Eastern States “Hedgie-Con” Hedgehog Show
By Sheila Dempsey

The Eastern States Hedgehog Show (“Hedgie-Con”) will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Laurel, Maryland on the weekend of April 28-30, 2017. This is a great time to spend a weekend with others who have the same passion for hedgehogs as you have!

Events include:
Friday Night Meet & Greet (with appetizers)
Saturday Conformation Show with Elaine Becker as presiding judge
Educational Speaker Renee Mills lecturing on Mobility and Exercise
Hedgehog Games
Saturday Night Banquet Dinner with Live Auction
Silent and Live Auctions, Raffles
Sunday Conformation Show with Martina Weihs-Warner as presiding judge
Vendors all weekend, including a professional photographer with on-site prints

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New for 2017:
Friday and Saturday Night Cash Bar
Registration/Attendance Gifts
Scavenger Hunt and other games
Rainbow Bridge Memorial handout

We are taking registrations now. A Full Pass (includes everything listed above) is only $100.00 (13 and up). Want to participate only on Saturday? The cost is $50.00 (13 and up). There are also other pricing options listed on the website. Hedgehog registration is $20.00 per hedgie (includes participating in both confirmation shows and the hedgie games).

Visit our website at:
www.hedgiecon.wixsite.com/eastcoast

for more information and to register and book your hotel (or telephone the hotel directly at 301-776-5300). Remember to mention the Eastern States Hedgehog Show (the EHS Block) to get our room rate of $109.00.

Have questions or interested in becoming a sponsor?
Contact us by email at: Eastern.States.Hedgie.Show@gmail.com

Join us on Facebook at: Eastern States Hedgehog Show

We hope to see everyone there!

Photo by M. Myhre
An Interview with HRH Princess Perdita Pricklepants

Laura C. Dunklee, HWS Co-Chair for Health, Research, and Education

Thank you, your Royal Highness, for making yourself available for this interview. I know your time is valuable and shall strive to be respectful and mindful of your commitments. For those not familiar with the groundbreaking “Hedgehog Art Through the Ages,” might you explain your vision for the book?

We had a few goals.

First we wanted to delight readers with the magnificent world of hedgehog art. There’s so much wonderful work out there from the Renaissance through the Modern period and we’re glad to be able to share this wonderful, lovely, and often fun world of hedgehog art. From Botticelli to Warhol there are so many ways to represent hedgehogs and capture the mysterious quilly essence that it makes for a fascinating journey.

Second we wanted to give each work enough context to be appreciated while keeping a light touch and a sense of humor. And lastly, we wanted to be sneakily educational, by describing major art periods, notable things about individual artists, their styles of representing hedgehogs, and their innovations.

Many people, even art historians (who should know better!), are unaware of the vast repository of art that includes – correction: celebrates – hedgehogs; why do you think this is and what can we, your subjects, do to raise visibility about this most important subject?

Hedgehog art history and art criticism is a young field, which does mean fewer will be exposed to the many

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works which are, even now, still being found. For instance, just this last month a 40,000 year old cave painting of a hedgehog was discovered! We work with the Royal Society of Hedgehog Art Historians, and hold the public outreach chair, so we’re promoting a greater knowledge and understanding. When notable discoveries are made, we share them with our subjects.

We published this book to give a nice overview of hedgehog art, and so far readers have responded delightfully well. In an effort to bring hedgehog art in the public eye we (shameless plug alert!) produce tee shirts (search for “Urchin Wear” on Amazon), and have other merchandise such as note cards and delightful things on Redbubble.com. If subjects would like to raise visibility, following us on Facebook or Twitter and sharing anything that you particularly like would be a great way to spread the word, and of course, if you should purchase a book (we’d be endlessly grateful if you did) then writing a review would be very helpful. And if you really are an enthusiast and would like a tee shirt, there are many designs to choose from, in case one delights.

In the past we tried to reach out to various scholars at universities to further promote a popular knowledge of hedgehog art, though strangely professors rarely respond, and when they did they seemed to get confused. They’d just send notes saying things like “Please stop emailing me,” or “Do I need to get a restraining order?” For the record they don’t need to put in an order for art history retraining, we’d be happy to advise at no charge.

**How do you feel about the way the artists’ models were treated as they posed for these remarkable works? What do you know about these models and their lives beyond the art world?**

Well, I think we can say the first poor hedgehog used in the cave art was probably not very happy. An ancient human effectively blew ochre all over the poor thing to create an outline - horrifying. People apparently weren’t very polite 40,000 years ago.

There are a number of unknown models in works from the Renaissance, and little is known about the day to
day lives of common hedgehogs (Hedgehog Cultural Studies is also a very young field, though the Hedgehog American Cultural Association is making progress researching and promoting public awareness). Given the refined and subtle poses in works through most art history, we want to assume that models were treated with the gentleness and kindness all hedgehogs deserve, but this is something we must research more to be sure of.

One of the most remarkable things we’ve learned about this is that Her Highness’s forebears are occasionally represented. In this case we do have various records and stories and know that as nobility, they were generally treated with due dignity, decorum, and politeness, though human social norms were odd.

For instance, the culture of Renaissance Italy held unusual superstitions regarding the idea of hedgehogs crawling in their food as “unclean,” and in Paris in the late 1800s the mere presence of hedgehogs could scandalize literary salons. We also know that there were various court intrigues among Renaissance hedgehogs, especially the Venetians, with conflicts and even impoliteness.

I note that “Hedgehog Art Through the Ages” has you listed as a secondary author; what was it like to collaborate with a co-author, what was your writing and editing process like, and do you feel S.M. Bach was appropriately respectful of your vision for the book? Also, why did you choose to be listed second?

S.M. Bach is our loyal hand servant who has worked diligently with us in our research and cataloging, has helped with preparing photos of the art, and is a far better typist (a good hedgehog keyboard is a challenge to design).
In working on the book, I would select works, dictate accounts for each, and then we would go over edits and layouts. Editing is definitely not fun, though I left most of that kind of menial labor to the handservants so we could live the true life of mind every hedgehog aspires to.

Due to persistent and pernicious pet prejudice in publishing, the human was required to be listed first – it’s shocking to see such a thing in this day and age, but the fight for progress truly never ends.

As a pet’s rights activist this was very troubling, but we are working on expanding awareness and will work to see the day a hedgehog can publish without the sad specter of speciesism.

**What has been the critical reception to this revolutionary work? Do you feel this reception is appropriate? Will there be a second book?**

We’re very happy to say the reception has been universally positive. We’ve gotten reviews from several readers (art enthusiasts) who said they felt the book was written specifically for them, and the reviews on Amazon are all very positive, and what reviews we’ve received from websites have been very positive (for instance BoingBoing reviewed our book). Needless to say more reviews to help popularize this important topic would be both delightful and a great contribution to aiding the advance of knowledge.

At this point we’re still mulling a second art book. We are planning work on a children’s story book (not art related), and once that’s done we’ll need to see where things stand. There are a number of traditional hedgehog folk tales not well known to humans that we are considering adapting.
Needless to say we will continue sharing art research that is not in the current book since there are so many dimensions to it. While the current book begins in the Renaissance, we’ve since found cave art, Mesopotamian, Egyptian, and Greek art, and have shared various wonderful works from the Middle Ages, as well as Chinese art, and other things. It’s an exciting time to be in the field, and we may really need to publish a second volume.

Are there any artistic periods you are personally drawn to? Are you a collector of hedgehog art and, if so, where might your subjects view some of your private collection?

We usually feel that whatever art we’re looking at is our favorite, but we are uniquely drawn to Art Nouveau works. We are also deeply drawn to Japanese ukiyo-e print making (there is a section on Japanese art in the book). Since we do some work in graphic design, that may be part of the allure of poster art and print making.

And now, more general questions, if I may... As a Princess, you have many responsibilities; do you find these annoying or enjoyable? Are there any you have decided you’d rather not be bothered with and thus have delegated to others?
We are a very busy hedgehog, but we like to keep busy. We do try to delegate to tasks that are more physical (or which don’t require the keen intellectual abilities of a hedgehog) over to the handservants. Fortunately, they are reasonably competent so long as one is patient with them.

You are the second Princess Pricklepants, having succeeded Princess Penelope; how has she inspired or influenced you as a leader and as a Princess?

Princess Penelope is the stuff of legend, a pioneer in so many fields, and even a presidential candidate. Her example is a daunting one to live up to, though from her we learned that grace, gentleness, good manners, a deep dedication to one’s duties, and careful management of handservants to keep them on task and help them when they get a little confused will yield tremendous results.

We also learned from Princess Penelope the importance of developing one’s own vision and voice and pursuing it. While she was more focused on the dramatic arts and being a photo model, we’ve grown more focused on the fine arts, and even learning video animation and production.

We’d recommend taking a look at the book trailer we’ve produced, as well as our various animated features - we’re especially pleased with Hedgezilla vs. Mechahedgezilla, and Hedgezilla vs. Mechahedgezilla II.

You are known for being a highly visible and vocal advocate for politeness and have also gained a reputation for diplomacy: might you share with your subjects how we might emulate you in our daily lives?

We are very glad you asked. Today’s world has seen a sad decline in politeness, manners, and etiquette, and it’s well worth bringing this back to promote a more civil society and civil discourse so we can live together without so many petty conflicts.
There’s no better guide to manners than the works of Princess Penelope, which begins here and carries on extensively and in much detail.


You have a very active presence on social media: Do you maintain all your accounts, yourself, or have you tasked others to handle your Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr, Pinterest, and Blog? Further, how do you feel about sharing so much of your personal live—and many adventures—in a public manner? Are there some topics you feel are inappropriate for social media discussion?

As royalty, it is our duty to share updates to the public, and we’re so used to it we don’t really even think about it. We often dictate and delegate the typing to the hand servant, as well as much of the clicking parts, and the photo editing, and photography, but we do most of the work.

While Princess Penelope was a bit more open, we are a little more reserved, which is why you see fewer domestic things generally, but it is our duty to serve as an ambassador of manners, and we find it fun to chat with subjects who chime in on our adventures.

We do keep some things to ourselves, though just common sense things that wouldn’t be good etiquette to share.

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And finally, four personal questions:

What is currently on your bedside table?
*Haley’s Guide to Manners, 2015 edition* (the classic)
A teapot with a bit of chamomile left and a teacup
A very small rubber crocodile.

What music are you currently listening to?
Currently listening to Camille Saint-Saëns’ Carnival of the Animals. Sad he didn’t write a hedgehog piece, it surely would have been glorious.

What are you planning for your next adventure?
We tend to play things by ear, but we’ve heard about a country populated with tiny hedgehogs that we would really like to visit soon. Also there is space travel. Or perhaps working on solving the Mystery of the Moroccan Monkey Mantelpiece. And some are suggesting a trip to Castle Fischer-Price to look for a grail thingie.

Is pink still your favorite color?
Yes, that and indigo. And also emerald green. And sometimes burgundy. Except when it is royal purple.

Thank you for the gracious sharing of your time, Princess; on behalf of your subjects, may I say you are truly an inspiration and we are fortunate to have you.

If you, dear reader, would like to know more about HRH Perdita Pricklepants, she can be found on:
Facebook (princesspricklepants)
Twitter (@PPricklepants)
Youtube (urchinwear) Her blog (http://princesspricklepants.com)
And occasionally on Instagram.
I am an art lover. I am a history lover. I am also a hedgehog lover. How is it, then, that I was completely, embarrassingly unaware of the vast realm of historical hedgehog art?! Thankfully, Her Royal Highness, Princess Perdita Pricklepants, and her devoted handservant, S. M. Bach, have devoted so much time and energy to painstakingly researching and documenting this vital, and yet — until now — little known and explored field.

*Hedgehog Art Through the Ages* is a text that delights, as the authors share with us many recently discovered artistic masterworks. Not only have the authors chosen to include photos of these works, but they have also written engaging, informative comments, introducing the reader to the artists, their place in history, and various important bits about their lives and the masterpieces.

Do not allow yourself to gaze only at the art, only skimming the accompanying text! It is in the words, thoughtfully placed below the images for the ease of finding, that one gains the greatest insights into the importance of each piece. For example, the descriptive words under “The Starry Hedgehog Night”:

*Van Gogh’s 1888 “The Starry Hedgehog Night” was a view painted from the east-facing window of his asylum room. The nurses noticed the various hedgehogs hiding in the painting, and were concerned, so Vincent repainted the more well known version of the painting. Much could be said, though it’s better to just look at it.*

Upon reading the above, I took the authors’ advice and just looked at it.

*I was pleased.*

The perfect text for any lover of art, of history, of hedgehogs: go forth, purchase, and savor *Hedgehog Art Through the Ages!*
Considering a Hedgehog? Things You Should Know (Part II)

By Laura C. Dunklee, HWS Co-Chair for Health, Research & Education

In this article hedgehog guardians were asked to respond to the following questions:

1. What is the one major thing you wish you had known before bringing a hedgehog into your life?

2. What is the one piece of advice you would give someone who is thinking about bringing a hedgehog into his or her life?

Jenny Lynn S’s Response:
1. Poopy wheels and how soft hedgie poop is.

2. Enrichment is exceptionally important and a key to keeping hedgies healthy.

Sabrina K’s Response:
1. How sweet they are! And how to get the boys’ nasty business out of their hair.

2. Do a lot of research! A lot!!! And give him a lot of attention and socialization (not too much, though, just want he/she is comfortable with) so they don’t get grumpy and lonely.

Dae R’s Response:
1. To have a hedgehog you really must be willing to love even if there is no affection returned. Their personalities can be as unpredictable as the weather. They can be curious and amazing to watch. Some are super sweet and some are pouty and huffy divas no matter what you do. This can be discouraging.

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you must be willing to endure the hardship of sharp quills (no gloves if you want them to bond with you!, though once you build a relationship with them it is all totally worth it. And then there is the poop-covered wheels — no room for squeamishness and laziness!

I stand by my earlier posted definition:

**Domesticated Hedgehog** — A small thorned animal that frequently does impressions of percolating coffee makers and communicates to (train) its owner (hoo-man) through deposits of poop.

2. They are escape artists who think they are acrobats and need lots of space and things to keep them busy to keep them from practicing said circus-type aspirations!

**Jessa M’s Response:**

1. So...much...poop. Just poop everywhere all the time. As soon as you turn around and back again to a clean cage there’s more. They wait for you to clean it and then poop on the wheel as soon as you walk away. THERE IS NO ESCAPING IT!

2. They aren’t a toy, despite their cute smooshy little faces. They require a lot of work with bonding and a ton of patience. Their cage needs are very specific and serious. And they are not a child-friendly pet. That’s not to say they can’t be good with children. However, because of their special needs, it’s just an awful idea to allow a child to care for them. My little man is great with kids, actually, and special needs people. However, I wouldn’t let my niece be in charge of cleaning his cage and feeding him every day or I wouldn’t have a hedgie for very long

**Jamie K’s Response:**

1. Find a reputable place to get your hog. They are NOT our more “traditional” pets and getting one at a pet store means you are risking getting an animal that is already high risk.

2. Take the time to research every little bit on these creatures. Not only do they depend upon us for their care, but their care is so much more complicated than for cats and dogs. The more research we do, as their humans, the better off our hogs are and the better lives they get to live!

**Maddie S’s Response:**

1. I second the poop thing. Lots of stinky poop that your dog will likely want to eat since it’s cat food poop.

2. The second you get bored [of your hedgehog], it will get bored of you!

**Pat S’s Response:**

1. Find a vet who will see your [potential] hedgehog before you get it. I think this is one of the first things you need to know when getting any animal. You never know when an illness or accident will occur and to find [a vet] after the fact can be daunting. You might have to travel long distances: are you ready and able to do that? If not, find a different pet where it’s easier to find a vet that will see and treat them.
Anastasia Z. B’s Response:

1. Cost. I know not all hedgehog owners have hogs with health issues, but I didn’t initially expect to sink as much money into vet care as I had to for Henrietta’s cancer. Like any pet, you should never get one unless you are financially stable and [able] to support it through any kind of health crisis. Also, finding a vet who can treat a hedgehog is definitely very important.

2. Do research. I know a few people who just “want” a hedgehog and I explained the hours of research I had done in preparation mine. They were like, “Really? Oh.” Like YES, they are exotic and involve lots of care and patience and it is so very rewarding when they love you back!

Lupita A’s Response

1. Probable illnesses.

2. Temper and socialization.

Linda W’s Response:

1. A little more about proper diet and what to do if you have a picky eater.

2. How expensive a hedgehog can be when they get sick. Four of the ten I’ve had have had vet bills over $1,000 with either cancer or heart issues.

Beth R’s Response:

[Beth is the founder of Critter Camp, an exotic animal rescue in Illinois]

1. In general with all small pets, we tell people they need to be prepared to care for the animal for its entire lifespan. So know [a hedgehog’s] lifespan. Also, visit someone who has a hedgehog. Touch it, hold it, smell it, and make sure you are not allergic. Look at the [hedgehog’s] cage setup and understand their heat requirements. If you keep your home at 62-degrees, then know you will have to warm your hedgie’s area year round. Additionally, do you have a vet who understands the care of the small animal you are getting?

Courtney T’s Response:

1. I always tell people to put away one dollar for every dollar they spend on their hedgehog, into a vet fund jar. That means the cost of the hedgehog, their set up, their food, their toys, their accessories. [This] should create a fairly healthy vet account for mites, falls, tumors, uterine issues, and fecal tests. Also, have a vet picked out and researched before you bring the hedgehog home. If you are unwilling or unable to drive whatever distance is necessary to see that vet in an emergency, then a hedgehog may not be for you.

Hedgehogs are very similar to cats: If they love you, it will be on their terms. However, they may huff and generally tell you to bugger off most of the time. Those snuggly pictures on the Internet probably took twenty shots and some mealworm bribes.

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Dana D’s Response:
1. I wish I’d known about fleece being preferred by most people for cage bedding and liners. Also finding a vet who is really experienced with hedgies. Ours is great and came highly recommended. Oh, and finding proper food is hard because not every place carries the suggested cat foods.

2. Hedgies are really nocturnal. Also, they are sensitive little animals and are easily scared. Despite the fact that they are nocturnal, they still do require time spent with their owner. You must spend time with them to bond, also to bathe them, clip their toenails and take care of their sensitive skin. It’s like having a baby, but with spikes that you will find all over your house!

Shelby W’s Response:
1. The poop! I love my baby and knew about the poop, but didn’t mind. But holy Hannah, the poop…!

Tina W’s Response:
1. I wish I knew to make sure the breeder is a reputable one—one that takes the time to socialize the babies so they are used to being held.

2. So, make sure your breeder is reputable and meet the hedgehog before purchasing!

Tracy W’s Response:
1. Boy time. I was completely blindsided by that realization.

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Marley I’s Response:

1. At the time, I didn’t know my hedgehog would bite me.
2. Don’t impulse buy a hedgehog. You need to know what to expect.

Amber P’s Response:

1. That they required temperature control from the beginning. By nature they are nocturnal.
2. Handle an unsocial hedgehog before making an impulse purchase base on the “novelty impression” pictures give.

Sherry V’s Response:

1. Everyone has covered that area real well.
2. It’s extremely easy to over indulge and over feed your hog. Once a hedgehog is overweight it is EXTREMELY difficult to get the weight back off. You will become their personal fitness coach.

Jennifer S’s Response

1. People should know that just because they are small doesn’t mean they are like a mouse or a gerbil. Hedgies require dedicated care. You have to be willing to be pricked by quills, possibly bitten. You also have to get them proper vet care. They aren’t disposable! They have very distinct personalities. They need consistent and continuous attention for the best quality of life.

These little babies deserve the best. I wake up in the middle of the night for feedings because that’s what a true pet lover does. You would do it for a dog or cat. Hedgies are not different. I only take in twilight hedgies (the elderly, the ones that tend to be forgotten). I insist on giving them everything a hedgie deserves.

Beth B’s Response:

1. They need HEAT. That is the one thing I did not know.
2. This is not a small child’s pet. They require care, attention, and their quills are sharp. Kids should always be supervised [when interacting with the hedgehog].

Sara H’s Response:

1. Hedgehogs can have major health issues. They can be harder to understand than a dog or a cat. But if you listen with your heart, you will be able to communicate with your hedgie.
2. My advice to someone thinking about getting [a hedgie] is, if you can open your heart and maybe even your wallet, there are more and more of these little guys that need a good home and if you can provide that, you may just be some little hedgie’s angel. And get into a hedgehog group that will give you advice and support!
First off - - a big thank you to the Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show for the $300.00 donation to HWS!!!

Secondly - - I’m happy to report that this year’s wheel-a-thon was a great success!

We had nine teams participate this year: The White Ghost (Linda W.’s team), Who Wears Poop Boots? We Wear Poop Boots! (Laura D.’s team), The Wheeling Whumplings (Tina W.’s team), Little Bud & Company (Elaine B.’s team), Wheeling Huffing Hedgies (Brooke B.’s team), Team Volcano (Sherry V.’s team), Princess Hettie’s Hedgehogs (Sarah L.’s team), Paws for a Cause (Deb W.’s team), The Twelve Stooges (Law D.’s team). Teams used a variety of methods to solicit funds: social media, emails to family & friends, and donation jars set out at the office. One team captain went so far as to go door-to-door in her neighborhood with one of her hedgies!

Donations are still coming in, so I don’t have a total yet. I can share with you that checks have been received for a total of $575.00 (with the largest check being written for Team Wheeling Whumplings). While 52 people made PayPal donations so far that total $2,025, with team Who Wears Poop Boots? We Wear Poop Boots! garnering the most donations via PayPal. Donation amounts ranged from $5.00 to $250.00, with team totals ranging from $68.00 to $456.00. Thank you all, HWS appreciates each and every dollar.

Not completely sure what HWS does?? Here are a few of the services we provide:

* Compile and maintain a vet list, with listings for US, Canadian, and international hedgehog-savvy vets, on our website.

* Provide financial reimbursement for vet care for rescued hedgies.

* Provide a free care package, containing homemade cuddle sack, hat, and treats, for rescued hedgies.

* Publish a free, bi-monthly newsletter filled with accessible, usable, and engaging articles and photos to educate and entertain.

* Support a robust group of official Rescue Stations, throughout the US and Canada, available to take in hedgehogs needing new homes

* Maintain an active list of screened adopters seeking to care for hedgies in need of new homes.

* Provide assistance with relinquishment and placement of hedgies

* Monitor and maintain a chat group, website, and Facebook group.

Again, I’d like to thank everyone for getting involved and supporting the Hedgehog Welfare Society. After all, hedgehogs rule!!!!!!
“Little Owl’s Night”, by Divya Srinivasan, is available at Amazon as an ebook, hardcover, and board book, for $6.99, $10.66, and $4.96 respectively. I highly recommend the board book, which consists of heavy cardboard “pages” that really enhance the beauty of the bright, colorful illustrations. I tried to choose a favorite animal illustration but could not. They are all simply gorgeous. Be sure to use AmazonSmile and give back to the Hedgehog Welfare Society.

In this story, Little Owl awakens and starts his night. He encounters other night creatures: possums, a hedgehog sniffing mushrooms, a skunk, beavers, a turtle who’s hiding in her shell, his friend the raccoon, and moths, who, in the most charming turn of phrase “fluttered toward the moon. Silver dust fell from their wings.” What a picture that evokes, “silver dust falling”!

Little Owl visits his friend Bear, and tries to awake him to “... show you the moon!” but is unsuccessful. Maybe Bear has never even seen the stars. Little Owl has; and he loves his night. The frog croaks, crickets chirp, Fox stops by to say hello, and finally, the bats head home (I take back what I said; the bat illustration, with their little vampire teeth set into adorable yawning faces, may be the cutest one.)

Little Owl asks his Mama how the night ends, and she explains that the moon and stars fade, spider webs turn to threads, night flowers close while morning glories open, roosters and crows call ... “But Little Owl did not hear. He was fast asleep.”

I bought and reviewed this book due to the hedgehog mentioned in the story, but really, all of the night animals, and Little Owl himself, are wonderfully portrayed characters. Adults will appreciate the excellent illustrations, and children will enjoy the story.

Please try to find this book, you won’t be sorry!
“Hedgehog Swag” is a new addition to the HWS Newsletter which will feature items with a hedgehog theme. If you have something that you would like to share, please send a description of the item and a photograph to newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org.

The note on the left hedgehog’s back says “Handle with care!”

This mug was manufactured in England by Arthur Wood.