaca is located in the Finger Lakes region, famed for waterfalls. Hubby Quentin loves waterfalls so that made it easier to talk him into joining us! We were accompanied by Speedy, QE2, Davy and Hedwig. A welcome packet was awaiting us at the hotel. Put together by hostess Heather Marshall, it included maps and pamphlets that made it easier to find the best local things to see.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature made getting there in a timely manner impossible with a downpour so heavy the windshield wipers couldn’t go fast enough. So we missed the Friday evening festivities. The heavy rain also meant my hedgies did not get a rest break during the long drive. They were more upset about having to “mess the nest” than they were about not getting dinner on time. But eventually everyone got lots of mealies and settled into their travel bins at the hotel for the night.

We arrived at the show early the next day, I got first crack at the silent auction stuff! Thanks to all who sent items, there were lots of really interesting things to bid on. There were some hotly contested items with the bidding going until the last minute. When the judge, Martina, arrived, I got my hedgies checked in and started setting up for the Spa Day demo later in the morning.

The first event of the day was a presentation on hedgehog diseases which was presented by Dr. James Morrissey from Cornell Vet School. There was discussion on heart failure, respiratory issues and various infections in hedgehogs. As many of us have learned, hedgehogs are nicknamed “tumor factories” by some vets. Davy, an elderly male, one of the 4 hedgies who accompanied me to the show, was 10 days out from having a tumor removed. Dr. Morrissey thought my vet had done beautiful work. A couple of vet students, who had come along to meet the hedgies, also admired Davy’s scar.

Next came the Spa Day demonstration. My unlucky bathee was Hedwig. As a dark-eyed white who loves to anoint, his quills constantly need to be cleaned! Then a problem arose – no warm water. Can’t give a hedgie a bath in cold water! But there was a microwave & some coffee cups – so the presentation went on after a short delay. This meant the first thing to be discussed was proper water temperature. I surprised people by using a spray can of cooking oil, but explained that it helps the oil spread out more evenly, so you don’t get a hedgie with slippery spots and dry spots. A gentle soap and soft toothbrush took care of scrubbing off Hedwig’s anointing spots and poop boots. Then we moved on to the nail clipping demonstration. Using a forearm to pin him into a corner, and that hand to pull up a foot, the other hand can then be used to clip. It’s Continued on page 5
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... easier to NOT clip too short on back toes if the foot is pulled out behind them, so it's seen from the bottom. Clip only the clear white part, avoiding the area where the pink starts. A hand towel got most of the water off Hedwig, and I used a second dry towel to cuddle him dry. Worm bribes calmed the ruffled pride!

With a little time before lunch, we let Speedy give a TP tube demo. Always a crowd pleaser, Speedy will happily play at any time of day! A family that came to meet hedgies brought their daughter over to sketch Speedy's antics.

A video of Speedy doing a TP tube demo at the NY show was filmed and posted by John Nastuk. You can see it at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_oN02NAp7SI

Speedy then gave a demo in his runaround ball and showed first timers George and Pistol Pete how it works. Later, when petite Peaches tried one, timid QE2 walked by slowly enough for her to catch on as well.

After a lunch that included home-made BBQ chicken and baked beans, the competition began. George (a hedgehog belonging to Naomi's friend Jeannie) ended up with BEST IN SHOW as well as 1st in Adult Standard males and Grand Champ in Adult Males. He is a calm, lovely boy and deserved it. Heather’s hedgehog Pistol Pete won Second Place in Adult Standard Males. QE2 placed third and Davy placed fourth out of 4 Standard Adult Males. *Sigh* I only wish Davy had won something, as it was his first show and he may not be around long enough for the Colorado show.

Speedy won RESERVE Best in Show, Reserve Grand Champ in Adult Males, and First in Apricots. Hedwig, participating in his first show, won Reserve Grand Champ in Juvenile Males and First in Whites. Heather’s hedgehog, Peaches, took second place in the Female Apricot Snowflake division.

The show also offered a "Square Pogs" event, where each hedgeie got to be center stage and have his or her story told. Everybody wins!

The athletic competition featured "Bomber Bowling" and had children’s bowling pins with numbers on them. Knock down a pin with a runaround ball and claim the prize with that number on it. Pistol Pete, who is around age 4, had never used a ball before — yet he and Speedy won almost all the prizes. The youngsters QE2 and Hedwig fell asleep in their balls. I had thought Hedwig might challenge Speedy since he’s normally quite a runner at home but Hedwig was worn out from all the excitement of his first show. At first Speedy

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Seven-year-old Emelina Hendrickson drew this wonderful portrait of Speedy Becker at the Eastern States Hedgehog Show. Used with permission.

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thought he should navigate around the pins so Pistol Pete knocked over more pins than Speedy. Once Speedy realized that he was supposed to knock them over (cheers being a good clue) he tried his best to catch up with Pete!

We had fun taking pictures with costumes and a couple were especially fitting – a royal blue cape for winning males and a pink princess outfit for Peaches. There was much laughter and trying to get pictures quickly before the hedgies wiggled out of the various get-ups. Davy fell asleep before the costumes, so we let him rest.

The final official event of the day was the dinner. Heather and her family prepared a lovely and filling Italian dinner which everyone enjoyed. Over dinner we had time to chat with each other. With the bonus of daylight savings time, we still had an opportunity to do some quick sight-seeing, after dropping the hedgies off for a well deserved nap at the hotel. We visited nearby Taughannock Falls which is 30 feet taller than Niagara – although admittedly much narrower. On the way back to the hotel, we stopped at another area highlight – Purity, a wonderful home-made ice cream stand. It was a great end to a great day!

Hostess Heather Johnson said, "I'm hoping everyone enjoys the show this year, with it being my first time as an organizer - I'm a little scared that I forgot something." As a veteran of many shows, I’d say she did a great job. Thanks Heather!
Eastern States Hedgehog Show Results
July 9, 2011

Judge: Martina Welhs
Secretary: Heather Marshall

RESULTS

JUVENILE MALE

Standard (0 entries)
Apricot (0 entries)
Snowflake (0 entries)
White (1 entries)
1st – Hedwig, Elaine Becker

Albino (0 entries)
Pinto (0 entries)

Grand Champion Juvenile Male (2 entries)
Grand Champion – None
Grand Champion Reserve – Hedwig, Elaine Becker

ADULT MALE

Standard (4 entries)
1st – George, Jennie Olsen
2nd – Pistol Pete, Heather Marshall
3rd – QE2, Elaine Becker
4th – Davy, Elaine Becker

Apricot (1 entry)
1st, Speedy, Elaine Becker

Snowflake (0 entries)
White (0 entries)
Albino (0 entries)
Pinto (0 entries)

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**Grand Champion Adult Male**
Grand Champion – George, Jennie Olsen
Reserve Grand Champion – Speedy, Elaine Becker

**JUVENILE FEMALE**
Standard (0 entries)
Apricot (0 entries)
Snowflake (0 entries)
White (0 entries)
Albino (0 entries)
Pinto (0 entries)

**Grand Champion Juvenile Female**
Grand Champion – none
Reserve Grand Champion – none

**ADULT FEMALE**
Standard (0 entries)
Apricot (0 entries)
Snowflake (1 entry)
1st — Peaches, Heather Marshall
White (0 entries)
Albino (0 entries)
Pinto (0 entries)

**Grand Champion Adult Female**
Grand Champion – None
Reserve Grand Champion – None

**BEST OF SHOW** (2 entries)
Best of Show – George, Jennie Olsen
Reserve Best of Show – Speedy, Elaine Becker

Jennie Olsen & George, Best in Show
Hedwig Becker as a polar bear
Peaches Marshall in princess costume
Earlier this summer, I had to do what most females in America think of as torture: Buy a new swimsuit. At my size (I’m over 300 pounds — but on Weight Watchers now, perhaps that will be my next CVO article!), stores in the area offered pretty much nothing. So I turned to catalogs and the Internet and I ended up with a very nice suit from a catalog that surprisingly didn’t cost me an arm and a leg.

On the Internet, I found many sites. On one I could have ordered any number of bikinis — including a thong! Really? Who in the world (myself included) wants to see me in a thong bikini? I mean I’d be giving myself nightmares (not to mention any small children that might be in the pool area at the same time I was). Could I get one? Yes. Should I wear one? No.

This got me to thinking about a could/should rule. I think everyone needs to be filtering their actions through Could I? Should I? Let me give you a couple of examples.

While on vacation this summer with my friend Jan (the very same vacation that I had bought my new suit for) we saw a lady in her late 60s dressed in short shorts and a halter top that displayed a lot (and I mean a lot) of her tummy. Things were easing over and oozing out everywhere. My friend whispered in my ear “could/should” (I had already shared my thoughts about this with her). A day or two later we saw a very overweight man with a thong swimsuit on. I had just gotten done thinking to myself “that’s not a good look,” when my friend again said to me “could/should”. I had to agree. On the drive home that weekend I saw two drivers engaging in a road rage situation (speeding up, cutting each other off, finger gestures, etc.). Again I thought, “Could I? Should I?”

With just this simple four word phrase I think the world could be a better place.
Originally published in 1932, The Story of Fuzzypeg the Hedgehog, was the fifth book published by Alison Uttley. Like many of her other children’s books, it was illustrated by Margaret Tempest. The hedgehog characters wear 19th century country clothing. The males are attired in neckerchiefs and smocks with their quills protruding through the fabric and the females are clad in long dresses, bonnets and aprons.

The story incorporates elements of some popular old wives’ tales that date back to medieval times. One is that hedgehogs steal milk from cows, another is that hedgehogs also steal eggs. Fuzzypeg’s father supports his family by delivering milk to the animals in his neighborhood and eggs are prominently featured in the story.

The story begins early on the morning of Fuzzypeg’s first birthday. His father rises early, and carefully removing the leaf-linen sheet from his prickles, heads downstairs. After Mrs. Hedgehog has polished him up with the duster, he slings a wooden yoke over his shoulders, hangs a bucket at each end of the yoke and heads for the pasture.

When he reaches the cattle, Mr. Hedgehog gently calls: “Coo-up, Coo-up.” A cow looks up. When Mr. Hedgehog nudges her she lies down and discusses the weather as Fuzzypeg’s father fills his buckets with her milk.

Soon Mr. Hedgehog is delivering milk to the animals in the neighborhood. At each stop, he is given an egg as a birthday gift for Fuzzypeg:

- Gray Rabbit presents him with a Boiled Egg saying that "Little Fuzzypeg can play ball with it."
- Moldy Warp the Mole donates a “Scrambled Egg” explaining that he "had to scramble under a haystack and back with it."
- Rat gives Mr. Hedgehog a Poached Egg, solemnly commenting, "I poached it last night from the henhouse."
- and Red Squirrel hands Mr. Hedgehog an Old-Laid Egg which he says is about the same age as Fuzzypeg!

When Mr. Hedgehog reaches home he finds Fuzzypeg sitting on a little chair, waiting for his bread and milk. The family shares the poached and scrambled eggs for breakfast. Then Hedgehog and his son head outdoors to play a game called "Rolling" with the other two eggs. The game ends abruptly when the Old-Laid egg is

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smashed at the bottom of the hill emitting a nasty old-laid-egg stench! Later, Mr. Hedgehog saves Speckledy Hen from a snake and the family enjoys a dinner of Adder Pie.

Then one day, Fuzzypeg is apprehended by a dog. He rolls into a ball to protect himself, just as his parents have taught him, but is carried away by a boy who places him under an overturned flowerpot in his garden.

When his son does not come home, frantic Mr. Hedgehog bravely asks Wise Owl to search the countryside for his son. He pays Wise Owl with milk, eggs and one of his quills which owl intends to use for a pen.

When Wise Owl finds the imprisoned Fuzzypeg, all the animals in the neighborhood work together to free him. Once he is safely home, Fuzzypeg and his rescuers celebrate with egg sandwiches, baked acorns, blackberries, cream, mushrooms on toast and crab-apple cider! All live happily ever after—until the next Fuzzypeg adventure!

Alison Uttley did not start out to be an author of children’s fiction but found her way into the profession through necessity. The daughter of a farmer and a former lady’s maid, her birth name was Alice Jane Taylor. She was born on December 17, 1884, at Castle Top Farm, near Cromford in Derbyshire, England. Her father’s family had owned the farm for 200 years. She was educated first at the Lea School in the village of Holloway and later at the Lady Manners School in the town of Bakewell in Derbyshire.

At Lady Manners, Uttley became interested in science and earned a scholarship to Manchester University where she lived in Ashburne Hall. She studied physics, graduating with honors in 1906. She was only the second woman in the university’s history to achieve this honor. After training as a teacher in Cambridge, she became a physics instructor at the Fulham School for Girls near London. In 1911 she married James Uttley and settled in Cheshire. She gave birth to her only child, John Corin Uttley, in 1914.

Her husband served in the military during the First World War. The experience severely compromised his mental health. He suffered from depression and committed suicide in 1930. This tragic loss made it necessary for Alice to find a means of supporting herself and her son. She took in lodgers and, using the name Alison Uttley, began writing children’s stories about animals. Her stories about rabbits, foxes, pigs, mice and hedgehogs were quite successful and are still available today. Margaret Tempest was the main illustrator for Uttley’s children’s books.

In addition to her animals stories, Uttley wrote some fairytales as well as The Washerwoman’s Child, a play based on the life of Hans Christian Andersen which incorporated versions of seven of his fairytales. Eventually she added books for older children and adults including a series of stories and essays on country themes. Altogether, she produced more than one hundred books and, in 1970, she was awarded an honorary doctorate in literature from Manchester University. She died on May 7, 1976, leaving one third of her royalties to Ashburne Hall at the University of Manchester to be used for scholarships.

Sources:


In ancient Egypt hedgehogs were admired for their ability to survive in the harsh conditions beyond the Nile River and its floodplain. Their quills came to symbolize protection against real and spiritual predators. They also seem to have symbolized rebirth because they hibernate when conditions are harsh, then emerge when conditions improve—a skill that would be beneficial to all of us!

The figures shown above appear on a limestone relief sculpture known as *The Procession of Offering Bearers* which comes from the tomb of Nyankhesut, who was an important Egyptian official during the late 5th or early 6th Dynasty. It consists of a large group of figures who are bringing offerings to Nyankhesut. Only three of the eight figures on this large panel are represented here. They are carrying ducks, geese, bread, and flowers for the deceased. The servant in the middle is carrying a caged hedgehog to symbolize the rebirth of Nyankhesut. This panel is now part of the collection at the Dallas Museum of Art.

Amulets were very popular in ancient Egypt. They were worn for magical and health related purposes. Often they were carved from bone and hung on leather straps. Archaeologists have discovered amulets in the form of hedgehogs which may have been intended to protect the wearer against poisonous snakebites as well as symbolizing the renewal of life. Some are thought to have been used to fend off baldness!

Many of the ancient ceramic hedgehogs found in Egypt are made of a clay known as faience which is composed of crushed quartz and a glaze mixed with water. Shaped by hand or pressed into molds and fired, faience has a shiny surface which is usually bright blue, perhaps to imitate turquoise. The Egyptian word for faience is *tjehenet* which means "brilliant."

Ornamental ceramic hedgehog figures and hedgehog shaped terra-cotta oil lamps have **Continued on page 13**
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been found in tombs and other archeological excavations. Hedgehog statues were even placed in the bow of Egyptian boats to protect against dangerous seas, attacks and other calamities.

The tradition of decorating boats and ships with animal heads dates back to the earliest period of ancient Egyptian history. It is attested by the numerous faience models of boats excavated on Elephantine Island as well as at Tell Ibrahim Awad, the prows of which were decorated with a representation of the head of a hedgehog. This element was probably used to protect the traveler on the waters of the Duat (the Underworld). ¹

In 1993 archaeologists excavated a room located under the foundations of the Middle Kingdom temple in Tell Ibrahim Awad. One of the items found was a small model of a "hedgehog-ship" made of pottery.

Unlike the figure-heads on most ships, this one is looking toward the back of the ship. The peculiar positioning is thought to refer to the defensive nature of the hedgehog as it rolls itself up face-first.


Sources:


<http://www.jstor.orgstable/3822123 >.
EcoChics Earthwear: Saving the World One Hedgehog at a Time

By Margaret Myhre

EcoChics Earthwear is a new, environmentally-aware clothing company based in Lewis Center, Ohio. It was formed by Jessica Clay, the owner and creative director of an award-winning marketing communications agency, and Cathy Tiffany, a community leader in environmental stewardship who has worked in the fashion and beauty industry for more than twenty years. The two met while both were volunteering for a local conservation organization.

A percentage of the profits from EcoChics Earthwear goes to American Forests, the oldest national nonprofit conservation organization in the country. This organization advocates for the protection and expansion of America's forests. Since 1990, American Forests has planted nearly 40 million trees. Their goal is to work with partners to plant an additional 25-30 million trees in forest restoration projects during the next five years.

So far EcoChics products include tees, yoga wear, hats, totes and tunics. Two items which will be of particular interest to hedgehog enthusiasts are a backpack and a tee featuring a hedgehog and the words:

Saving the world one hedgehog at a time.

Items may be ordered from the EcoChics web site at

http://www.ecochicsearthwear.com/

The site also features information about green fashion, a blog and an FAQ which includes details about caring for organic clothing.
If you love hedgehogs you should attend the largest hedgehog show in the world. Started in 2001 and held every odd year, the Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show attracts exhibitors from all over the country. You have to see it to believe it!

The 2011 Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show

**OCTOBER 13—17**

**DOUBLE TREE HOTEL**

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DENVER, CO 80905

**ask for:** Colorado Hedge Hog Society Room Block Group Code **CHH**

ANYONE FLYING INTO DENVER: SHUTTLE INFORMATION

THE SHUTTLE WILL GO FROM DENVER AIRPORT TO THE DOUBLE TREE HOTEL IN DENVER.

303-321-3333

THERE WILL NOT BE ANY HEDGEHOGS OR HEDGEHOG BABIES FOR SALE AT THE SHOW.

The Hedgehog Welfare Society

www.hedgehogwelfare.org

The Hedgehog Breeder Alliance

www.hedgehogbreederalliance.org

Children are welcome and encouraged to participate in the show. Parents take a moment to read our rules.
An article in our previous issue described a campaign conducted by the fifth grade class at Cleveland Elementary School in Allentown, Pennsylvania to make hedgehogs legal in their state. The students had gathered support from the local zoo keeper, a columnist for the Allentown newspaper, children's author Jan Brett, and Jennifer L. Mann, Democratic Caucus Secretary for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, among others. As of June 6, House Bill 1398, which would have allowed hedgehogs to be kept as pets in Pennsylvania, had passed the House Game and Fish Commission.

Project Citizen a project of The Freedoms Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging civic-based projects in schools, sponsored a June 8th bus trip to Harrisburg, the state capital, so the Cleveland Elementary fifth graders could lobby for their cause. There the students, and their teacher Rebecca Bodnar, were able to meet with the two representatives who, in response to the students’ campaign, initially proposed the bill that would change the status of hedgehogs in Pennsylvania.

Unfortunately on June 26th HB 1398, "An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in special licenses and permits, further providing for definitions and for exotic wildlife possession permits," was laid on the table. This euphemism means that the bill was killed. More than 90% of proposed bills are tabled. After the bill has been "tabled", the full House or Senate can override committee decisions but this rarely happens. As of August 21, no further action has been taken on House Bill 1398.

The Cleveland Elementary fifth graders went on to present Legalize Hedgehogs in PA at the Pennsylvania State Showcase for Project Citizen. They came in first in the competition.

Even though the law has yet to be changed, these students should be congratulated for their hard work.

Sources:


Silver Hedgehog Brooch

Those of you who read the July/August issue of this newsletter may recall the story of Wee Harold, an orphaned baby hedgehog who was hand-raised for six weeks before being released into the wild in New Zealand.

Harold's rescuer, Ross Heywood, has created this hedgehog brooch in Harold's honor. It is cast in silver from the original handmade item. The brooch is about an inch and a half long and the pin on the back is made of spring tempered stainless steel. For details go to:

http://www.etsy.com/shop/RossHeywood

Hedgehog Birthdays in September and October

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<td>September 1</td>
<td>Glacier Christopher</td>
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<td>September 3</td>
<td>Speedy Fischer</td>
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<td>September 28</td>
<td>Pixie Denny</td>
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<td>September 30</td>
<td>Yuri Denny</td>
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<td>Do you have a hedgehog with an October birthday? Please let us know, we would be delighted to include him or her on our birthday list!</td>
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http://www.eker.com/
WRITERS WANTED

Would you like to write for the Newsletter? We are always looking for stories, poems, craft projects, recipes, puzzles, and articles to include here.

Send your submissions or article proposals to: newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org

ARTISTS WANTED

Would you like to help illustrate the Newsletter? We are always looking for drawings, photographs, and artwork to include here.

Send your submissions in JPEG Format to: newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org