In Great Britain hedgehogs are endangered. The British Trust for Ornithology has conducted a series of surveys which indicate that hedgehog numbers are declining. A June, 2011, report claims that the British hedgehog population has been reduced by 25% in the last decade due to pesticides, a loss of natural habitat, and a healthier badger population (badgers are natural predators of hedgehogs).

The People’s Trust for Endangered Species and the British Preservation Society have joined forces to gain support from the British public. Through their website, Hedgehog Street—City of Wildlife, people are invited to become Hedgehog Champions, “to rally support from their neighbors and work together to create an ideal hedgehog habitat throughout their street, estate or communal grounds.”

And how, exactly, does one carry this out? Hedgehog Street explains it all in detail. British visitors to the site are invited to register for an information pack to get started. The pack includes hedgehog fact sheets to hand out to

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the neighbors, posters to promote the project, a set of action cards explaining what people can do to make their gardens hedgehog friendly, and hints for getting your neighbors involved and keeping them interested.

Sometimes people want to help wildlife but they either aren’t sure how to go about it or they think that doing something in their small patch won’t make a difference. This is why we are providing everything you need to do the project and explaining what you can do to make your whole street good for hedgehogs. 2

The Hedgehog Street website also includes a “Help Hedgehogs” area featuring hedgehog FAQs, instructions for building a hedgehog house to put in a quiet area of the garden, and advice on topics such as sick hedgehogs, slug pellets, foods that can supplement a wild hedgehog’s diet, or ways to link your garden with your neighbor’s garden by means of hedgehog-sized holes in the fence or tunnels under the fence. There is even an online video with suggested ways to help hedgehogs in your garden.

The “All About Hedgehogs” section of Hedgehog Street covers topics such as where hedgehogs are found, how many hedgehogs are left, explanations for the decline in the hedgehog population, what is being done to help, and tracks and signs as well as hedgehog videos submitted by the public, and links.

Other features of the Hedgehog Street site are a forum, a gallery of hedgehog photos submitted by the public, news, a telephone number for advice about injured hedgehogs and a “Champions Area” for registered guests.

To visit Hedgehog Street online, go to:

http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/


2 Ibid.

Sources consulted for this article:


Hedgehog Day 2012 is now history, but as always, the hedgehogs of North America were running their little feet off in the annual Hedgehog Welfare Society Wheel-a-Thon to help raise money for rescued hedgies. For those of you not familiar with the Wheel-a-Thon, the hedgehogs that are entered solicit pledges from friends, family, their parents’ co-workers and anyone else they can find to sponsor their running that night. I’m happy to say that this year’s event raised over $2700. A special thanks goes out to the participants - Elaine Becker, Margaret Campbell, Ashley Cohen, Nancy Denny, Linda Edwards, Jan Ernst, Heather Marshall, Christine Matarase, Autumn Ouellette, Larry Thomason, Deb Weaver and Linda Woodring. We would also like to give a special thanks to those donating prizes for the participants - Elaine Becker, Cyndy Bennett, Laura Dunklee, Linda Edwards, Kathleen Knudsen, Nicole Sparshu, Naomi Wikane and Dawn Wrobel. On the top of the list this year was Elaine Becker bringing in $562, followed by Larry Thomason with $515, Linda Woodring with $513 and Autumn Ouellette with $303. Again, thank you to everyone who participated and to those who sent in donations.
Part I Steampunk

The word “steampunk” is a relatively new, mostly literary, term that describes a form of science fiction which takes place in the past and involves technology and machinery. The online Urban Dictionary describes it as:

A subgenre of speculative fiction usually set in an anachronistic Victorian or quasi-Victorian alternate history setting. It could be described by the slogan “What the past would look like if the future had happened sooner.” It includes fiction with science fiction, fantasy or horror themes.  

A more detailed explanation was developed by Emily Rozmus, a reviewer for the journal Library Media Connection:

What is steampunk? Most call it Victorian science fiction. Steampunk can claim such authors as H.G. Wells and Jules Verne as its earliest writers. These two Victorian/Edwardian era writers created steampunk settings in books such as The Time Machine and Journey to the Center of the Earth. In the 1990s, writers such as William Gibson, Bruce Sterling, and Paul Di Filippo began to weave Victorian settings and the technologies which evolved from the Industrial Revolution to create a new type of reading experience, one in which men may fight the Civil War and escape from zombies all in one battle. The anachronistic nature of steampunk literature makes it unique, the sense of an altered history—sometimes even a history we have yet to experience—combined with the alternate endings sets steampunk apart from science fiction or fantasy. Add to the mix some clockwork, a touch of romance, and a paranormal element, and you have literary steampunk. 

Steampunk is also a design aesthetic. If you Google the term, you will find the word used as an adjective to

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describe clothing, jewelry, gadgets, and myriad other things. Think of sepia tones, Victorian clothing: Top hats, bowler hats, pocket watches, monocles; equipment such as derringers, dirigibles, locomotives, steam engines, hot air balloons, dials and buttons, etc.

Part II The Hedgehog

Although credit for the paintings depicting Hogarth Mericule III has been given to the hedgehog’s sister Bette- tony Justine, née Merricule, the actual artist behind these pieces is Evan M. Jensen, a freelance illustrator and designer. Mr. Jensen graduated from Corcoran College of Art + Design in 2005 with a focus on illustration and printmaking. For three years after, he was the Creative Director for Ambrose Estate’s ScrollQuest: Real Life Treasure Hunts and has been freelancing since. Jensen explains that:

Wheeee!!! By Evan Jensen. Used with permission.

Since earning my BFA, my work has illuminated many bastions of creativity: Children’s books, educational materials, role-playing games, collectible card games, armchair treasure hunts, geeky t-shirts, fantasy magazines, and paperback fiction.

Jensen began creating his series of hedgehog pictures in 2007 while he was experimenting with walnut ink and working to overcome a few weeks of artist’s block. He describes how he began to paint Hogarth and friends:

I often bemoan the lack of illustrated novels these days, as up until 1930ish, almost all fiction had some interior illustration. I wanted to do my own non-comic, non-picture-book illustrated story, and I’d gotten into Steampunk a year or so before that. To get past the art block, my partner suggested I paint a hedgehog, as I had my own grumpy little hedgehog named September at the time. I’d always felt lucky to have a live-in model for the hedgehogs in my work, but on December 25 of 2010, September died. Now I find myself getting distracted by internet hedgehogs a lot more when doing reference research. There is far too much cute on the web, these days.

The first of the Hogarth paintings, Airship Defense, wasn’t really meant to start a series but it ended up directing the rest of the story since it set the stage for the characters. Mr. Merricule
Continued from page 5

—Royal Society explorer and airship captain, and the crew of the Carraway have adventures in the tradition of early 20th century pulp novels. The winged monsters are just because I really wanted the story to have some pterosaurian babies, à la Sir A.C. Doyle’s The Lost World. The follow up paintings serve to hint at other exciting tales and give some background on the characters, though mostly on Hogarth up until now. I like drawing hedgehogs a lot, so I’ve been limiting myself to central cast. One day I’ll have to do some supporting character illustrations. Though there is a be-goggled navigator in the latest painting. As for the story to accompany all these illustrations…I’m hoping one develops in my mind the more paintings I do. Since every time I put one of these paintings in a show, it gets bought, I think there might be a need for hedgehog adventure stories in book form after all.


2 Rozmas, Emily. "What is steampunk, and do I want it in my library? (Chances are it’s already there!)." Library Media Connection (Oct. 2011): 31–33. Print.

Sources consulted for this article:


Rozmas, Emily. "What is steampunk, and do I want it in my library? (Chances are it’s already there!)." Library Media Connection (Oct. 2011): 31–33. Print.


Defend the Carraway! Excerpt II, saurians attack the airship by Evan Jensen. Used with permission.
Side Effects of the War  By Evan Jensen. Used with permission.

Mechanical Problems. By Evan Jensen. Used with permission.
More about Evan Jensen and his work

The Fathomless Box
http://fathomlessbox.com/

Evan Jensen
http://www.etsy.com/people/etchlings

Sketch Bloggery by Evan Jensen

www.graphicsfairy.blogspot.com/
Animal Rescue is a juvenile fiction series about a British rescue facility known as Animal Magic. The twelve books in the series, which are beautifully illustrated by Sharon Rentta, feature various animals rescued by Animal Magic including dogs, cats, horses, foxes, ducklings, guinea pigs, bunnies and—of course—hedgehogs. A website for the series offers synopses of the books, information about author Tina Nolan, online games, downloadable pictures of the animal characters, and real life rescue stories.

This story begins when Eva accompanies her father to High Trees Farm where they purchase bales of hay and straw for the Animal Magic shelter which is run by Eva’s parents. As she and her brother, Karl, sweep the barn yard, Eva discovers a frightened baby hedgehog hiding beneath a pile of straw. Although she suspects the hedgehog is an orphan, her father warns her not to touch the animal until she is certain that the mother is not returning to claim him. If the mother smells Eva’s scent on her baby, she will reject it. After observing the baby for more than an hour, Eva phones her mother and together they make the decision to hand rear the baby until it is old enough to survive on its own.

The narrative offers a detailed account of how to care for a baby hedgehog and reintroduce it to the wild when the time comes. It also explains that wild hedgehogs keep to a set route each night and, if the baby has wandered off the track, it is unlikely that its mother will find it again.

Once that they are certain the baby hedgehog has been abandoned, Eva’s parents teach her how to pick up the hedgehog by rocking the curled-up animal from side to side before rolling it into her gloved palm. The baby is placed in a straw-lined carrier for the trip to the animal shelter. There an eye dropper is used to feed him a special glucose preparation. Named Barney because he was found in a barn, the little hedgehog is treated for mites, rocked from side to side when he needs to be soothed, and weighed every day. Once he is weaned he lives on cat food. When his weight reaches 600 grams, Barney is mature enough to live on his own and is gently released into the wild.

This book for middle level readers offers a wonderful story as well as a great deal of rescue information which could be useful to young British readers.

Animal Magic Rescue Centre Website: http://www.animalmagicrescue.net/
Illustrator Sharon Rentta’s website: http://www.sharon-rentta.co.uk/
THOUGHTS FROM THE CVO
BY DEB WEAVER

I recently spent the day in my local ER. At one point the ER doctor said, “I’d like to admit you for two to three days.” My reply to her was “isn’t there another option?” as I was thinking to myself “I don’t have anyone to take care of the girls.” Needless to say this event got me to thinking and making better plans. (I’m fine by the way, had an advanced case of pneumonia that the ER doc thought might have damaged my heart. After testing, heart’s fine and the pneumonia is clearing up. Now if I can only stand the shock at seeing the bills!)

We’ve had many articles in our newsletter about being prepared for extreme weather, how to safely travel with hedgies, proper health care, good nutrition, etc. But what if something happens to you? Do you have a plan in place that can be acted upon in case of an emergency? Does your family really know that your one hedgie will only eat if his bowl is in the far left corner of his cage? Here’s what I’m doing to be better prepared.

I don’t have any family members to turn to and all my closest friends don’t live here in Wisconsin. In addition I’m a renter. Below, in no particular order, is what I’m doing.

1. I’m writing a care sheet for my girls. It will detail each girl’s habits (such as food/water intake, and who gets which type of food; output; exercise patterns). It will also talk about where and how they each like to sleep. This sheet will also explain where in my apartment all the different supplies are kept (blankets in my bedroom, tents in the hall closet, travel cages on top of the bookcase, food in the kitchen cupboard). I’ll also include which hedgie is in which cage. I’ve also got my vet and his contact information listed.

2. This care sheet will be emailed to a couple of different folks. There will also be a copy posted on my refrigerator door.

3. I’m “introducing” a couple of my closest friends in different states to each other, and making sure that they each have the other’s phone number and email address. These friends will have emailed copies of the care sheet.

4. I’m asking another hedgehog person here in Milwaukee to be my “go to” person for short term emergencies. This person will also have the care sheet. My friends mentioned in #3 will have the info on my “go to” person. This person will get a tour of my apartment. This “go to” person will be in my file at the vet’s office as having permission to bring my kids in for treatment.

5. As a renter, I’m still figuring out the key issue. I may give my “go to” person a set of my keys, or I may give them the phone number of my building’s manager. I’ll then talk with my manager and explain the need to let someone into

Continued on following page
my apartment as needed.

6. Perhaps, now that I’m thinking of all this, it’s also time to set up a guardian for the girls, in case my next trip to the ER isn’t as successful as my last!

7. And, as much as I hate to say it, perhaps it’s time to get a cell phone (yes I’m aware I’m close to the last person walking on earth that doesn’t have one).

I’m sure I’ll think of more things as I finish getting this all together but I think I’ve got a good start. I’d encourage everyone to have a plan in place in case you ever become unable to care for your hedgies.

Enjoy the arrival of spring everyone!
Midwest Hedgehog Rendezvous Hedgehog Show

http://hedgehogrendezvous.com

Saturday May 5, 2012

Rodeway Inn & Suites – Atrium Room
4400 South 27th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

- Two International Hedgehog Association (IHA) Sanctioned Hedgehog Confirmation Shows
- Meet the experts: Question & Answer Session with representatives of the major hedgehog organizations

For additional information contact:
Deborah.weaver@marquette.edu OR Floyd Aprill (414) 327-3303

Show Schedule

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM – Check-in and animal health check

10:00 AM -12:00 Noon – Hedgehog Conformation Show

12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM – Lunch (bring a bag lunch or purchase lunch at one of many nearby restaurants)

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM – Meet the experts: Question & Answer Session with representatives of the major hedgehog organizations.
- Dr. John Wertz, D.V.M., Bluemound Animal Hospital, Brookfield Wisconsin
- Deb Weaver, Chief Volunteer Officer of the Hedgehog Welfare Society
- Floyd Aprill, Co-President of the Hedgehog Breeders Alliance

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM – Hedgehog Conformation Show
Hotel Accommodations

The Rodeway Inn & Suites (4400 South 27th Street, Milwaukee WI 53221) is offering Hedgehog Rendezvous participants a special conference rate of $69.06 per night (all taxes included) for a Queen Size room. The hotel reservation number is (414) 817-5004.

2012 Midwest Hedgehog Rendezvous Sponsors

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals for sponsoring the 2012 Midwest Hedgehog Rendezvous:

International Hedgehog Association
http://hedgehogclub.com

Milwaukee SuperPogs
http://www.superpogs.com
Hedgehog Day Tea Held in Colorado

The Hedgehog Day Tea is an annual event sponsored by the IHA as a fundraiser for the Flash and Thelma Memorial Hedgehog Rescue of Divide, Colorado. This year the festivities were postponed for a week due to inclement weather. The event was held on February twelfth at the home of Darnell Wimmer-Martin. Photographs of the event courtesy of Elaine Becker.
The Elegance of the Hedgehog
Hedgehog Constitutional

What a gorgeous day... out for a walk with my hedgehog.

Hey, Chapel! Wait up!

Rachel! Heyy!
Meet my new hedgehog, Sir Rupert Tennyson Bolingsworth the First.

What happened to the puppy? Why'd you pick a hedgehog instead?

Because he's unique, prickly, cuddly...

... AND he doubles as an emergency head accessory!

©2011 Emma T. Capps

Hedgie Birthdays in March and April

MARCH
March 11 Davy Fischer

APRIL
April 11 Kenny Woodring

PLEASE ADD YOUR HEDGEHOG’S BIRTHDAY TO THE NEWSLETTER’S BIRTHDAYS LIST.

SEND YOUR HEDGEHOG’S NAME AND BIRTH DATE TO:
NEWSLETTER@HEDGEHOGWELFARE.ORG

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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