



Hedgehog Welfare Society

January – 2024

To protect the well-being of pet hedgehogs through rescue, research, and education of the people who care for them.

The Hedgehog Welfare Society Newsletter

Long Live the Newsletter

We are pleased to announce the revival of our organization's newsletter! Years ago, HWS faithfully sent a monthly newsletter to all members, both electronically and via USPS. Our fantastic editor, Margaret, had to retire from the role, and we have been unable to keep up the tradition. All that is about to change! While our revived newsletter may start out with fewer cool graphics and photos, we hope to impart useful information, and maybe have some fun.

We would love your help! Please send your article ideas, fun facts, cute stories, or photos to our editor [Jennifer](#).

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The Financials

In an average year, the HWS takes in revenues of approximately \$10,000 from PayPal donations, Network for Good, iGive, and Amazon Smile (although Amazon Smile has now ended its charitable donation program). We spent monies on vet fees for rescues and on supporting our rescue sites, as well as on administrative fees such as maintaining our web site and our organizational insurance.

Community Activities



In July of 2022, after a two-long-year delay due to the pandemic, the 25th Anniversary Go Hog Wild hedgehog show was held in Illinois. The show was organized by Dawn Wrobel and attended by people from across the country. HWS sponsored talks and had a table of hedgehog items for sale to raise money for rescue.



Meet Your Board of Directors



Who are we? We are your Hedgehog Welfare Society board of directors! Here are some of the things we do to further the mission of our organization:

- We help find new temporary homes for hedgehogs who are relinquished by their owners. Owners who can no longer care for their pet hedgehogs can fill out a relinquishment form on our website. We connect these owners with our volunteer rescue locations across the United States who can care for these hedgehogs until they are adopted.
- We respond to urgent requests for help from owners whose hedgehogs are experiencing veterinary emergencies. We help provide answers when we can, and otherwise connect these people with local hedgehog experts and veterinary care.
- We process adoption applications from all over the United States. After ensuring adopters are informed about hedgehog care and have a plan to provide a permanent home to a rescued hedgehog, we connect applicants with our rescue stations. Some rescue stations are able to match applicants with hedgehogs right away, while others maintain waiting lists for when hedgehog rescues become available.
- We provide financial assistance to our volunteer rescue stations. Our dedicated team of volunteers spends their time and money caring for homeless hedgehogs. While the Hedgehog Welfare Society cannot offer to pay for all their costs and labor, we do provide a small amount of financial support annually and as we are able.
- We actively work to protect the health and well-being of pet hedgehogs by helping to monitor and/or report problematic pet stores, breeders, and others who put hedgehogs at risk. We have been called upon to assist with large exotic animal rescues when hedgehogs are involved.
- We offer small financial awards to assist in the cost of veterinary care for hedgehogs adopted from our volunteer rescue stations. We know that adopting an older hedgehog, or one who has not received adequate care, can

sometimes involve sudden vet bills. We try to lessen the burden of these early vet visits with financial assistance.

- We gather data and coordinate with researchers to learn more about hedgehog health. We have created and maintained a database of cause-of-death and necropsy reports. We have worked with university research as they try to learn the cause, genetics, or precursors to Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome, a condition that often strikes young, otherwise healthy hedgehogs, tragically reducing their lifespan.

Get Involved!



Do you love hedgehogs? Do you want to do more to support them through our efforts? Here are some ways you can get involved!

- Support Hedgehog Welfare Society through your shopping and browsing. [Join iGive](#) and choose Hedgehog Welfare Society as your cause; when you shop online, shop through iGive and a percentage of what you spend is donated to the HWS. Join [Network for Good](#). Make [Goodsearch](#) your search engine and list the HWS as your cause. These all give money directly to HWS and help us to support our mission!
- Join our [HWS Google](#) group and our [Facebook group](#) to meet and interact with other hedgehog guardians.
- [Email us](#) things you'd like to see in a newsletter. Examples are funny stories or photos or interesting medical facts about hedgehogs. Ask us questions and we'll try to answer them. We want your input!
- [Check our veterinarian list](#) on our web site; if you have a good vet who isn't listed, let us know at info@hedgehogwelfare.org
- When your hedgehog passes, submit your records to our cause-of-death and/or histopathology or necropsy results to our [Hedgehog Mortality Database](#) or our Jaw Tumor Study.
- Looking for a pet for your family? One who might sit with you when you're watching TV in the evening? Maybe you need a hedgehog. The HWS is

looking for responsible people who would like to adopt a rescued hedge. This can be a 3-5 year commitment. We have lots of them available, especially in **Florida, Illinois, Texas, Oregon, Ohio and Washington**, but we have them in other places also. Keep in mind that a hedgehog is more of an “adult” pet and not for small children. If you’re interested, please [go to our website](#) and fill out an adoption application. Once approved, we’ll put you in contact with someone who has an available hedgehog.

- If you have hedgehog care experience, and want to do more for more hedgehogs, you can apply to become one of our rescue sites, in which you would take in relinquished hedgehogs and care for them while they await adoption. You will be matched with a mentor to help you become comfortable in this role. We especially need people in **Florida, Illinois, Texas, Ohio, Oregon, New York, and Washington**, but we can use them all over the U.S. and Canada. You must have hedgehog experience, have room to house at least 3 or 4 hedgies, have an exotic vet nearby, and have the finances to care for them if they are sick (although the HWS will try to help as much as we can). If you’re interested, please [send us an e-mail](#) to and ask for an application to be a hedgehog rescue facility. We’d love to have you!



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Donate to HWS



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