



# 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 #41 MAY/JUNE 2009

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## Do You Hunger for Hedgies? By: Margaret Myhre



Tired of serving the same old sliced bread day after day? Bored with those brown-and-serve rolls? Why not celebrate springtime by surprising your friends and family with a nice plate of hedgebuns?

To make the hedgebuns pictured here, I used a basic challah recipe that usually yields one loaf of bread. After the first rising, I divided the dough into 12 pieces and shaped them into basic hedgie oval shapes with noses. I used raisins to create the hedgies' eyes and noses. I embedded the raisins in small slits in the dough, hoping they would not pop out during rising and baking. Some did, but most stayed in place. You could, of course, find a substitute for the raisins—chocolate chips perhaps.

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A spiny hedgehog-esque texture was created by repeatedly snipping into the dough with sharp scissors. Usually bread dough is allowed to rise a second time before baking. But I was afraid a second rising would ruin the spiny texture so I skipped this step, put the buns right into a preheated oven and baked them for fifteen minutes. Although I did not use a glaze, an egg-white mixed with a quarter teaspoon of salt could be brushed on the buns before baking to give them a shiny finish. This might even help keep the raisins in place.

Here is the recipe I used:

1 envelope of yeast (2 1/4 teaspoons)  
 1/4 cup sugar  
 2 large eggs, beaten  
 3 1/2 cups white flour  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 2 Tablespoons oil  
 3/4 cup warm water

In a large mixing bowl, stir the yeast into the warm water. Allow to sit for 5 minutes until the yeast mixture becomes slightly foamy. Add the oil, eggs and salt. Gradually mix in the sugar and flour.

Knead the dough on a lightly floured bread board for at least 5 minutes. The dough should feel very elastic at this point. Place the dough in a greased bowl, cover with a cloth, and allow to rise in a warm place for one hour.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Turn the dough out onto a floured bread board and divide it into twelve pieces.



Shape each piece into an oval; pull a pinch of dough out to form the hedgie's snout.

Form a quilled texture by making small snips in the dough with a pair of sharp scissors. Add raisins or chocolate chips to form the hedgie's nose and mouth.



Place the completed hedgies on a greased baking sheet and bake for about 15 minutes.





## Erica and Cuddles' Spays

Cyndy Bennett



Erica

This article is dedicated to Erica and Cuddles, two beautiful female hedgehogs. First I will review Erica's spay history then I will review Cuddles' spay history. I will also touch on the benefits and risks to spaying hedgehogs, what to watch for while your hedgehog is recovering and possible post spay set-up. Then I will conclude the article with a few words dedicated to the memory of Erica and Cuddles.



Cuddles

### **Erica's spay**

Erica had a large weight gain a few months before her spay. She weighed in the 300 gram range one year prior and in the 500 gram range about one month prior to the spay. On January 23, 2009, the day of her spay she weighed 620 grams. Her activity level had decreased and she was eating less. Erica's abdominal area was very enlarged and taut and the vet could not palpate anything. She was able to ambulate okay despite the weight gain and distended abdominal area. X-rays showed three areas of gas and the rest of the abdominal area was a white out. An abdominocentesis was performed drawing off 70 ml of bloody fluid. The cytology results from the fluid showed a total protein of 2.0 and red blood cells, but not many bacteria.

The vet used laser surgery to perform the spay. A laser midline incision was made and a large amount of sanguineous fluid was removed from the abdominal cavity. There was a left ovarian mass and small bumps found along the left omentum. The right ovary was cystic. Both ovaries, the uterus and as much of the contaminated omentum as possible were removed. The diagnosis was ovarian neoplasia which likely spread. The rest of the organs appeared okay at this time.

Chris, Erica's owner, would like to thank the staff at the Animal Medical Center in Appleton, Wisconsin for going above and beyond, in giving up their lunches to do same day surgery.

On Saturday January 31, Erica appeared to be getting puffy again. A call was placed to the vet concerning the weight gain. Erica seemed fine otherwise except she did not want to use her wheel. She looked and behaved normally. This made it difficult to remember that she was still sick and terminal.

On Monday February 2, 2009, the vet touched base with Chris. Chris reported that Erica was eating like a "horse" and getting puffy. Her activity had declined since her spay and she was sleeping more. The incision looked good.

On Thursday February 5, Erica was seen by the vet for a follow up exam. The vet noted that the abdominal area was filling up with fluid again. The rest of her exam looked

good. Another abdominocentesis was performed, drawing off 115 ml of serosanguineous fluid. Her blood was sent out for a CBC and chemistry. Erica was started on Furosemide twice a day to help pull the fluid off the abdominal area. The diagnosis was possible heart disease, liver disease and neoplasia. Erica never came back after the second draw off, and would not eat or drink.

On Sunday February 8, 2009, Erica passed away at home at the age of 4 years and 4 months.

### **Cuddles' spay**

In August of 2007, Cuddles gained a great deal of weight and became less active. She also began biting my fingers, something she had never done before. She was seen by one of our vets and they thought she had a urinary tract infection. A test of her urine sample revealed a very high reading for white blood cells, red blood cells and bacteria. She was started on Baytril and was on it for about one month total. The next urine test looked much better, showing just a few red blood cells.

In October of 2007, I started noticing a dark ring around the urine spots on her liner. I updated our vets and they said to monitor the urine spots on the liners for any changes. I monitored the urine spots on the liners closely every day. When I was holding her one night she started acting like she was going to hyperventilate, it stopped as suddenly as it started. I again updated our vets. Cuddles had a history of allergies and they thought this may have been connected to her allergies or perhaps it was an upper respiratory infection.

About two weeks later she started to bleed bright red blood with clots (the rings around the urine spots were probably blood). We brought her into the vet that morning (Saturday) and x-rays revealed that something was pushing her internal organs up into her chest cavity. This may have been why she had trouble breathing at times.

We scheduled a tentative spay for Tuesday. The spay would take place if the urine test results on Monday were within normal limits. Her spay had to be postponed for at least one week because the urine lab work came back with a very high level of bacteria. Cuddles was restarted on Baytril. All our vets were on stand-by for an emergency

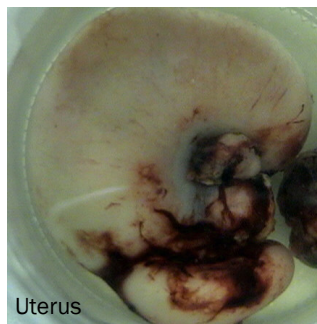
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spay if needed. Thankfully she remained stable.

November 6, 2007, Cuddles was spayed using laser surgery. Our vets were shocked by what they found. Her uterus and ovaries were huge taking up at least 25% of the abdominal area. A large amount of free fluid was also noted in the abdominal cavity. The ovaries were polycystic (there were many cysts on the ovaries) enlarging them to almost golf ball size. The uterus was also very enlarged. Having polycystic ovaries and an enlarged uterus was probably painful which would explain her sudden biting behavior. All the other organs appeared to be normal and whatever was going on seemed to involve just the uterus and ovaries. The free fluid was thought to be leaking from the cystic ovaries. The incision had to be enlarged to get everything out. It was so large that a total of 12 subcutaneous dissolvable sutures, 6 removable sutures (which had staples in between each suture) and 5 staples had to be used to hold the incision together! Cuddles spent the night at the vet hospital.



Polycystic Ovary



Uterus

November 7, 2007 Cuddles came home. She looked happy and was active, eating and eliminating.

On November 9, 2007, we received the histopathology from Cuddles' ovaries and uterus. The finding for the ovaries was dysgerminoma (a malignant neoplasm of the ovaries). The finding for the uterus was leiomyoma (tumor of the smooth muscle of the uterus). Cuddles' prognosis ranged from favorable to likely favorable.

By December 2007 she had lost hundreds of quills. Our vets believed it to be either stress from the surgery, or hormonal changes, or both. I started to count the quills she lost after her spay but lost count after 200 plus quills.

In September 2008, we noticed that Cuddles' abdominal area becoming distended again. We brought her into the vets for a check up and found she had developed another urinary tract infection which turned out to be resistant to many antibiotics. We had to use Naxcel, a very strong injectable antibiotic, to clear up the infection.

In December, 2008, we noticed Cuddles' abdominal area was again distended. One of our vets performed an abdominocentesis drawing off 70 ml of serosanguineous fluid. The fluid was sent out for testing. The results showed 2.0 total protein, white blood cells and red blood cells. The comments on the findings said that modified transudates peritoneal fluids usually develop secondary to portal venous hypertension. Similar fluid accumulation is also most commonly associated with heart failure, chronic liver disease liver vessel leakage and primary portal hypertension. Further imaging would be necessary for a specific diagnosis.



Incision Site

Cuddles prognosis at this time was changed to poor. She was started on Furosemide twice a day to help remove the fluid from the abdominal area. The vet was treating her for possible right-sided heart failure which is the most common diagnosis for abdominal fluid retention.

In January 2009 Cuddles had another abdominocentesis performed and was doing well. At the end of February her third abdominocentesis was performed. One week after this procedure she started getting worse. On the night of February 28, 2009, the decision was made to euthanize her on the coming Monday morning if she was still with us. Cuddles declined rapidly during the weekend, but was still with us on Monday morning. On March 2, 2009, at the age of 5 years and 2 months, Cuddles was put to rest so she would not suffer any further. We chose to have a necropsy performed so that we and our vets could have the opportunity to learn something that might help future hedgehogs. The necropsy results revealed kidney failure and malignancies that had spread from the ovaries.

### **Thoughts to ponder**

Female hedgehogs are prone to reproductive issues and there are pros and cons concerning when to spay. Some hedgehog care givers have chosen a prophylactic spay rather than waiting until uterine problems arise. The risks of surgery versus the benefits of a spay are always a concern.

The benefits for spaying a hedgehog are:

1. Removal of the uterus and ovaries before cancer or other diseases, have a chance to develop.
2. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies.
3. Prevention of blood loss from uterine bleeding when

*Continues on page 5...*

problems start.

4. Removal of infected or abnormal ovaries and uterus, hopefully stopping the spread of disease and giving the hedgehog a longer, healthier life.
5. If your hedgehog is under anesthesia and the vet finds that the health issue is inoperable, it is a humane way to euthanize. An example of this situation is when the spay will not cure the problem because the hedgehog is full of cancer or full of tumors.

Some of the risks of spaying a hedgehog are:

1. While many hedgehogs do well under anesthesia there is still a risk of a reaction and possible death. If your hedgehog has had trouble with anesthesia in the past, an elective spay may not be your first choice.
2. Infection is a problem with any minor or major surgery. Intact skin is the body's first and primary defense against infection. The infection can be localized (involving the incision site only) or systemic (involving the whole body and possibly leading quickly to death).
3. Bleeding before, during and after a surgery is also a concern. Hedgehogs are small animals and do not have a lot of blood to lose. The amount of blood your hedgehog loses before the spay may or may not affect her recovery. Because the uterus is highly vascular, there is a fair amount of blood lost during the surgery. After the surgery some hedgehogs have bloody discharge. The bloody discharge should be a small amount and usually stops within the first week.
4. The incision can be another area of concern. The hedgehog may chew at the incision causing issues. If the hedgehog is very active sutures and/or staples may pop.
5. Intake (of food and water) and urine and stool output may also be an issue following surgery. Monitor all intake and output closely. Assist with feeding if needed, making sure the hedgehog takes in enough water and food daily. The hedgehog should be eliminating daily. If she is not, a vet appointment is needed immediately.

### ***Things to watch for after surgery***

1. Incisions need to be monitored closely for signs of gaping, sutures or staples that are no longer intact, signs of infection and bleeding. Do not place your hedgehog in water before the sutures and/or staples have been removed. Usually the incisions should not be allowed to get wet until the incision site has healed.
2. Moderate to large amounts of bleeding or bleeding from the vaginal area that continues for more than a week.
3. Hedgehog not wanting to eat.
4. Hedgehog not passing urine or stool.
5. Hedgehog's activity level.
6. Respiratory problems: Sneezing, coughing or nasal discharge.

### ***Possible post surgical set-up for hedgehogs***

Even if your hedgehog is usually very active, keep in mind that the hedgehog has just had surgery. Remove the wheel from her enclosure to prevent her from being over active. Your vet will tell you how when she can resume strenuous activity. To prevent the incision from opening, be sure there is nothing she can climb on. At the same time, you want her to keep moving to prevent post surgical problems with the respiratory system and GI system. There should be plenty of room for her to walk around and toys to keep her interested. The set-up should be in a warm, draft-free setting. Plenty of food and fresh water should be available at all times.

### ***Erica and Cuddles' memories***

Erica's memory is kept alive by sponsoring a Tibetan refugee who lives in the Dalai Lama's city in India. The refugee is a handicapped older boy. He is hearing disabled and has severe asthma. In a metaphorical way Erica's life force will be carried on.

Cuddles' memory lives on through donations to breast cancer research and the American Heart Association to help find cures for these diseases.



If you have suggestions or ideas for items you would like to see in the newsletter, e-mail the editor at [newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org](mailto:newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org)



# Welcome to Pog-Chit-Chat...

## Where hedgies tell it like it is.

### Q-ball's Spring Trainin' Guide

A while back, some smart-Alec pipsqueak (no names) made fun of me when my sweet pog-wife Bell called me "buff". Whilst I gotta admit I got a bit of paddin' over the winter, there's still plenty of muscle under there. I posted some pictures that showed the kid why Bell calls me "buff" and I wuz asked to share my spring trainin' guide wif y'all.

Firstest, S-T-R-E-T-C-H out good 'fore you start runnin' 'round. Don't wanna get a cramp. See how long you can get. Stretch from the tip of yer nose to the tip of yur toes. Arch yer back, nose high. Get a high ridge of quills on each side of yer spine. This is usually good for an "aww" from Mom. Lick your nose, yawn. Don't that feel good?



The final challenge - climbin' makes fer great abs! Climb on yer Mom's feets, tree root bumps, little hills fer flowers, anything not flat. My favorite is the front steps. (See photo) Doin' these pull ups requires a bit of front nails, so may be more difficult for those wif Moms prone to stealin' what they can. 'Cause Mom likes watchin' me do this, she lets my front nails be. I usually duz this when I'z ready fer a snack & nap, but Mom is my personal trainer. Sumtimes she sez "not yet" and makes me run from the far end of our LONG building, by the mailboxes, then climb them again. Build endurance!



Next, sniff out the bestest breezes, then head upwind to see if'n there'z anything worth annointin' wif. A slow jog is fine fer the first bit. Run yer chin & belly through the new grass. Green racin' stripes is always fashionable in spring. Potty breaks are best done 'fore the REAL workout starts!



Now that you is limbered up, time to start runnin' laps. Back & forth, 'round in circles, weavin' thru the plants, vines, pots, dead leaves, bushes, new grass, feet, patio chairs, whatever is there. Anytimes you needs to catch yer breath, feel free to stop & sniff anythin' interestin'. Don't worry if'n ya starts out kinda slow. Been a long winter fer sum of y'all up North, so it takes time to get back into shape. The obstacle course makes far more interestin' runnin' than a wheel. Bonus: fer them that ain't fond of poop boots, yer more likely to gets mud than poop in yer toes doin' this.

Now comes the reward. Once I duz all this & impresses Mom again wif how fast I can find my way home, it's time fer some fresh mealies or pupea & a good rub-down on her lap. This daily workout is quality

time wif Mom and the admiration of my sweet pogwife Bell makes it all worthwhile!



# Hedgehog Trivia

Margaret Myhre

## Hedgehog Trivia: Durian Fruit



Photo by J.B. Green. Used with permission.

Our hedgehog trivia item for this issue is the durian fruit. Although the fruit has a spiny green rind that gives it the appearance of a very large hedgehog, this does not rank as its most prominent distinguishing feature. The fruit has two other far more memorable qualities --at least in the minds of those who have actually encountered them. The first of these is the durian's odor. This has been compared to rotten eggs, rotting vegetables, bad drains, animal flesh in a state of putrefaction, a civet cat (a mammal known for the foul-smelling secretions of its scent glands), and—my personal favorite—"pig manure, turpentine and onions garnished with a gym sock."<sup>1</sup>

Well, what could top that? Apparently those who are able to ignore the fruit's vile odor find its flavor to be absolutely scrumptious! Having never seen, smelled or

tasted a durian, I am not in a position to personally verify or deny either of these attributes. However, I should point out that among people living in the tropical forest regions of Southeast Asia where durians grow there is a common saying: "The durian tastes like heaven but smells like hell."

The hellish smell has already been documented but what about the heavenly taste? My sources describe the taste as strawberries and cream, avocado and pear, pineapple —sweet and a bit chewy, apple, sweet and nutty, or caramel and coconut. Biologist Alfred Russel Wallace described the taste as, "custard flavored with almonds...onion sauce..brown sherry, and other incongruities."<sup>2</sup> Most agree that the fruit has the texture of custard.

Durians also have a scientifically unsubstantiated reputation as an aphrodisiac. According to a Malaysian cabbie quoted by Henry Genthe, "Durians make you hot! Durian season is when all Malaysian women get pregnant. We say that when the durians come down, the sarongs will soon follow!" According to Bob Halliday, a western expert on Thai foods, durians also have other heat-inducing properties:

Many people perspire excessively for an hour or two after consuming a durian—the high sulfur content is generally thought to be the cause... A common remedy is to eat durian along with mangosteens, a small fruit with a hard purple shell and sweet, white flesh that many Thais believe has a cooling effect.<sup>3</sup>

The durian probably originated in Borneo or Sumatra but today most are grown in Thailand and Vietnam. The fruit is very popular in Southeast Asia where it is described as the "King of Fruits." The football-sized fruit grows on tall trees and is available from April to July. The durian has a green skin covered with stout spines. On the inside the *ari*, a smooth white custard which is usually eaten raw, surrounds the large seeds.

1. "Forbidden fruit is no feast."

2. Genthe, Henry.

3. Sesser, Stan

Cerruti, Giovanni Battista. *My Friends the Savages: Notes and Observations of a Perak Settler, Malay Peninsula*. Como, Italy: Tipografia Cooperativa Comense, 1908. p. 65.

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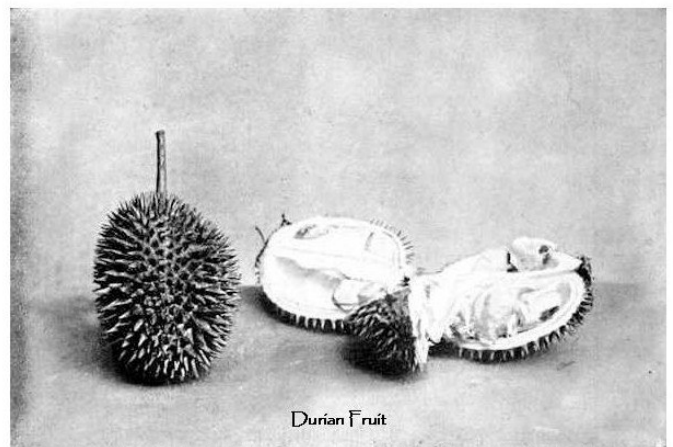
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Stan Sesser. "Produce: A Stinky, Pricey Delicacy; In Thailand, the durian fruit hits the \$200 mark." *WEEKEND JOURNAL*; *Wall Street Journal* [New York, N.Y.] 21 Jun 2008, Eastern edition: W.7. *Wall Street Journal*. ProQuest. Foley Center Library Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington. 15 Mar. 2009 <<http://www.proquest.com/>>

"Strange fruit ; Durian fruit stink." *Herald Express* 1 February 2008

ProQuest Newsstand. ProQuest. Foley Center Library Gonzaga University. 15 Mar. 2009 15 Mar. 2009 <<http://www.proquest.com/>>



Durian Fruit

Cerruti, Giovanni Battista. *My Friends the Savages: Notes and Observations of a Perak Settler, Malay Peninsula*. Como, Italy: Tipografia Cooperativa Comense, 1908. p. 65.





## Hedgehog Welfare Society - Committee Reports - January-March 2009 (Quarter 1)

Chief Volunteer Officer: Deb Weaver - No Report

Vice Chief Volunteer Officer: Anne Traylor – No Report

Chief Organizing Officer: Vicki McLean – No Report

Chief Information Officer: Donnasue Graesser

Election results were announced to HWS members and a new board has been put in place. We are actively training new board members regarding organizational policies. Several board members have volunteered to help answer the HWS e-mail, and are responding to inquiries promptly.

Advocacy Committee: Jennifer Plombon & Kristen Zorbini-Bongard, Co-chairs

The Committee remains committed to assisting concerned HWS members in contacting the USDA to report poor conditions seen in pet stores and assisted others in determining the licensing status of pet stores and breeders. The Advocacy Committee has been working with several members this quarter who have contacted the HWS with pet store and breeder licensing concerns. The Committee hopes to set new goals for this year.

Care Package Committee: Jennifer Plombon, Committee Chair – No Report

Fundraising and Ruby's Rescue Shop: Donnasue Graesser

Our Goodsearch and Goodshop programs have seen increased success this quarter. We are still using "Tuesday Trivia" to encourage community members to use Goodsearch to help raise funds for the HWS. For anyone interested, this is an easy search-engine that will pay a penny to the HWS for every search carried out. Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), verify the Hedgehog Welfare Society as your cause, and do a few searches to help contribute to hedgehog welfare.

Wheelathon 2009 has wrapped up. Gross funds raised were \$2,055. Net income will be finalized after T-shirt shipping is complete. All prizes have been shipped except for one T-shirt. The participant has yet to indicate her T-shirt request.

Unfortunately, Ruby's Rescue Shop will most likely close as of May 1, as we continue to experience website problems with the shopping cart. Members will be notified if the store closes. Laura Dunklee is looking into the possibility of alternative hosting sites.

Health and Education Committee: Gioia Kerlin, Co-chair

During the first part of 2009, the Committee funded \$267.56 in veterinary bills for rescued hedgehogs. We also corresponded with non-members and members of the HWS concerning hedgehog care and husbandry, helped a new owner find a foster mother for her female hedgehog who gave birth unexpectedly, and have begun planning an educational event at the University of Tulsa's University School. This event will be for Marilyn Cox's sixth grade class and will consist of hedgehog (and tenrec) FAQs, geography of Africa and Madagascar, ecological challenges faced in these areas, and an in-person visit by Gioia's animals.

Membership Committee: Jennifer Sobon, Chair

During the first quarter of 2009 we have had 77 new people join our group. Changes to the "Welcome" letter have been made to reflect the change in board members. These have been sent to our new members.

Newsletter Committee: Jennifer Sobon, Editor

One newsletter had been produced. The second newsletter is in the works and will be finished prior to May 1st.

Public Relations: Tonya Thomas and Cindy DeLaRosa Co-chairs – No Report

Rescue Committee: Sheila Dempsey and Cyndy Bennett, Co-chairs – No Report

Webmaster: Jennifer Sobon

Corrections and updates continue to be made in a timely manner.

Financial Report: Monthly financial reports are available to any HWS member, or other interested party, by sending a request to:

[donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu](mailto:donnasue.graesser@aya.yale.edu). HWS yearly reports are submitted to the Internal Revenue Service and the Oregon State Department of Justice, Charitable Activities Division, and are available for public viewing on the ODJ web site [http://www.doj.state.or.us/cgi-bin/charigroup\\_db\\_query.pl](http://www.doj.state.or.us/cgi-bin/charigroup_db_query.pl) Registration # 31631





# It's time for another Hedgie Hero

At last! The long-awaited return of the Hedgie Hero column has arrived. In this column, we feature members of the hedgehog community who have gone

above and beyond hedgehog duty. These are remarkable people who have made a true difference in the lives of our quilled friends.

The choice for this month's Hedgie Hero was a natural. Jennifer Sobon is one of those hedgie heroes who works feverishly for the good of hedgies and our community, but is too humble to ever recognize her own accomplishments. The Hedgie Hero column gives us all the perfect opportunity to acknowledge Jennifer's generosity and talents.

Jennifer is a native of Wisconsin who loves the fact that Wisconsin actually has four seasons. Jennifer lives with her dad, Joe, and with quite an animal family, including her hedgie Peg-leg Pete, along with 2 beagles, 3 bunnies, 5 cockatiels, 2 love birds and 4 finches – all rescues!

When asked what makes hedgehogs so special, Jennifer replied, "Can you curl up in a ball and spike people when you get mad at them?" Jennifer's first hedgehog was Honey, who patiently helped her to learn the hedgie ropes, so to speak. Unfortunately, one Christmas Eve, Jennifer came home to find that Honey had suddenly become very ill. Jennifer rushed Honey to the emergency room, but Honey crossed the Rainbow Bridge despite efforts to save her.

After Honey passed, the hedgie-sized hole in Jennifer's heart was filled by Lucy, a hedgehog in Michigan who was looking for a home. Jennifer was connected with Lucy through the Hedgehog Welfare Society. She drove around Lake Michigan in a terrible snowstorm to pick up this extraordinary hedgie. Lucy was special in that she would come to Jennifer when she called Lucy's name. Lucy is a bit of an HWS legend who continues to spread hedgehog joy and laughter through her *Lucy Laughs* column in the HWS newsletter. Like Honey, Lucy passed very unexpectedly. Lucy was followed by Peg-leg Pete, a three-legged hedgie formerly known as Quillson. Jennifer shares with us one of Pete's peeves: "Pete and I have an understanding. He is touchy about his remaining feet, so I try to leave them alone. Luckily, he runs in his wheel every night so his toenails aren't much of a problem. Yep, Pete's the boss when it comes to his feet."

As for involvement in the hedgehog community, Jennifer seems to do it all! She is a true hedgie hero, because she is always willing to step in wherever needed. She takes on many of the "thankless" tasks of the HWS, most of which require a great deal of skill. Yet, she freely shares her skills and talents with the entire community. Jennifer is a board member of the Hedgehog Welfare Society. She also organizes fabulous fundraising auctions to support hedgehog charity, creates superb-quality quilt squares every year for the hedgie quilt exchange,

participates in the yearly ornament exchange, serves as our webmaster and she is the HWS membership chair, in charge of welcoming all new members and keeping an up-to-date list of member information. Whew!

If that weren't enough, Jennifer has also taken on the enormous task of HWS newsletter editor. She had some tough shoes to fill taking over for the previous staff, but she (and her trusty side-kick Margaret Myhre) have really stepped up way beyond our expectations! From recruiting interesting articles, to expert copy editing, to layout...the newsletter never ceases to impress discriminating hedgie readers! Jennifer always has the newsletter up on the website, the first of every other month, without fail. This is no easy feat! There is so much involved from start to finish. Jennifer's creative and informative newsletter keeps hedgie folks all over the world entertained and educated about hedgie topics.

With all the time Jennifer puts into participating in the hedgie community, taking care of all her animals, and being there for her dad and all of her friends, she does manage to occasionally participate in her other great passion, geocaching - a sort of treasure hunt using a GPS. In fact, Jennifer has introduced several of us hedgie people to geocaching, including myself, Tonya Thomas, and Sheila Dempsey.

Sheila had this to say about our hero: "On a personal level, Jennifer took an interest in Murfi and me when we said we were interested in geocaching. One day over the phone she did her best to help me understand the GPS unit I had. I'm sure she got very frustrated trying to talk to me but she never showed it! I look forward to the day when Murfi is better and we can go geocaching again. I am going to call on Jennifer for more help! Thanks, Jennifer, you are a real friend."

Tonya Thomas and Deb Weaver also acknowledge Jennifer's generous spirit. Tonya says, "I have to tell you, Jennifer is the most kind, sweetest person I know. Always the first to give of herself to animals and humans. I'm truly blessed to know someone like her."

And Deb adds, "Gosh, where to start? I first met Jennifer at the 2006 *Milwaukee Rendezvous* hedgehog show. She volunteered to help out with getting folks to and from the airport and donated some wonderful items to our auction. Funny, I remember thinking how quiet Jennifer was. Well! In the time since that 2006 show, I've gotten to know her better, and have come to love her wonderful sense of humor. And that thought about "quiet," well, let's just say first impressions don't always hold up! At our 2008 *Milwaukee Rendezvous* show, Jennifer was just one week off of having major knee surgery. Yet there she was, helping out once again driving folks, running errands (well, walking errands!), working the registration desk, helping with the auction event, and judging the costume competition. She even attended our after hours group dinners and cocktail get togethers (bringing a lava lamp along to add to the mood). Jennifer is a great person, kind hearted, and extremely generous - - a true Hedgie Hero."



# Rescue Spotlight

## Amanda and Brent Wooley, Carrollton, Texas

By: Sheila Dempsey

### *How did you get your first hedgehog?*

In 1994 I saw one in an exotic pet store in New York. I just had to have him! I saved my money for weeks and did favors for my mom night and day to help talk her into allowing me to buy him. We ended up naming him 'Hedgie' (not particularly creative I know). He wasn't a baby when we bought him and he had been neglected. We hated to support a pet store but we didn't want to leave him there either. He was quite huffy and not social at all.



Amanda

This is the part of the story where you expect to hear about how our love and good home helped to make 'Hedgie' into a loving and affectionate pet – WRONG! Hedgie stayed huffy to the end of his days. He had a good life with us but alas that was just HIM! I appreciated his personality. We all found his attempts to snub us to be more comical and cute than I am sure he intended them to be! I am sure he always knew how lucky he was to be with us instead of back at the nasty pet store.

### *What made you want to rescue?*

Our family has always done our part in adopting rescued pets and in rescuing any animal we see that may need help. We always support area no-kill shelters and foster programs for cats and dogs. After discovering that there was no such shelter for hedgehogs here, we were motivated to try and do our part for the hedgies in our area. We have been contacted by the City of Dallas shelters before because, since they have no knowledge of hedgehog care, they can only put hedgehogs to sleep. Knowing that this is the common practice for area shelters motivates us do our best to try and save any hedgehogs that end up on *Craigs List* or in shelters,

Backyard breeders are popping up all over this area too. Most begin their 'businesses' by breeding rescued hedgehogs. Now we always try to help any hedgies that we can so they can get the second chance they deserve, even if it means draining our bank account.

We do not like to see animals treated as objects to be exploited and discarded. True, sometimes the unforeseen can happen and it may be necessary to re-home a be-

loved pet. But all too often people don't care about what happens to their hedgehogs!

We require that our new adoptive owners sign a contract and provide valid ID before they can even be considered for one of our rescues. We DO NOT think rescued animals should ever be bred. There are many obvious reasons for this but, in our opinion, it is especially cruel to put an animal through this process after it has already had an unstable home life. The dangers of breeding an animal that you know nothing

about are many and need to be taken seriously for both the genetic health of any young they may produce and for the parent's health as well. A rescued pet has been through ENOUGH already and deserves a good, loving home and a second chance at a happy life.

My family has always believed that any reputable breeder should always accept and re-home rescues. If you want to put the animals out in your community, you need to be prepared to take care of the ones that need to come back to you!

### *Tell us something great about where you live:*

We live in Plano, Texas. A suburb of Dallas. The area is very diverse in cultures and interests, making it a very exciting and busy place to live!



### *Tell us your favorite rescue story:*

My favorite rescue was one we did last year. We were called by the City of Dallas to come save a young, grey, female pinto named 'Tails.' They found us online out of desperation. They were about to put her to sleep because they knew nothing about hedgehogs and couldn't



help her.

A man wrapped her in a dirty towel, dropped her off there and left. Her leg was half torn off and to stop the bleeding this man had caked mud and filth into the wound. It had hardened into the leg with blood and fused to her tissues! It couldn't be cleaned off! The shelter workers loved her so much they just couldn't bear to put her down so they found us online and asked if we could help.

We drove for an hour, picked her up that evening and



brought her straight to our vet. After gasping her and getting her on the operating table, it became evident that the leg had been tied to something (probably wire in this man's yard) and she had been kept outside. The leg was almost completely severed!



Dr Coffman was able to save the leg but we had to administer

antibiotics every two hours for two weeks and clean her cage daily. All our hard work paid off though and she was able to keep the leg. In only a few weeks she was well enough to go to a new home! Her leg will never look the same but her new mommy doesn't care! A woman in Lubbock adopted her and is giving her the life that she deserves! Despite all the cruelty and abuse that poor Tails faced she has remained very sweet and gentle. She loves her new mommy and home.



June 26-28, 2009  
Holiday Inn Express Hotel  
Schoharie, New York

~Advertisement

[www.hedgehogshow.com](http://www.hedgehogshow.com)

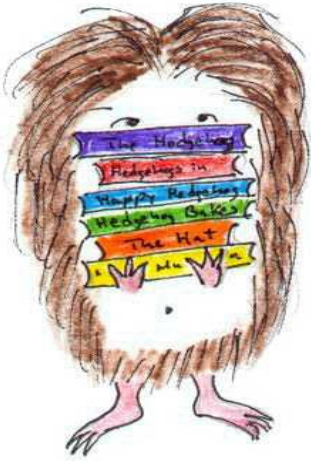
Join us for the weekend, or just for the Main Events on **Saturday, June 27:**

- Meet Nigel Reeve, Wildlife Ecologist for the Royal Parks, London. Dr. Reeve is the foremost authority on all species of hedgehogs and the author of *Hedgehogs* in the *Poysner Natural History* series.
- Spa Day for African Pygmy Hedgehogs! Cindy DeLaRosa will demonstrate hedgegie pedicures and bubble baths for your pet hedgehog.
- Is your hedgehog the most beautiful in the East? Enter your hedgehog in the IHA-sanctioned conformation show.
- Is your hedgehog huffy, fluffy, or otherwise non-conformational? Then he is a perfect fit for the Square Pegs competition.
- Don't miss the hedgehogs competing for loot in the Schoharie Skirmish and strutting their stuff in the hedgehog costume ball
- Join us for a banquet dinner, featuring Daniel Beams, who will teach us about the history of Schoharie as the "Breadbasket of the Revolution"
- Add to your Hedgehogabilia collections! Vendors, Auctions, Prizes, and more!

***Hedgehogs, their caregivers and all those interested are invited to attend. If you have any questions,***

# The Literary Hedgehog

Margaret Myhre



## The Hedgehog's Dilemma - By: Hugh Warwick

If you were permitted to own one book—and only one book—about hedgehogs, you would want to find a book that covered everything you might ever want to know about them. It should include their origins, their history, and their place in the animal kingdom, the varieties of hedgehogs that exist or have existed, the ways hedgehogs have affected our culture, and the reasons that hedgehogs are so appealing to human beings. You might assume that such a book does not exist but you would be mistaken. The book you are searching for is *The Hedgehog's Dilemma* by Hugh Warwick.

Chapter one begins logically with an explanation of what a hedgehog is—and is not. It is a small, usually brown, spiny animal, an omnivore. It is not the same as, nor is it related to, a porcupine. Many hedgehog facts are included in this chapter. Here is a small sample of what can be learned there:

- Adult hedgehogs have 5,000 to 7,000 spines which are actually modified hair.
- *Panniculus carnosus*, the frown muscle, is the muscle that allows a hedgehog to roll into a ball.
- And—an answer to the question that all hedgehog owners are likely to be asked at least once—“How does the mother hedgehog survive the delivery of those prickly little babies?” During delivery a baby hedgehog's skin is inflated with fluid which keeps the prickly spines beneath the surface. After birth the fluid is absorbed and the sharp little spines emerge.

In subsequent chapters Warwick discusses his experiences tracking electronically tagged hedgehogs through the British countryside in the dead of night as well as his excursion to Scotland's Outer Hebrides and the small island of Uist. The island was rumored to have ten thousand hedgehogs who were accused of decimating a population of rare wading birds by devouring their eggs. The hedgehogs were doomed to being culled by means of lethal injection until Warwick proved that the hedgehog population was far smaller than ten thousand and, furthermore, wader eggs accounted for less than 4% of the hedgehogs' diet.



Beatrix Patron Saint of Hedgehogs

The importance of hedgehog rescuers receives broad coverage in this book. As the hedgehog's natural habitat of fields and lanes becomes ever smaller, rescue groups work to save injured and distressed hedgehogs. The biggest influx of hedgehogs needing rescue occurs in the fall when late-summer babies have left home and are struggling to survive on their own. These are cared for during the winter and successfully released into the wild in the spring. Large, well-funded establishments such as *St. Tiggy-Winkles* are described as well as smaller, less well-known rescue operations where money is always an issue.

Warwick also describes the place hedgehogs occupy in our culture. He examines ancient folktales and beliefs about them and credits Beatrix Potter's 1905 publication of *The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle* with transforming the hedgehog's image from smelly, flea-bitten scoundrel to charming, huffy friend. Were it not for Beatrix Potter and Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, Sonic the Hedgehog might not exist today!

The author goes on to list several recent commercials in the UK which feature ubiquitous hedgies in a variety of roles. Links to these

*Continues on page 13...*



are listed in this issue of the newsletter. He concludes this section with this observation:

All around the world references to hedgehogs have snuffled into the vernacular. They have been appropriated by every art and craft; used as metaphors in philosophy; they sell us shoes, banking and expensive bondage equipment. But in the post-Potter world, there is a common theme of gentle compassion. (164) <sup>1</sup>

Of course the chapter which will prove most interesting to members of the *Hedgehog Welfare Society* is the one describing Warwick's 2007 visit to Denver, Colorado for the *Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show*. He describes his visit with Standing Bear as well as the hedgehog Olympics and other events in great detail.

The biggest difference between British and American hedgehog enthusiasts is that North Americans view hedgehogs as pets while the British (and probably the rest of the world, too) view them as wildlife. Hedgehogs haven't existed in the wild in North America since the dinosaur variety that lived in the Miocene era became extinct. We don't have the option of catering to hedgehogs in our gardens. Instead we have our hedgegie condos, our hedgegie exercise wheels and our meal worm farms. This changes everything. As Warwick says, "The sacrifice an animal makes in becoming a pet is to be infantilized. Not only does this make a pet more pleasant company, but it also ensures nurturing is required for life." (165) <sup>2</sup>



Hugh Warwick & Friend  
by David Shephard  
Used with permission

Warwick, Hugh. *The Hedgehog's Dilemma: A Tale of Obsession, Nostalgia, and the World's Most Charming Mammal*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008.



These advertisements are referred to in *The Hedgehog's Dilemma* (see the Literary Hedgehog). They all feature hedgehogs in one way or another.

Abbey National Banking Services

<http://www.visit4info.com/advert/Abbey-Mortgages-Hedgehogs-Abbey-National-Banking-Services/41844>

Black & Decker Hedgehog Hedge Trimmer

<http://www.blackanddecker.com/ProductGuide/ProductDetails.aspx?ProductID=6458>

Bonds of London -- Hedgehog Pipe Reaming Tool

<http://www.bondsoflondon.com/catalogue/pipeacc.asp?cat=2&sid=25>

Erotic hedgehog — <http://www.erotichedgehog.co.uk/>

Green Cross Code Hedgehog

<http://www.lgfl.net/lgfl/leas/redbridge/web/RedbridgeLocal/BarnabyandRoadSafety/GreenCrossCode/>

Happy Hedgehog Wrought Iron Works — <http://www.happyhedgehog-wroughtiron.co.uk/>

Heavenly Hedgehog Ice cream — <http://www.heavenlyhedgehog.com/faq>

The North Face Hedgehog shoes

<http://www.thenorthface.com/catalog/sc-gear/mens-footwear/mens-hedgehog-gtx-xcr.html>

# Thoughts from the Chief Volunteer Officer

## Deb Weaver

There's excitement in the air! The hedgehog world has not one but *two* national hedgehog shows coming up. The Eastern States Hedgehog Show will take place in Schoharie, New York, June 26-28 and this fall the Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show is scheduled to take place in Colorado Springs, Colorado October 2-4, 2009

Both shows will offer conformation competitions, sporting events, educational speakers, vendors, and auctions, as well as the opportunity to unite with other hedgehog lovers and their animals. These are two great opportunities to learn more about our beloved companions, meet some great people, and show off our animals. And there's nothing quite like the feeling of having the conformation show judge hand you that Best of Show ribbon (thanks Molly)!

Can't make it to a show? There are other ways to be a hedgehog show supporter. Both shows are planning auctions and the show organizers are in need of items to sell to the highest bidder. At the 2008 show here in Milwaukee we auctioned beautiful handmade items including photographs taken by members, jewelry, hedgehog memorabilia, and books on hedgehogs, to name just a few things. So take a look around, what do you have that someone else might want?

Another fantastic and easy way to support the shows is through the sponsorship opportunities that are available. Sponsorships are offered for as little as ten dollars. Every dollar helps show organizers host a fabulous and affordable event. Consider being a show sponsor today.

Links for both shows are on our web site ([www.hedgehogwelfare.org](http://www.hedgehogwelfare.org)). The Eastern States Hedgehog Show information can be seen on the Schoharie Holiday Inn Express Hotel web site ([www.hospitality88.com](http://www.hospitality88.com)) and at the show's web site ([www.hedgehogshow.com](http://www.hedgehogshow.com)). The Rocky Mountain Hedgehog Show information is posted at the Colorado Springs Clarion Hotel and Conference Center web site ([www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com)) as well as at the show's web site [www.rockymountainhedgehogshow.org](http://www.rockymountainhedgehogshow.org).

See you there!!!!



### MAY

May 10 Wizard Woodring  
 May 10 Esmirelda Wrobel  
 May 24 Babette Storm  
 May 25 Pepper Storm  
 May 31 Noodles Ophoff

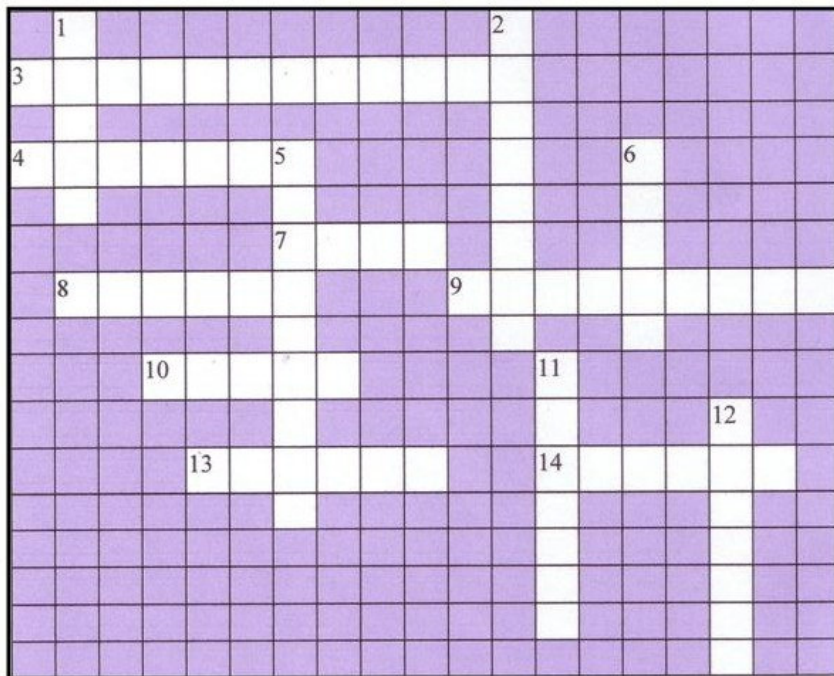
### JUNE

Jun 11 Piglet Muckenfuss  
 Jun 14 Little Frogger Graesser  
 Jun 15 Eclipse Storm  
 Jun 20 Caramel Fleming





# Lucy Laughs



**ACROSS**

- 3. Beatrix Potter's famous storybook hedgehog.
- 4. Favorite treat of many hedgehogs
- 7. Sound typically made by annoyed hedgehogs
- 8. White with pink eyes
- 9. This HWS issue includes a recipe for these.
- 10. The couple featured in The Rescue Spotlight live in what state?
- 13. What covers most of a hedgehog's body?
- 14. Kind of fruit discussed in Hedgehog Trivia article

*Puzzle created by Margaret Myhre. If you have an idea for any hedgehog related puzzles or jokes, send them to:*

*[newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org](mailto:newsletter@hedgehogwelfare.org)*

**DOWN**

- 1. First name of ecologist scheduled to speak at Eastern States show
- 2. First name of our editor
- 5. City where Eastern States show will take place
- 6. A favorite hedgehog exercise item
- 11. Cyndy's article describes medical experiences of Erica and who?
- 12. Last name of author whose book is reviewed here.



[www.wordpuzzle-pam.com](http://www.wordpuzzle-pam.com)

## Wheelathon 2009 – A Great Success!

Thanks to all the wonderful wheelers and their guardians who participated in Wheelathon 2009 on February 2. These hedgies and their people were able to raise \$2,055. All the money will be used for hedgehog rescue, research, and education of hedgehog guardians. That will cover a lot of vet bills to make a lot of rescued hedgies a lot healthier! Thanks to all the prize donors as well. Participants in Wheelathon 2009 included:

Linda Woodring  
Nancy Denny  
Lisa Ann Kueter  
Margaret Campbell  
Amy Warnke  
Katie Carbonara

Deb Weaver  
Christine Perry  
Elaine Becker  
Beth Reichart  
Heather Campbell  
Donnasue Graesser



**Where is Phil?**

**Does he have a twin?**

**Stay tuned for the further adventures of  
Phileas Hogg II &  
the Mystery Hogg!**