



The Hedgehog Welfare Society

TO PROTECT THE WELL-BEING OF PET HEDGEHOGS THROUGH RESCUE, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR THEM. NEWSLETTER #12, SEPT/OCT 2004

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FROM THE BARD:



(ARTWORK © JUDIE PETERS)

The Boston Pog Party

FINN MACCOOL,
BARD OF THE LAND OF MYR

LAND OF MYR, NJ – One must imagine hearing the sounds of a lute lightly strumming along as Finn MacCool, in the tradition of Taliesin and O'Carolan before him, tells the tale of the Second Boston Pog Party.

It all started just a few days before as my guardians were busily preparing for their upcoming travels to the land of Boston, where my former liege, the Lord Tucker of the Land of Myr, made his way two years earlier. Aimee, as I know her by, the lass who brings me my drink and food, was preparing her documents and the items for what she called an 'Art Show' for all to see.

She and The Wise Llama both went from place to place in an effort to get the proper frames for all the artwork that was so generously donated by a number of talented artists. She also printed a great many fliers and other items for the show

so that people would not lack for any information or not know who to talk to. But everything was completed and whence came the Friday past, myself, Deirdre and

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Donnasue with the HWS table.

BARD IN BOSTON...

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Byrnard were placed in carriers and so as well were the strange creatures known as guinea pigs and off we went.

For me, the travel went a bit rougher and I have to say, I lost the contents of my sensitive stomach twice. Byrnard told me to bear it like a soldier. It was easy enough for him to say, he IS the Wee Warrior. I'm a Bard, and we require a greater degree of pampering. <huffhuff> But at a place called a stop, The Wise Llama halted our travels and Aimee comforted me for the rest of the journey there.

Upon our arrival, Aimee checked us in and when we got the number for the establishment we were staying at, The Wise Llama and Aimee both got all of their things from the truck and settled us in. Thank Goodness for that, my stomach was in knots from the journey! Next time, I shall request more comfortable traveling methods. <huffhuff>

Then Aimee and Jim (The Wise Llama) met up with Jennifer Plombon and Heather Johnson and they all proceeded to spend time together until they all went to a strange place called an 'Airport' to pick up their friend named Melanie Buschmeyer, who was arriving in the midst of a sudden rain storm that plagued the countryside for a while that night. That storm caused delays for many of the flights, but the greater villain in this tale was the airport. It was more confusing than the most confounding maze and for

a time, hope was almost lost, but they managed to win their freedom from the maze and get all back safely to the fine inn where we were awaiting them.

Jim and Aimee set up my normal quarters as well as those of Byrnard's and Deirdre's – and with all being well, I ventured forth to eat my fill and drink and

practice my storytelling skills.

When came the next day, Jim and Aimee, both tired still from the night's events, roused themselves and took Byrnard with them to the holy grounds the Boston Pog Party would be held at. I would have gone, but as my own tummy was still not at peak capacity from the drive the day before, I very graciously declined attending. Perhaps that was my foot that Byrnard felt as he was propelled from his cage into Aimee's carry bag? We'll never know. =)

At the show, Jim and Aimee helped set up things and Aimee got her Art Show together. There was a very wonderful talk from esteemed persona before the actual show began and then the clock struck the hour and the show was on. From there, Jim and Aimee were in different areas so my details aren't perfectly clear as Byrnard stayed with Aimee, but IHOG was held once again, and it was a sight to behold. Byrnard says he could have beaten everyone there because he is so fit

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A large crowd gathered around the IHOG.



The Costume Contest attracted plenty of attention.

BARD IN BOSTON...

(...Continued from page 2)

and athletic, but I said he probably would have slept on the job.

Jim went to the Registration table and there he greeted people coming in to the show and even met up with some familiar faces from the last show. And it was there he stayed until the end of the show, and he helped pack up things and clean up once everything was done and he had this to say to me once they were back "How Pat can pack so much, he'll never know but bless her for being able to fit it all in". ;)

After the show, Jim, Aimee, Heather, Jennifer, Donnasue, Simon, Missy (Donnasue's niece), Melanie, Elana and Peter all went to a fine Inn by the name of Papa Razzi and proceeded to eat, drink



Aimee with the Art Show.

and be merry. They got back and a Circle of Light was held, but Jim wasn't able to attend as he came down with a sinus problem that made him go to sleep early. I came forth from my quarters and again ate and drank my fill and all was well. Aimee was most happy because her Art Show was very successful as were the other auctions and the registration. We

residents of The Land of Myr salute her and the others for all the work they did!

The next day, Heather, Jennifer, Donnasue, Missy, Simon, Susan, Melanie and of course, Jim and Aimee went to Boston and walked along what the older Bards call The Freedom Trail. They saw a few things, got some coffee, ate in a restaurant called Durgin Park, sat in a park called The Boston Common for a while, and then came back.

When it was time for us to depart home, I myself was quite fearful, as on the travel up, I was ill! But Jim had an idea for Aimee to hold me as the bumps would not feel nearly as bad. And he was right! No wonder he is called The Wise Llama! The drive back went smoothly and once we got back, Jim unloaded and he and Aimee set everything up until Aimee was sleeping soundly. Jim finished putting the homes together and we all gave him thanks and proceeded to eat and run happily on our wheels.

On behalf of The Land of Myr – I would like to give thanks to all those who took part in the Boston Pog Party and made it another huge success. *Huzzah!*

Most Humorous: Nell Goetcheus, as the Nor'Easter Hedgie Train

See Me, Notice Me, Love Me: Moet Adler, as Champagne Pog

"I can't believe my owner is making me wear this": Prickadilly, as Submarine Pog

Most Patriotic: Harmonie the Helicopter Hog

After Heather and Dana presented the Costume Contest awards (beautifully designed and framed by Dana), we got going with the IHOG. The competition was fierce, the crowd was pulling for all the contestants, and as usual, some of the

(Continues on page 4...)

The Boston Pog Party – Faboo!

Oh my, how to sum it up? Perhaps "faboo" would be the word.

SUSAN GOETCHEUS

ARLINGTON, MA – You can judge for yourself at <http://www.bostonpog.org/bpp2004/pictures.html>. The second Boston Pog Party is now history, and we had

a great time. The day started with a lively seminar with Dr. Harrington, followed by lunch at noon. The doors opened to the public at 12:30, and we estimate total attendance at about 75 people, including a reporter and photographer from the *Arlington Advocate*. The photographer stayed for a long time and I imagine there will be a few very cute pictures in the paper on Thursday. The article appears online at <http://www2.townonline.com/arlington/local-regional/view.bg?articleid=27345>.

Heather Johnson graciously agreed to judge the Costume Contest, and I think she had a tough time of it. The crowd was most appreciative of all the costumes. Nell chugged down the table as the conductor of the Nor'Easter Hedgie Train, Prickadilly did his best impression of Captain Nemo in his yellow submarine, Skeezix posed as a camping pog in her picture (we were very sorry she could not be there in person, but she was definitely there in spirit), Mars appeared in a picture with an alien, Moet luxuriated in a champagne glass with a namesake bottle nearby, and Harmonie landed on the judging table in her helicopter.

Our winners:

Most Original: Skeezix Plombon, as Camping Girl (photo submission)



FAVORITE RESCUE STORY

Do you have a favorite rescue story you would like to share?

Please send it to us either electronically at newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org or via snail-mail to HWS Newsletter c/o Kathleen Knudsen PO Box 70408, Seattle WA 98107



The Literary Hedgehog



Cheryl's preferred reading material: The Tales of Olga da Polga.



Willa visits the library.

CHERYL KOHL & SUSAN GOETCHEUS

ARLINGTON, MA – This month Mom and I will tell you about one of her favorite books, *The Tales of Olga da Polga*, by Michael Bond (Penguin Books Ltd., 1971). You may recognize Mr. Bond as the author of the Paddington Bear books, which are much more well known. There are several Olga books and they are all chapter books, so it will take us a long time to read them. If my bedtime were later, we could read more each night, but Mom and Dad say “uh-uh”.

Olga is an imaginative and talkative British guinea pig who is taken home from a pet shop by a very nice family. Her family makes her a wonderful home on stilts in the

yard, and also gives her a wire run so she can play on and eat the grass. One day when she's in her run, she sees a prickly ball that can move without anyone touching it. Her friend Noel the cat tells her that the ball is a hedgehog, and his name is Fangio! (Mom says that many of you are probably saying “So that's where the name came from!”) After an unfortunate initial meeting during which Olga (who likes to tell tall tales) tells Fangio that she's a hedgehog eater, the two become friends.

In this book, Olga has some interesting adventures with her animal friends, and in later books she becomes a mommy and also does some traveling. Sometimes

Olga and her friends do things that real animals would never do, and Mom had to explain that Nell and Willa can't stand up on their hind legs and run. I like the book a lot anyway because it's fun to hear the British expressions and the pictures are neat to look at. Mom says that the best places to find the older editions of the books are used bookstores, although sometimes new bookstores have the more recent editions. Happy reading! 🐾

BOSTON – FABOO...

(...Continued from page 3)

hedgies decided that it was daytime, after all, and where better to sleep than in an exercise ball?

This year the final scoring for the medals was my job, because Dawn couldn't be with us (we missed you!), and after sufficient calculation and some double-checking of the numbers, we announced the ribbon winners and medalists. You can see all the winners at <http://www.bostonpog.org/bpp2004/winners.html>, but here are the 2004 Boston Pog Party IHOG medalists:

Gold: Blaine (Elana Adler)

Silver: Souvenir (Pat Storm)

Bronze: Riley (Irene Li)

While all this was going on, Kerri and her cousin ran the carnival up on the stage in the fellowship hall, and I think it was very popular with the younger attendees. We certainly had shopping opportunities, too – we had eight tables of stuff to buy. Our vendors were Kelly Sosik-Hamor of Hamor Hollow Hedgehogs, Nicole Belval of Prickly Pair Hedgehogs, Peter the nekkid heart attack fireguy (I'm sure there are some adjectives missing here :-), the HWS, and Pat Storm. Aimee put together an amazing Art Show, and Donnasue needed two tables to display all the great silent auction merchandise.

Our cleanup crew was swift and effi-

cient, and we were out of the church by 4:30. Nell was quite happy to get home to her own bin, and John and I were grateful for cold drinks and soft chairs. :-)

Many many thanks to these people:

The BPP organizing committee and volunteers: Donnasue Graesser, Dana Heath, Yolanda McLean, Kerri LeMotte, Lynne Dinger, John Kohl, Aimee Hassler, Jim Alfano, Carl Correra, Dom Rinaldi, and Kerri's cousin Jessica.

Our IHOG judges: Dom Rinaldi, Dana Heath, Missy Graesser, Ferd Kim, John Kohl, and Lynne Dinger (who didn't judge but stood ready to help).

All our vendors, sponsors, and donors.

And everyone else who helped in big and small ways. 🐾

Quills & Comfort Update

JUDIE PETERS

BLUFFTON, SC – There was a special “Blue Moon” Circle of Light held by request of Dawn Wrobel. She wrote, “Today I attended a workshop entitled *Letting Go: The Journey Home*. It was all about dealing with the loss of a pet and was facilitated by Carol Schultz. When I talked about how helpful the Circle of Light was – but that I was having trouble letting go of some of the pets I had lost *before* the Circle started – Carol pointed out that we had missed something important. She suggested that we schedule a special Circle of Light going back in time many years for all the hedgehogs that had crossed *before* we started honoring their crossing in this way. And that we indeed list all the names that people submit – even if it is hundreds. So I would like to request just that. A special Circle of Light to honor all the hedgehogs who crossed before the first Circle for list members...”

Tears flowed freely as names and stories were gathered and read during this very special Blue Moon Circle Of Light Ceremony, particularly as Pam requested her own daughter Zoe’s name be included in the sky with her beloved hedgeie friends.

We honor the crossing of:

- Abigail guardian Dawn W.
- Annabelle guardian Vicki M.
- Aphrodite guardian Kathleen K.
- Arial guardians Veronica & Jeffrey
- Asta guardian Sherry S.
- baby Comet guardian Judie
- Bianca guardian Kathleen K.
- Big Bob guardian Dawn W.
- Bolla the First guardian Kathleen K.
- Bolla the Second guardian Kathleen K.
- Buelah guardian Dawn W.
- Captain Morgan guardians Veronica & Jeffrey
- Cassandra guardian Dawn W.
- Clickit guardian Dawn W.
- Clover guardian Jennifer P.
- Dapper Don guardian Dawn W.
- Dasher guardian Dawn W.
- Diddly Bob guardian Dawn W.
- Drew guardian Dawn W.
- Elvira guardian Dawn W.
- Emma guardian Laura W.
- Fluffy guardian Sherry S.
- Gabby guardian Deb W.
- Gaelbhan guardian Susan M.
- Gracie guardian Deb W.
- Harley guardian Maurita P.
- Hedwig guardians Jeannie & Chris
- Holly guardian Jan E.
- Honey guardian Jan E.
- Honey Bunny guardian Judie
- Ipo guardian Sherry S.
- Junior guardians Veronica & Jeffrey
- Lillemor guardian Kathleen K.
- Loki BaldersBane guardians Marie & Don
- Maggie guardian Kathleen K.
- Mattie Maxine guardian Jacque D.
- Mulan guardian Peggy



- Needles guardian Judy B.
- Nezzie guardian Susan M.
- Noah guardian Dawn W.
- Norma guardian Jennifer P.
- Nutmeg Frost guardian Rose D.
- Odin guardian Kathleen K.
- Panda guardians Veronica & Jeffrey
- Penelope guardian Tanya
- Quillbert guardians Teresa & Cliff
- Retro guardians Veronica & Jeffrey
- Rinky Dink guardians Veronica & Jeffrey
- Sand Burr guardians Veronica & Jeffrey
- Scooter guardian Carol K.
- Sir Daniel Blessings guardian Jan E.
- SkeezeX guardian Jennifer P.
- Sparkle guardian Sherry S.
- Spikealena guardian Jacque D.
- Spikey guardian Sherry S.
- Spikey guardian Carol K.
- Spiku guardian Lisa D.
- The Terrible Terrwilliger (“Terry”) guardian Dawn W.
- Thistle Dew guardian Rose D.
- Tommy guardian Laura L.
- Twinkle Toes “the Diva of all Divas” guardian Susan M.
- Vanilla Bean guardians Veronica & Jeffrey
- Wee Willie guardians Laura & Michelle L.
- Whisper guardians Veronica & Jeffrey
- Winiferd guardian Sherry S.
- Yasmina guardian Gioia
- Yul guardian Kathleen K.
- Zoe mother Pam
- Zoey guardian Gina A.
- And all the Thistle Dew hedgehogs that have crossed the bridge...

Hoofbeats Vestibular Syndrome



There are many conditions that may cause a hedgehog to wobble and tip over. What was very different in the case of Knarla Pog Johnson is that her severe symptoms appeared quite suddenly. Fortunately, Heather's veterinarian was able to recognize Knarla's frantic symptoms as vestibular syndrome. Heather was able to support Knarla through her two bouts with vestibular syndrome, and has opened our eyes to the possibility of this condition, which many of us have never considered in our pet hedgehogs.

HEATHER JOHNSON

CHARLESTON, SC – What would you think if your hedgehog suddenly began staggering, falling, tipping over, and seemed unable to stand? What if this was accompanied by loss of appetite, vomiting, and frantic circling motions?

When this happened last fall to Knarla Pog, I feared that she had been poisoned, had a stroke, or had some other catastrophic ailment. My veterinarian assured me that these terrible-looking symptoms would pass and were caused by an affliction called peripheral vestibular syndrome.

Vestibular syndrome is a fairly common affliction of dogs and cats, and may be more common in hedgehogs than we think. In vestibular syndrome, the nerves connecting the brain to the inner ear, which is instrumental in the sense of balance, become inflamed. Many times a specific cause for the inflammation is not found, or it could be caused by some medications, stress, or infection.

Vestibular syndrome, happily, is a fairly benign condition. However, its rapid onset and severe symptoms can be terrifying for both hedgehog and human companion. In

vestibular syndrome, there is a problem with the inner ear, which is responsible for balance. Many times there is no known infection, trauma, or other assigned cause, and the symptoms disappear on their own within a few days.

SYMPTOMS OF VESTIBULAR SYNDROME:

- Rapid onset of symptoms, with a healthy animal becoming incapacitated within the space of a day or even hours.
- Loss of balance — staggering, falling, and falling into objects, almost looking like the animal is drunk.
- Vomiting.
- Lack of appetite.
- Circling in the same direction the head is tilted.
- Rapid, almost uncontrolled eye movements known as nystagmus (not always noted with hedgehogs with vestibular syndrome).

In most cases, the treatment is supportive care, antibiotics if an infection is present, and possibly steroids to control inflammation. Depending on the severity of the symptoms, sedatives may be administered to keep the animal calm. The syndrome will run its course within a few days as the inflammation subsides.

Supportive care is crucial, as in many cases the animal cannot stand up to eat or drink from a dish, or is too nauseated from the “sea-sick” effects of vestibular syndrome to want to eat. A feeding syringe, available from your veterinarian, can be used to provide water and a moistened food mixture to your pet.


Your pet's normal cage may not be suitable for his/her recuperation from vestibular syndrome. When Knarla was suffering from her two bouts of vestibular syndrome, we modified a 24” x 24” travel cage for her

needs. A large box or Sterilite container may also be used in this way. We draped a large fleece blanket over the top of the cage and tucked it down so that it completely covered the bottom and sides of the cage, cushioning any bars or edges. In the middle, we piled fabric of various kinds – fleece, vellux, and other fabrics without loose strings that could get caught around her limbs. This provided her with a “track” around the edge of the cage that she could circle around and that would support her if she toppled over. Because she was unable to eat or drink on her own, we did not place food or water dishes in the cage. Some hedgehogs with vestibular syndrome will be lethargic and not likely to move around. Others, like Knarla, are frenetic and will circle endlessly, even rubbing fur off their bellies and causing sores on their paws and bellies. To keep Knarla comfortable while she recovered, our vet prescribed liquid Valium.

While Knarla was unable to feed herself, we syringe fed her every 4-6 hours. In a food processor, I pureed her regular kibble, plus chicken broth, crickets, waxworms, and honey into a moist mixture that could easily be fed through the syringe. Typically, she would eat between 5-10 cc of food mixture per feeding, plus that much water.

Knarla has had two bouts of vestibular syndrome to date, one last fall and one this summer. The triggers of the first bout are largely unknown. The second time, she fell ill after having an emergency spay, and we theorize that the stress of blood loss and surgery may have triggered a relapse. Relapses of vestibular syndrome in dogs and cats are not uncommon.

What can you learn from Knarla's experience? Terrifying symptoms are not always life-threatening. With supportive care and time, vestibular syndrome will run its course, and symptoms are not likely to be long-lasting. The key is to get a vet involved soon to diagnose the ailment, prescribe any necessary medications, and then to ensure that your pet stays calm, hydrated, and fed while he or she is recovering.

For more information on vestibular syndrome, or to contact me, please visit Hedgies.com. 

Due to circumstances beyond our control, **RUBY'S RESCUE SHOP** is temporarily closed.

Watch for notices of **RUBY'S RESCUE SHOP** re-opening soon!

WWW.HEDGEHOGWELFARE.ORG



Hedgie Hero: Heather Johnson

CAROL FISH KREGEAR

PORTLAND, OR – Heather Johnson has been chosen as this month's "Hedgie Hero". Heather grew up in Huntsville, Alabama. She lives in Charleston, South Carolina with her husband and two hedgehogs Knarla Pog (female, 3.5 years) and Tenzing (male, 5.5 weeks). She is a board member of the Hedgehog Welfare Society and co-chairs two committees, Advocacy-Pet Store/USDA Liaison, and Rescue Care Packages. Not limiting her good deeds to hedgehogs, she is a transport volunteer for the South Carolina Center for Birds of Prey. Heather is a self-described "general computer geek", maintaining a "real job" as a team manager for a software support contact center. She enjoys nature photography, bird and critter watching, and by all reports, is a great cook.

I asked Heather to describe her work with hedgehogs...

I've been involved with hedgehog welfare issues since 1997, when my husband and I first adopted Murray. I realized, even after the prep work I did, that I knew precious little about caring for a hedgehog! Murray was a patient teacher, and helped us learn all about the various ways to spoil her. I learned so much from the hedgehog e-lists in their various incarnations and the experiences of other pet owners.

Yoli Odgers and I organized the Lowcountry Hedgehog Society (later, the Carolina Hedgehog Society) around 1998-1999. We wanted to be able to have a way to socialize with other hedgehog enthusiasts in our area, and also to have a network to assist with hedgehog issues locally. At first, I didn't really think about "rescue" per se, but Yoli and I worked to deal with some pretty hideous pet store situations. The rescues just came naturally, and to tell the truth, I don't even remember when I first started rescuing and fostering! The pet stores, vets, and shelters just ended up with my name and it grew from there.

Some notable rescues I've worked with include dear Gwennie, who was kept in an unclean 10 gallon aquarium with cedar shavings, hard dog food, and an algae-filled water bottle. Gwen looked up at me when I came into the room to pick her up from her owner, who was no longer willing to care for her, and had such a look of relief and love on her face. She knew I was there to help. Tiptoe (now with Ashley Festa) came from a pet store. I went to drop off CHS materials at the store and noted that one of the young hedgehogs had a hooked-back foot. The owner was uncertain what to do, and I took her off his hands. She is now spoiled ROTTEN and has four perfect little paws.

I'm thrilled to be working with the HWS, and have been a supporter from its earliest inception. Jennifer and I had the idea for what became the care packages project originally for the CHS, but it became clear that a national organization with more resources was much better able to handle such a great effort. I continue to be inspired by the willingness of HWS members to donate supplies and time to the care packages – especially those who have received a care package in the past. It's a great way



Heather and Knarla Pog at the Blessing of the Animals at Grace Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC. It is special to Heather because it was Knarla's first Blessing. Knarla has, of course, blessed Heather with her companionship ever since.

to provide a set of starter supplies to new rescuers, but also to say THANK YOU and reinforce to them that we truly value the love and assistance they provide to the hedgehogs in their life. Jennifer does an awesome job administering that project.

The Wheel-a-Thon started rumbling around in my head years ago after I participated with Murray in the Walk for the Animals for the local SPCA. It occurred to me that it would be terrific to harness some of the energy that hedgehog people have into a fundraiser that could bring in funds from non-traditional sources — friends and family who might not normally donate or buy items from other fundraisers. It has been a success beyond my wildest expectations because of the individuals who enthusiastically volunteer their time and good names to raise funds for hedgehog welfare. I love working with it and hope to do so for many years.

Hedgehogs are so special to me. Despite the fact that Knarla Pog has been running practically every night for three plus years in her exercise ball, it never ceases to bring a smile to my face when she balls through the room. It's impossible to be upset or stressed or sad when a hedgehog is chomping down on a cricket or a mealworm and scrunching up their wee cheeks. I try to do what I can for these charming, fey little animals and they have never ceased to repay me in love, humor, and general fun.

A FEW COMMENTS FROM HEATHER'S MANY ADMIRERS:

"Heather is 'good people'. She's humorous, levelheaded, always willing to lend a shoulder to cry on or offer a word of encouragement, and she is *extremely* fond of her hedgehogs. (The last bit being the most important, of course.) Her work on hedgies.com and the HWS Wheel-a-thon plus her other contributions make her a great asset to the hedgie community. ~ Susan Goetcheus

✂ ✂ ✂

"I didn't realize I've known Heather for several years now, having met her when Murray was still bringing joy to her life... Heather would bring laughter to the hedgie groups with tales of

(Continues on page 8...)

HEDGIE HERO...

(...Continued from page 7)

Murray's antics – I can only imagine the sorrow suffered by both Heather and her husband Chopper when Murray decided it was time to leave. Knarla Pog and Tenzing have generated new laughs for Heather — much to the amusement of HWS as Heather relates their latest antics to our group. She has the welfare and happiness of her pogs as a top priority, and is truly a valuable asset to the Hedgehog Welfare Society.

“Heather was quick to turn the very unexpected arrival of Tenzing into an experience of learning for all those who visit her web site at www.hedgies.com. Documenting his development starting right after his birth, Heather's web site — which is already an invaluable reference site for hedgegie-carers of all experience levels — has taken on yet another dimension, becoming a reference for hedgegie-carers who might unexpectedly become ‘grandparents’ with no advance warning. While some people may be tempted to use this web site in lieu of incurring the ever-rising vet costs, Heather states on every page of her web site that this by no means replaces quality veterinary care.

I have also worked with Heather on a professional basis outside ‘our lives where hedgies are concerned’. She is one of the most conscientious, hard-working, creative, dependable and professional people I have encountered in my nearly 30-year professional life. She is quick with suggestions, patient while listening to other's suggestions and comments, thorough in her research and foundational work, and the joy she finds interacting with her hedgies is passed along to all those she works with – even humans without hedgies! Heather – you are absolutely awesome!”

~ Kathleen Knudsen
✂ ✂ ✂

“Heather is definitely a hedgegie hero in my book, from many perspectives. She gives her own hedgies superb care. I'll never forget my first glances and awe at the “Pog Mahal.” WOW! Heather also goes so far beyond the call of duty in helping so many hedgies in our community. Hedgies.com is one of the most informative web-sites out there. The Wheelathon is not only Heather's brainchild, but her labor of love. She puts in huge amounts of work, and raises more money with the Wheelathon than any other single event in the hedgegie community each year. She's always willing to take in rescues and find loving homes for them. I am so grateful that she helped with the transport of Tenzing's mom, and now is sharing Tenzing's life with us all! Thank you Heather!”

~ Donnasue Graesser
✂ ✂ ✂

“When I got my first hedgehog in 2001, Heather's hedgies.com site was the first place I went seeking advice on how to care for my little one. Her site was so informative, that I joined the Carolina Hedgehog Society, even though I live about 100 miles from the Carolinas. Heather was one of the first people I *met* there. If it hadn't been for Heather

and her site, I might not have made the wonderful hedgegie friends that I have in the past three years!

“She really helped me through the rough times when Peanut had jaw cancer, since her own precious Murray had been through the same thing. Even though we have never met face to face, I consider her to be an awesome friend. She's always ready to help out when there are hedgies in need of rescue or slaves in need of advice! I sure hope to meet her in person at the Tennessee show!” ~ Lisa Duncan

✂ ✂ ✂

“Heather was the first person I met who also had a hedgehog. When I found the Yahoo list and posted in desperation about Norma who was wobbling, Heather replied and sought me out and met me and became my dear, dear friend. She is remarkably kind and gentle with all hedgehogs, and has been my most frequent pog sitter.

“Her web site is absolutely fabulous, packed with good information. I've moved far way from SC and miss her terribly, but her frequent posts from and about Knarla Pog and Tenzing keep us in touch and always brighten my day.” ~ Jennifer Plombon

Welcome New Rescue Contacts

It is my pleasure to introduce the Hedgehog Welfare Society Rescue Contact List's newest members, **Helen and Jonathon Cheney from Grafton, Massachusetts!** The addition of the Cheneys here in New England is extremely welcomed due to the numbers of rescues we see in “waves”. Please everyone join me in extending a warm welcome to Helen and Jonathon! We all look forward to working with you to make a difference.

The HWS Rescue Committee is committed to helping needy hedgehogs find good homes and warm hearts. As regulations and seasons change, the unending support and compassion you all demonstrate when the calls come in are appreciated more than words can express!

Regards,
Yolanda McLean
Co-Chair and Rescue Coordinator
Hedgehog Welfare Society, Rescue Committee

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING NEWSLETTER COPIES

The HWS is a charitable organization, and there is no fee to join. The free benefits are many and include an online newsletter, which is now going to be published bimonthly. The newsletter is free for anyone to download and read or print. We do offer a hardcopy service, which has been mailing paper copies of the newsletter to HWS members by request. Unfortunately, with an increasing number of members requesting paper copies, and a large and well-packed newsletter, the cost of printing and mailing them out has become high. We have decided the funds that we currently allocate to cover newsletter mailings could be more useful in helping with veterinary bills and other rescue services. The HWS will now charge a small fee to print and mail newsletters to members who request them. This fee will cover only the cost of printing, envelopes, and postage; it is not a fund-raiser.

Thank you, The HWS Board

HEDGIES IN HISTORY:

The Buddha and Master Hedgie

JAMES KREGEAR

PORTLAND, OR – Many, many years ago, back in the day, when the Buddha was not quite known as “THE” Buddha yet (he was Sid back then), he was just beginning his wandering in his quest to find true contentment when he chanced upon his first teacher. And as everyone in the Buddhist community knows, or should know, that teacher was, of course, Master Hedgie.

Little has been written about that first meeting. Why? Because Master Hedgie, first and foremost, was humble (hedgies have never wanted that ‘in the spotlight’ Hollywood celebrity life that so many animals, like cats, for instance, have chosen). Master Hedgie chose the silent path, because as the Buddha was to learn, “a wise animal (or person) speaks little and a fool fills the air with its idle chatter.” Think yappy little dogs, monkeys, and Rush Limbaugh.

They first met in a wooded area; there was a bit of a chill in the air, and Buddha had stopped to warm some water to drink. As he was squatting over the small fire he happened to see the rather large bottom of a hedgie wiggling in between two small fallen trees. In his delight, laughter overtook Buddha and he tipped over (he was beginning to put on the pounds) and bumped into the tree he was sitting under. Leaves from that tree fell into his warm water and tea was invented, just for your information. Anyway, the hedgie disappeared and Buddha was left contemplating the importance of flexibility of mind and body, with a grin on his face.

It was around dusk that the hedgie returned. Buddha was meditating with hands in his lap, palms upward, when he felt the softness of the little hedgie’s belly settle into his right hand. The curious creature had come to investigate. Sneaking a peek, Buddha made a mistake; he tried to pet Master Hedgie, and Master Hedgie wasn’t at that point in their relationship yet, and immediately balled up and popped and huffed at Buddha. Buddha’s first reaction was, of course – Ouch! Then, carefully putting the hedgie down, he watched as it proceeded to scurry? Waddle? No, those aren’t the right words. It proceeded to move in the way hedgies move (if you can come up with a description of this activity I would appreciate it).

*Lulu and Buddha.**(Artwork © Judie Peters)*

Buddha was quite impressed with the hedgie’s roundness. Here was a creature that was complete within itself. It is rumored that this is where the idea of all that yin-yang stuff began. You know, that circle thing you see everywhere... It looks like a couple of fish (yet another ‘Hollywood’ animal), but really, hedgies are behind it, think about it. Softness underneath, prickly on top, both in body and in personality sometimes. Timid and courageous, grumpy and sweet... you get the picture.

In the brief moments that the Buddha held Master Hedgie he simply could not deny he had felt some life energy radiating from the creature. Was it the gentle heartbeat? Perhaps, but Buddha knew as sure as shootin’ that Master Hedgie had soul. (Incidentally, hedgies were instrumental in the birth of Soul/Blues music, but that’s another story.) This life energy of the hedgie was familiar to the Buddha even though they had just met. Although he couldn’t say why, he would bet next week’s paycheck that this hedgie was somehow connected to his Uncle Pete whom had died a few years before. Uncle Pete had soul, and depth, and was as centered a man as you’d ever meet. He also had skinny little legs that supported a rather round body, not unlike this hedgie. Yes, he was sure that Master Hedgie, Uncle Pete,

and all of creation were connected on some level... and that’s when the idea of reincarnation was born, so to speak.

Master Hedgie taught Buddha a great deal about respect for others. With his perfect roundness, Master Hedgie drew his boundaries, and as long as Buddha accepted them, their relationship could form at Master Hedgie’s pace and comfort level. A friendship developed, with neither trying to possess the other. Buddha could be a friend, or even a guardian, but he did not own Master Hedgie. He knew that their moments together were borrowed; a precious loan from the universe. Master Hedgie taught him that they could both be of the world, but not enmeshed in the world. A deep peace came upon them both.

No one is quite sure how long Master Hedgie and Buddha hung out together. Some say it was for many seasons, others will tell you it was only a few.

Personally, I have learned much, witnessing my wife and her friends with their hedgies. I am now able to surrender, and learn from these tiny, miraculous creatures. I believe that one can discover these lessons again and again if one’s heart is open to love.

Next time: Sherlock Holmes –

The Case of the Hiding Hedgie

Six-month Rescue Recap

DONNASUE GRAESSER

WILLINGTON, CT – A good portion of the resources of the Hedgehog Welfare Society is devoted to rescuing hedgehogs that are in need of new homes. As part of that effort, we keep track of the situations from which hedgehogs are being rescued.

“Rescue” is a word that is sometimes difficult to define in the animal welfare field, and there has been some discussion about correct usage of the term on the hedgehog lists for years. Dictionary.com defines rescue as: “To free or deliver from any confinement, violence, danger, or evil; to liberate from actual restraint.”

Of course, this definition does not describe every rescue hedgehog. Some rescued hedgehogs were not in imminent danger of harm before they came to their new homes. Some had fantastic owners whose life circumstances changed. Yet, so far over 500 hedgehog have been reported as “rescue” hedgehogs by Hedgehog Welfare Society members. I examined past rescue surveys, looking for a common thread by which all these “rescue” hedgehogs are tied. In my opinion, all the “rescue” hedgehogs reported seem to fall into one of two categories. Keep in mind, these are just my thoughts and observations and definitely not any official definition of a rescue animal.

The first category includes hedgehogs that **NEED** a new home. For example, one hedgehog owner was deployed to Iraq. Certainly, he could not take his hedgehog to Iraq with him, and that hedgehog needed a new home. Hedgehogs that are abandoned or found wandering outdoors definitely need a home. Hedgehogs that are removed from states where they are illegal to own need to be brought to place where they are not at risk for confiscation and/or euthanasia. If an owner becomes too ill to care for a hedgehog, the hedgehog needs a new caretaker. If living conditions are harmful to a hedgehog’s health, it is necessary to bring the hedgehog to a situation where his or her health needs will be met.

The second type of rescue hedgehog does not urgently need to be placed with new owners. However, these hedgehogs are **BETTER OFF** if they can be placed with a new guardian. One example is the usual “owner no longer has time to give the

hedgehog the attention he/she deserves” classification of rescue. The hedgehog would be far better off if placed in a new situation, with a guardian who will give the hedgehog all the attention and time that a hedgehog is entitled to.

Not all the reported hedgehogs fit neatly into one or the other of these two categories. Sometimes, a hedgie could fit into either category, depending on specific circumstances and perspective. For example, a hedgehog living at an animal shelter is probably having his/her basic needs met. Some would say this hedgehog would be **better off** in a home that would supply love and snuggles as well. Some would say the hedgehog **needs** to be in a “real” home and not in a shelter. Some would say, “**It depends**” on how the hedgehog is being treated, what the cage set-up at the shelter is like, etc. Of course, if the hedgehog faces euthanasia, then he or she definitely needs to be rescued.

No matter what the cause for rescue, members of the Hedgehog Welfare Society have been generous with their time and affection this year. In the first six months of 2004, our community has reported a total of 93 rescued hedgehogs, taken in by 39

separate caring individuals. The results of the half-year rescue survey are shown in the Rescue Recap Table below.

As usual, the “no longer had time for” category takes the lead (31% of the rescued hedgehogs). One of the goals of the HWS is to educate new guardians, *before* they take in a hedgehog, about the time, responsibility, and financial resources necessary to care for a hedgehog. This statistic emphasizes the need for that education.

Nineteen percent of the rescued hedgehogs were brought to “safe” locations from states in which it is illegal to own hedgehogs. This relatively large percentage is due, in part, to a new relationship between the Hedgehog Welfare Society and the Maine Department of Fish and Game. The Department is no longer granting permits for the ownership of hedgehogs in Maine, and has called on the Hedgehog Welfare Society several times to transport animals to safe homes out of the state.

Overall, the number of rescues for the first half of this year is on par with the number from the previous six-month period. How nice it would be to see fewer hedgehogs looking for new homes in the second half of the year!

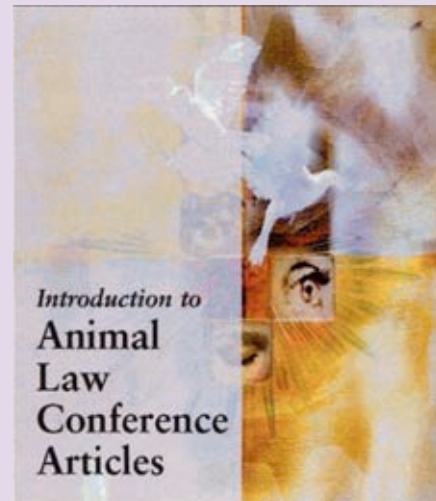
A BIG THANK YOU to all the rescuers who open up their homes and hearts to so many rescue hedgehogs!

RESCUE RECAP TABLE (JANUARY-JUNE 2004)

Rescue Situation	** Number of Hedgehogs	** % of Total Rescues
Total Rescue Hedgehogs	93	100
Owner “no longer had time for” the hedgehog	29	31.2
Removed from a state where hedgehogs are illegal to own	18	19.4
Removed from harmful living conditions	17	18.3
Retired breeders or “non-producers”	15	16.1
New “human” baby	13	14.0
Didn’t like hedgie’s personality	7	7.5
Child or teen lost interest	6	6.5
Humane Society or Animal Shelter	6	6.5
Babies from pregnant rescue hedgehog	2	2.2
Abandoned at college dorm	2	2.2
Abandoned at vet office or pet store	2	2.2
Moving to a new apartment	2	2.2
Illness in the family	1	1.1
Classroom pet needed permanent home	1	1.1
Given up for unknown reasons	1	1.1
Owner deployed to Iraq	1	1.1

** Some rescue hedgehogs are reported in more than one category, so the sum of percentages is greater than 100%.


Fourth in a series of informational articles offering hedgehog guardians a way to access regulations regarding hedgehog ownership throughout the country.



Three Hedgehog Welfare Society members attended the 11th Annual Animal Law Conference, held at Lewis & Clark Law School, in Portland, OR, on October 25-26, 2003.

There were almost 200 attendees, the majority of whom were law students, and the majority of whom we devoutly hope will incorporate animal law precepts into their law practices. Many speakers were lawyers who are at the forefront of setting and creating animal protection laws and cases. Many other speakers were involved in animal welfare agencies such as the Humane Society of the US, the Paw Project, the Great Ape Project, Pasado's Safe Haven, the National Anti-Vivisection Society, the Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free USA, the New South Wales (Australia) Young Lawyers Animal Rights Committee, ALIVE, and Defenders of Wildlife, as well as a physicians' organization, Americans for Medical Advancement and Europeans for Medical Advancement.

One common thread to the discussions and talks was the difference in animal law and regulation between states and localities. It is often difficult to wade through the regulations specific to local areas, or even to find them. We were given some suggestions on how to search for these regulations and will present the information as we find it, for your edification.

Over the next several months, the HWS Newsletter will contain articles by our three attendees, describing the presentations they attended and the learning experience obtained. 

Legal Status of Hedgehogs in the State of Utah

RACHEL WENTZ

OREM, UT – There has been some confusion about the whether the hedgehog is allowed as a pet in my state, Utah. As a result of spending some quality time reading some very boring state codes, I have produced a document that I now keep with me whenever I leave the house with a hedgehog – to ensure that my baby will not be confiscated or threatened.

Although every state is different, here are some guidelines about where you need to start if you would like to take similar action:

1. [www.\(state abbreviation\).gov](http://www.(state abbreviation).gov)

Every state in the US has a web-site. If your state does not use this address, it should automatically re-route you to the correct address.

2. Find your state laws & regulations.

On some state websites you can search directly for the word 'hedgehog' and find something. Most of us are not so lucky. Check for a link to "Government", "Legal", "Codes", "Laws & Regulations", etc on the state home page. For most states, what you really want are state "codes" – not the state laws.

A. "Administrative Codes" are the little policies of individual agencies. These are policies on which they act and enforce fines – to most of us that's called a law, but in legal-ese, they're usually "administrative codes" or "administrative rules."

B. On some sites finding the codes is a one-click process. On others it is more of a ten or twenty click process. I chased it down along this line on my state site:

1. Government
2. Agency List
3. Legal Agency, Administrative Rules
4. Administrative Code

C. If you know what you're looking for, you can sometimes get there more quickly by searching "Administrative Code" or "Rules" from the front page. However, the search will pull up things you aren't interested in, and you need to be able to sort through the results.

3. Unfortunately, just getting to the codes isn't going to finish the job. You need to find the part where there are rules about animals. Of-

(Continues on page 12...)

The following is the result of my research into Utah state codes. I carry this information with me to guard my pet from the threat of impound, confiscation, deportation, or euthanasia.

According to Utah State Administrative Code

R657-3-2: *The following species of domestic animals are not governed by this [animal] rule:*

R657-3-2-(21): Hedgehog (white bellied) (Erinaceidae atelerix albiventris)

This clearly classifies the white-bellied (four-toe) hedgehog as a *domestic* animal, thereby exempting the white-bellied (pet) hedgehog from any "wild/exotic" clauses in the code.

This conclusion is reinforced in the mammal-specific section of the code – which *does* indicate that other hedgehog species are controlled in the state of Utah.

R657-3-24: Classification and specific rules for mammals:

R657-3-24-e: Hedgehogs and Tenrecs, Erinaceidae and Tenrecidae Families, **except white bellied hedgehogs** are controlled* for collection, importation and possession.

We may then, understand that the white-bellied hedgehog (Erinaceidae atelerix albiventris) is neither prohibited nor controlled in this state (UT). It is, rather, classed with the domesticated animals that are acceptable as pets, and cannot, then, be impounded without just cause, such as "dangerous" behavior (eg. biting, disease, etc).

The above information, which was updated as "in effect" on **03/01/04**, gathered from <http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r657/r657-003.htm>

(This interpretation of the code is mine, and any errors are attributable to me.)

*Notice: Even non-pet hedgehogs are not *prohibited*– they are merely "controlled" for collection/importation/possession.

LEGAL STATUS...

(...Continued from page 11)

ten this will be listed in the same place as the fish & game information, but sometimes it isn't.

A. In Utah, animals are under "Natural Resources" in the "Wildlife" subgroup.

B. You may have to read through all the subsection titles to figure out what's the best route (bummer).

C. But if there is an "all the codes" page for your state (ie, they've listed

the whole thing on one depressingly long page instead of making one page for "Wildlife" and a separate page for "Parks and Recreation"), you are so lucky! All you need to do is click the "edit" button at the top of your browser window, and "find" the word "hedgehog." That will take you right to it! Fabulous!

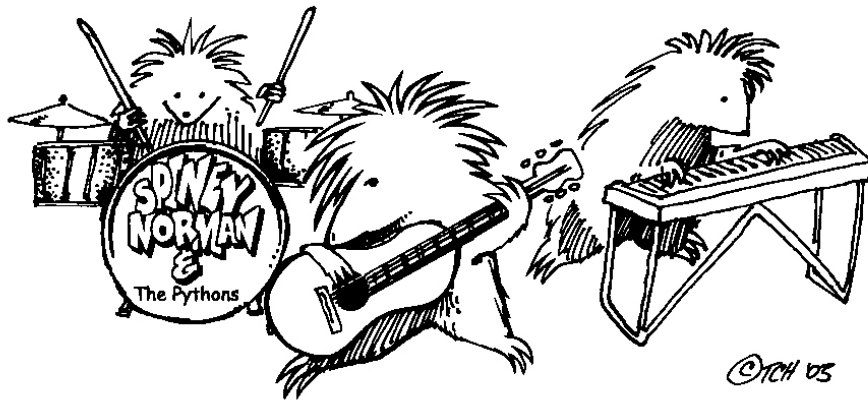
4. You might be in a state that has organized things well enough that you can just go to "Natural Resources/Wildlife" from the front page. Be sure and try it – it might

get you what you need. Some of us aren't that lucky, and the actual rules aren't found with the wildlife page – we have to dig through all the codes instead.

5. When you find yourself looking at a bunch of codes, use the edit/find feature on your browser and search for the word "exotic" – most states have something defining which animals are exotic and which aren't. If the animal area (wildlife, agriculture, wherever it is) for your state site has a "definitions" section, be *certain* to read it – this is where "domestic vs. exotic" is often defined, and if hedgehogs are not classified as exotic in your state, that makes everything easier.

6. Keep in mind that pet hedgehogs in North America are almost always a mix between *Atelerix albiventris* (the "four-toed/white bellied" African hedgehog) and *Atelerix algirus* (the Algerian hedgehog). Nevertheless, some states have different rules for the two species! Not many people would see a difference between the two... especially if they refer to the "white bellied" hedgehog when they want to talk about *albiventris*, since *algirus* has a white belly as well. But you might want to take a look at your hedgegie's back feet and check for a fifth toe, just in case you need to know in which type someone might classify him.

7. Copy pertinent codes to a Word (or other) file – complete with their numbering. Copy the URLs that go with them so that you can find them again easily and check for updates. If the codes are a little foggy, check all the definitions and other information on your state site and include them in your document to avoid any misinterpretation by an animal control person who hasn't studied each word and/or doesn't understand how important your hedgehog is. If you think it might help you express yourself in a stressful situation, write out a paragraph below the codes explaining their pertinence (or lack thereof).



Rock N Roll Hedgehogs

COME PLAY IN DETROIT!

SEPT. 17-19 2004

Join us for a fun-filled weekend:

- 2 IHA conformation shows
- IHOG
- large vendor area
- personalized hedgehog portraits
- informational speakers
- Rainbow Bridge memorial wall
- Remembrance Rocks

www.rocknrollhedgehogs.com



Pog Profiles

This column introduces our readers to some of the wonderful hedgies with whom HWS members share their lives. Each "profile" is given a list of 15 questions and chooses five of them to answer.

For the inaugural column, I could think of no better interviewee than Skeezi Plombon, both because of her reputation for being an extremely opinionated pog, and because she was in the last stages of cancer and would not be with us for much longer. Skeezi gave her answers just in time; her mom Jennifer wrote: "I'm saddened to announce that Skeezi was not able to beat her cancer; she crossed the Rainbow Bridge on June 22, 2004. She was, however, extremely successful in her quest to bring Joy to everyone she met; and to many she didn't. Godspeed, my dearest Joyful Girl, and dance in your party dress. I will love and miss you forever."

Here, for your enlightenment and enjoyment, is Skeezi's Profile.

A BIT ABOUT SKEEZIX

"Hi, I'm Skeezi; also known as Skeeter Bug, Skeeters, and Skeeze. I'm almost 4 years old, born in Washington State in June of 2000, and came to live with my human Mom, Jennifer, when I was 4 weeks old. I am famous (or notorious) for my habit of biting all other hedgehogs on the butt when given the opportunity, and for wearing and showing off costumes whenever given the opportunity. I am trying an experimental drug to treat an oral cancer, and my story and treatment will soon be published in a professional pharmacy journal."

THE INTERVIEW

Q: What is your favorite food, and do you think you get enough of it?

A: It's a tie between homemade smashed sweet potatoes and baked West Coast salmon (none of that farmed salmon for ME!) Mom makes sure I get enough; I get sweet potatoes every day (they are really good for hiding icky medicine in) and salmon about 4-5 times per week.

Q: Do you have a significant other?

A: Yes, I do! His name is Poog (or Poogums) and he lives in

Whose Tat is That?

You may know this hedgehog's face.
He's the inspiration behind
a Pampered Place.
His owner has made it
very well known
that silkies are hedgehog's
filet mignon!

If you would like to guess *Whose Tat is That?*,
write to

donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu

We will feature a new tattoo in every newsletter. Points will accumulate quarterly and the winner announced in December, 2004. Special prizes will be awarded. 5 points for submitting a picture of your tattoo to be featured. 4 points for being the first to correctly identify the person with the ink. 2 points for everyone else correctly identifying the person with the ink. Last month's tattoo belonged to Jennifer Plombon. First correct guess: Melanie Buschmeyer
Other correct guesses: Deb Weaver, Gioia Kerlin, Maurita Plouff.



"I LOVE my Salmon and Sweet 'Taties!"

Oregon with Vicki. We have met and he was quite bowled over by my charming personality; and my much greater size! Poog is a very charming hedgehog, deserving of Profound Admiration. We exchange emails, but our Moms don't let us have actual physical contact <SIGH>.

Q: What is your philosophy of life?

A: I am here for ONE reason; to teach Mom and others that sharing your life with an animal being is a Joyful thing. Mom thought that it was always ultimately a sad thing, because we animal beings don't usually live very long (although it's usually long enough for us; humans just have a different time scale.) But now she understands that while we are here, sharing our lives is joyful, no matter the length of time. And I love to meet other people and show them how much fun I can be!

Q: How do you want to be remembered?

A: As the Diva! I am well known for my lovely strutting walk and over-the-top posing whenever I wear a costume. Attendees of the first

(Continues on page 14...)



Skeezi loves "The Most BEAUTIFUL Bathroom In The World"

Hedgehog Welfare Society Committee Reports 2004 Quarter 2 ❖ April 1 - June 30, 2004

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

JENNIFER PLOMBON AND HEATHER JOHNSON, CO-CHAIRS

The Committee assisted concerned HWS members in contacting the USDA to report poor conditions seen in pet stores. The Committee assisted others in determining the licensing status of pet stores and breeders, and ensured that contact information for the USDA remained up-to-date on the HWS web site. In the last quarter, the Committee encouraged a letter writing campaign to assure that compounding pharmacists and veterinarians retain their ability and right to compound needed medications for pets. An FDA vote and recommendation on this issue is expected soon; results will be posted to HWS members.

CARE PACKAGES COMMITTEE

JENNIFER PLOMBON AND HEATHER JOHNSON, CO-CHAIRS

This quarter, the HWS Rescue Care Packages Committee shipped

POG PROFILES...

(...Continued from page 13)

BPP may remember me well. Once my costume was put on (a black velvet cape with a red satin lining, and a cigar box coffin, creating *Vampira the Hedgehog*) I strutted up and down the costume table, using teeth and paws to remove costumes and props from the other hedgehogs! Why, I pulled *Pumpkin Boy's* costume right off! Also, I have a harem tent which I use as The Most Beautiful Bathroom in the World; Mom put a litter pan in it and my, it is special and beautiful. Most recently, I won a Blue Ribbon for my stint as *Travelin' Girl*, posing in my convertible with sunglasses, visor, and luggage.

Q: Where is your favorite place?

A: Inside Mom's shirt. Every time she picks me up, after the obligatory tummy kiss, I climb straight up her front, nose inside her shirt collar, and make a dive inside. I lie on my side, hedgeie tummy to human tummy, and sleep the day away. I could stay there forever. Sometimes I dream, and my feet scrabble against her tummy and she pets me until I calm down. Sometimes in my dreams my ears wiggle, and she peeks inside and laughs and laughs. My 2nd favorite place (thanks for asking!) is under my Hedgeie Hat, on top of my Splat Pad from Susan G.



Skeezix' renowned appearance as "Vampira"

15 Care Packages, hats, and food samples to hedgehog rescuers throughout the U.S. and Canada.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DONNASUE GRAESSER REPORTING FOR DAWN WROBEL, ACTING CHAIR

On April 4, 2004, a seminar about the pathology and clinical statistics of Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome was presented at the European Hedgehog Research Group in Münster, Germany.

On June 26, 2004, the H&E committee sponsored a seminar by Dr. Susan Harrington, entitled *Finding and Working with a Veterinarian for your Hedgehog*, at the Boston Pog Party in Arlington, MA.

We also added approximately 20 new entries to the hedgehog mortality database.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

KERRI LEMOTTE, ACTING CHAIR

There have been 30 new members to the Hedgehog Welfare Society this quarter, for a total of 444 members. There have been 40 new members to the Hedgehogwelfare Yahoo! Group, for a total of 309 members. During the first quarter, there were 67 new members to the Yahoo! Group, resulting in a total of 297 members. Including members who have left the group, the total number of the Yahoo! Group has increased 12 members from Q1.

In June, the HWS was present at the Boston Pog Party in Arlington, MA. Membership information and applications were available at the registration table.

During the third quarter the online membership form on the Hedgehog Welfare Society web site will be reviewed and updated, if necessary, to ensure ease of use for those wishing to join.

NEWSLETTER

KATHLEEN KNUDSEN, EDITOR

The June 2004 newsletter was lengthy (26 pages) and contained articles from many members of the hedgehog community, including petsitters, travel experts, show and seminar attendees, and hedgehog rescuers.

Readers were reminded that due to the increasing costs of mailing the newsletter, a small fee will be charged for a hard copy newsletter subscription, starting after this June 2004 newsletter. Individual and/or back issues of the newsletter may be purchased through Ruby's Rescue Shop. Newsletter subscription requests from some HWS members have already been received and processed.

Newsletters were mailed to 63 HWS members in the US, Canada, and Finland.

PETFINDER.COM

AIMEE HASSLER, WEBLASS AND COORDINATOR

Eighteen hedgehogs were listed on the HWS Petfinder web site this quarter; twelve from individuals who found the HWS relinquishment form via the HWS web site, and six from independent HWS rescue stations. Twelve of the eighteen hedgehogs have been placed in experienced, permanent, loving forever homes, while the other six (along with other hedgehogs noted in the last quarter) are still listed on Petfinder for adoption.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

DONNASUE GRAESSER, CHAIR

The greatest PR effort this quarter was extended in contacting and building relationships with our contacts in Europe. Several individuals representing numerous European organizations have

(Continues on page 15...)

QUARTERLY REPORTS...

(...Continued from page 14)

submitted articles for our "European Awareness" newsletter. Our interactions with these groups gives us opportunity to help hedgehogs of another species, as well as enhancing the international reputation of the Hedgehog Welfare Society.

Members of the PR committee also attended the Boston Pog Party event in Arlington, Massachusetts, on June 26, 2004. We distributed membership forms and newsletters to about 50 individuals and have already received membership applications from a few of them. We would also like to thank Aimee Hassler for her work on the Petfinder.com site, which has been an invaluable tool for introducing the Hedgehog Welfare Society and its mission to the general public, and for bringing more active members into the HWS.

QUILLS AND COMFORT

JUDIE PETERS, COORDINATOR

The primary focus for Quills and Comfort continues to be the Circle of Light Program. The Circle was conducted twice this quarter, with many hedgies commemorated at each gathering. As an additional aspect to the Circle of Light, each hedgie is denoted as a star in a digital painting of the night sky. The painting is updated after each Circle and appears in the HWS newsletter and Q&C web site. A new adjunct to Q&C is a condolence card program, which is conducted by Tonya Thomas. Upon the passing of a hedgie, Tonya sends the guardian a sympathy card, which is designed specifically for HWS.

RESCUE COMMITTEE

LAURA LEDET AND YOLANDA McLEAN, CO-CHAIRS

A Quarterly Report form was uploaded onto the Rescue Contact group, so each of our rescues could fill out their reports. This did not generate much response, so the forms were mailed out to each rescue individually.

55 quarterly report forms were sent out to our rescue contacts. Out of those, only 23 responded. Out of these, we show that:

19 hedgehogs were rescued.

4 of those have been successfully adopted.

1 of those passed away.

One new rescue contact was approved, and one application was denied.

FUNDRAISING AND RUBY'S RESCUE SHOP

DONNASUE GRAESSER, STORE MANAGER

The store did quite well this quarter (in particular, during the month of June). New items were contributed by Naomi Wikane (placemats, beaded bookmarks, more mini-sachets). The store site was updated so that people can buy past issues of the newsletter through Ruby's shop. Sales were moderate at the Boston Pog Party vendor table. In the upcoming months, our goal is to add new selections to the store, as well as to add inventory numbers to the store site. We will not hold our annual July "Ruby Tuesday" sale, due to time constraints.

WEB SITE MAINTENANCE

AIMEE HASSLER, WEB LASS


Responsibilities include updating and maintaining the web-sites: Hedgehog Welfare Society ----- www.hedgehogwelfare.org
WHS Research Project ----- www.wobblyhedgehog.org
Quills and Comfort ----- www.quillsandcomfort.com

Boston Pog Party ----- www.bostonpog.org
Petfinder.com ----- www.petfinder.org/shelters/CT171.html

WWW.HEDGEHOGWELFARE.ORG: The new web site design (primarily to create the site in a non-frames format) was delayed due to an unexpected total revamping of Ruby's Rescue Shop. Many new items were added to the store and sold out items were removed. The pictures were restyled to fit a more uniform look, and a completely new page was added for customers to order hardcopy back issues of the HWS newsletter. Special thanks to Justin Jones who assisted me greatly in completing these tasks.

FINANCIAL REPORT

DONNASUE GRAESSER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The HWS financial report is public record, and is available on the web site of the Oregon Department of Justice, charitable activities section. The detailed financial report is available to any HWS member, or other interested party, by writing to donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu 



A QUESTION FOR THE POGS?

Do you have a question you would like to ask the poggs?

FAVORITE RESCUE STORY

Do you have a favorite rescue story you would like to share?

FAVORITE PHOTO(S)

Do you have a favorite photo of your quilly master(s)?

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER WELCOMED!

Please send it/them to us either electronically at

newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org

or via snail-mail to

HWS Newsletter, c/o Kathleen Knudsen
PO Box 70408, Seattle WA 98127

