



Hedgehog Welfare

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End March 2021

What a manic year! Hopefully, we've all recovered and ready to face new challenges. Fewer hedgehogs have been brought in since the last newsletter. Most have been treated and released. Some have already been spotted out and about. It's always heartening news to hear our released hogs are doing well. It makes it all worthwhile. We've even heard that hedgehogs released in 2018 and 2019 have made it through hibernation. One made her winter home in a garage, warmly wrapped up in a vet bed; she always was a bright hog when she was in care.

Our submission to the Charity Commission was sent in early February. We are now waiting to see if Hedgehog Welfare is accepted. We are hoping as we employed a solicitor to prepare and submit our application, that we will be accepted. Once we have our charity number, looking on the positive side, we can have a small celebration as a fund raiser.

Government Petition to Help Protect the Hedgehog

So far, more than 107,500 people have signed a petition to save Britain's dwindling hedgehog population. It closes on 1st April 2021. If you have not signed it is important that you register your vote ASAP. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/550379> Petitions which reach 100,000 signatures are usually debated in the House of Commons. It's also worth writing to your local MP and expressing your concern and asking them to support the petition.

There is also an online petition to enforce hedgehog highways to be built. It has more than 970,000 names. Here is a story from the London Globe with the details. [Hedgehog Highway petition to save Britain's most loved animal reaches 796,000 signatures - London Globe \(london-globe.com\)](https://www.london-globe.com/news/hedgehog-highway-petition-to-save-britain-s-most-loved-animal-reaches-796-000-signatures) Robert Jenrick is the MP for Newark. He is also the Secretary for Housing, Communities and Local Government. He can be e-mailed at jenrickr@parliament.co.uk

Hedgehog Information

Hedgehogs are now out of hibernation and already we are receiving calls about some thin ones who just made it through the winter months. They've emerged to very changeable weather. Three weeks ago, and again earlier this week, we were in the garden in tee-shirts - a week later it was snowing and we have snow forecasted for next week. And more of the same topsy-turvy conditions are expected. We've cared for two hedgehogs over the last few weeks. One has been released but Maple - a small male - is not doing too well. We can all help hedgehogs by putting out a little food (dried, chicken based, kitten or cat biscuits). Also, remember to check water is at ground level before going to bed.

If you see hedgehogs that are small, wobbly, keep falling over, limping, circling or have an injury there is something wrong. You need to telephone our help line 07940 714830 straightaway. We are an essential service and are open. However, remember we must follow Covid-19 hand over regulations, especially as Sally and Janet - and other carers - are shielding. If you telephone, we will go through the Covid-19 procedures with you. Sadly, we cannot collect hedgehogs. We suggest **BEFORE** you call you make up a high sided cardboard or plastic box or pet carrier, that has plenty of newspaper on the bottom, then more newspaper torn into 25cm (1" to us older ones) to make a nest. Fill an empty screw top wine or squash bottle (plastic or glass) with **hot water** and wrap one sheet of newspaper round the bottle and place it on its side in the torn up paper. This will help to warm up the hedgehog slowly; poorly hedgehogs cannot control their temperature. Put two small ramakins with food and water in the box then, wearing gloves that can be washed or thrown away, lift the hedgehogs and place in the box. Put something over the box to make it dark, then put the box somewhere it won't matter if the hog escapes - the bath is easy to clean and will contain the hedgehog. Then telephone us on **07940 714830**. **PLEASE DO NOT JUST TURN UP, HOWEVER WELL YOU KNOW US, THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT**. When you bring the hedgehog please do not approach us, just follow the instructions given on the telephone for hand over and return to your car. We will keep you informed on how your hedgehog is doing by email or telephone. If you develop Covid-19 symptoms within 28, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can take the necessary action.

Hedgehog and Hibernation Boxes



Now is the time to clean out your hedgehog boxes as most are out of hibernation and before they start to mate - although we have received reports of hedgehogs circling one another, part of the courtship ritual.

Talking of courting, these hogs could barely have wiped the sleep from their hibernating eyes before meeting up. Our editor Philip Braund went to scatter some hedgehog food the other night and came across this coupling couple. Despite wanting a better picture, he thought it "too rude" to interfere. A year ago, he had

rescue hog Maxwell released into his garden. It looks like Max has found a mate. We'll keep you posted on any hoglets.

If you want to know more about what hedgehogs get up to at night here's a link: [European Hedgehog Breeding Biology - Mating & Courtship | Wildlife Online](#)

Meanwhile, back to cleaning boxes. The best way to clean out a box is to have nearby an empty Cardboard one with a newspaper lined bottom. As you lift the hedgehog box check it's been vacated. Give the bedding a light squeeze/press to see if anyone is at home. If there's a hog inside lift it out complete with nest and transfer to the empty box. Do not break up its nest and do not disturb the nest. Give your box a good scrub with hot water and an anti-bacterial cleaner. When the box has dried move the hedgehog back. Do not upset the hedgehog by disturbing him/her in her nest to look at or photo, it will be very stressful for it. Just put the hedgehog first before your own wants and social media.

Easter is usually a busy time for us; it's a long weekend, and the weather is often dry. So, be careful you don't disturb hedgehogs as you tidy out garages and sheds or move things around. Have a spare empty box prepared in case it's needed.

Would you like to own a Beautiful Personalised Signs?

Kelly, a vet nurse and supporter of Hedgehog Welfare wants to help raise funds for us. She is a keen crafter and makes beautiful, personalised signs. We'd like to sell 100 raffle tickets at a £1 each for someone to win a personalised sign made by Kelly. If you are interested, can you please contact Janet Peto on 07940 714830 or email janethedgehog49@gmail.com and we will send you further details.



Ghost Hedgehog Signs



We also have a dozen "Ghost Hedgehog" signs. They are painted white and are placed by the roadside to warn drivers that hedgehogs are out and about. Here's a story:

['Ghost hedgehogs' on Dorset roads highlight animals' plight | Wildlife | The Guardian](#)

2021 Annual Fund Raiser

A date for your diary. Fingers crossed - we have booked Foston Village Hall for Sunday the 19th September 2021. The hall will be open between 14.00 and 16.30 to visitors. More about this event and others we hope to run in the next Newsletter.

Carer - Tracie Charles

I've always been an animal lover, after owning several dogs, parrots, and chickens. I also



volunteer for Lincolnshire Bat Rescue. I've been lucky to be involved in Hedgehog Welfare as a carer now since 2013 and have helped to care for babies, juveniles and some big grumpy males too! This all happened from a chance conversation with Janet and hearing all about the good work that goes on to save Britain's favourite prickly creatures. I've always loved hedgehogs, as I'm sure most people do. So, in 2013, after receiving my over-wintering training, I took in my first patient. Having made sure he had warm bedding, and plenty of food and water, I closed and locked his hutch for the evening (or so I thought). I got up in the morning to check his weight, and to my horror discovered one of the padlocks wasn't locked and he'd wandered off! I was heartbroken, and it took me more than an hour to pluck up courage to ring Janet and tell her I'd lost him!! To this day, she still pulls my leg about it!

Tracie attended a Hedgehogs on Roads webinar on Tuesday 23rd March which she kindly has written up for us.

The online seminar was to talk through the issues of the number of hedgehogs killed on Britain's roads, discussing some of the reasons and effects, i.e., fragmentation of their local areas, meaning some hedgehogs are having to travel further for food and finding a mate, therefore increasing the risk of number of roads they travel on and then then being killed.

They discussed the breakdown of those being killed by male versus female, juvenile versus adult and what seasons it is more likely to happen and why.

A recent research paper was presented by Grace Johnson and Lauren Moore from Hedgehog Street. It is estimated that there are 355,000 hedgehogs killed on the UK roads every year, which is concerning given the decline in hedgehog numbers. It is also acknowledged that given the issue of not being able to collect enough tangible evidence, and a lack of effective targeted conservation, makes achieving full protection of hedgehogs an on-going battle.

Their research suggested some practical solutions, technology tracking tags, collecting hedgehog road mortality - collecting more data on where and how hedgehogs are killed throughout the UK, fencing and green bridges and wildlife tunnels. Studies all over Europe have shown how successful wildlife tunnels can be. This summer there is an on-going research project in Nottingham using GPS technology, to investigate if tunnels are an effective tool and how can they be used to encourage more hedgehogs to use them. A full link to the webinar recording is here -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs5KmwDX7G23Fxb9ozt5R9A>

[Log where and when you see hedgehogs, whether alive or dead - https://bighedgehogmap.org/](https://bighedgehogmap.org/)

And here's a story from the London Globe about hedgehog signs and how little is being done.

<https://www.london-globe.com/united-kingdom/2020/11/27/only-four-councils-apply-for-road-signs-to-help-hedgehogs-and-all-were-refused-by-the-dft/>

Can anyone help?

Does anyone have some spare time to help us? We will supply all the materials, but we have several cages and dividers which need rubbing down and re-varnishing inside and out. We also have a cage that need repairing, as it needs a new floor and new screw in legs put on.

We also have some other small jobs that save us so much time when we have lots of hedgehogs in, like tearing up newspaper into 25cm (1") strips of newspaper, the full length or width of the newspaper. So, if you are home and are a tad bored, we would love some help, we have plenty of newspapers. We also need hedgehog release boxes made up, we can show you how to do it and provide you with all that you need.

We are having problem with setting up our Facebook; we need a small second-hand laptop for running two Facebook pages. So, if you, or the company you work for, have any spare ones we'd love to hear from you. If you can help with any of the above, please ring Janet on 07940 714830.

Hedgehog Welfare Quiz Monsters: Myths and Legends

John has another quiz running called "Monster, Myths and Legends" which was released in February 2021 and the closing date is 30th April 2021. You can pick up the quiz from letsgetquizzical25@yahoo.com (John's E-mail address). Or if you prefer, they are available from Hedgehog Welfare at janethedgehog49@gmail.com or by post from Hedgehog Welfare, PO Box 8686. Grantham, NG31 0AG.

If you are applying by post to Hedgehog Welfare, please send your £1.00 entry fee per sheet with a SAE for us to send the quiz to you. Cheques made out to Hedgehog Welfare.

Case Study

Fenella

A small hedgehog we called Fenella came into our care last November. She is one of those hedgehogs that we really did not think would pull through - but we always hope. She was very thin, extremely cold, breathing with short breaths, lots of missing spines and some scabs. She was also dehydrated - and this was only on our preliminary examination. But Fenella was a fighter and wanted to live, she was grumpy and huffed and puffed at us and the vet when we tried to examine her. She turned out she had ringworm and mange, she was missing all her skirt fur (the long course hair between the spines and the soft belly fur), her facial hair - including whiskers and eye lashes. She had lungworm and pneumonia. Overall, a very poorly hedgehog. Fenella was put on different drugs prescribed by our vet. In addition, she needed baths for her ringworm and mange. Most of her medication was oral and if we put it on her food, she would not eat it.

It was a battle several times a day to get the medication down her. After seven days she started to eat and put on weight. On 16th December we once again returned to the vets and he said we could stop medication and the bathing. We changed bathing to spraying her several times a week, which she did not mind so much. Now less stressed, she started to eat and put on weight. She left Janet's care to go to Linda Brooks - who fell in love with Fenella. Linda continued with the spray baths. By the beginning of January all Fenella's fur and spines had returned, and she was put in an outside cage so she could hibernate which she did on the 10th of February 2021. However, she was back out again on the 15th of February 2021. She was released back with her finder Margaret on the 25th February 2021. We are just sorry that we did not take photos of Fenella when she first came in and once she started to feel better we hardly saw her face, but according to Linda (who called her Princess Fenella as she was so lovely) she was a beautiful hedgehog. Not that Linda loves every hedgehog she has looked after.

Hedgehog Street

Hedgehog Street is a Nationwide campaign run by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and the People's Trust for Endangered Species and it has now been running for 10 years. It is an excellent campaign, and its website is full of information for everyone who loves hedgehogs. It is worth a read, as it gives helpful ways you can help your garden hedgehog. www.hedgehogstreet.org

We are really delighted to report that Taylor Wimpey is one of the latest developers to join forces with Hedgehog Street project by committing to install Hedgehog Highways in all their new developments along other wildlife enhancements. This is good news for the hedgehogs and other wildlife.

Glue Traps Are A Danger to Hedgehogs

In a recent newsletter from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, they highlighted the dangers of glue traps. These are non-drying glue traps which smell attractive to rodents but of course this means they smell good to hedgehogs too. As soon as any animal steps or touches these they become firmly stuck at once and there is no escape, apart from a slow and painful death. Several rehabilitators have reported (but we are pleased to say as yet, that as yet Hedgehog Welfare has not had any hedgehogs found on one of these traps) they have had hedgehogs stuck on these traps. These glue traps should only be used by fully trained professionals, but they can be bought on the Internet by anyone. Please do not use them, there are kinder and safer ways of reducing your rat and mice numbers that will not hurt other animals and a kinder way to kill the mice and rats.

Up Graded Face Masks

As the government has been talking about masks being around for up to 12 months, Sally has upgraded all our masks to three layers with a pouch so if you want to add in a fourth layer for added protection you can. The masks come in two form standard or for people who wear glasses there are anti-fog masks. All masks are £6.00 each. If you are interested, please contact

Janet by email janethedgehog49@gmail.com or 07940 714830 who will send what designs we have in stock. We still have some with hedgehogs on.

Hedgehog Welfare has given support to a Joint Statement

The trustees of Hedgehog Welfare voted to support a Joint Statement on Captive Breeding of Hedgehogs in Response to Population Decline, we are proud to be part of this document. A copy of this statement is attached with this Newsletter.



If you have any stories for the newsletter then please contact our editor Philip Braund. Philip is a former Fleet Street journalist and an award-winning television producer for ITV. He can be contacted on DaisyDogMedia@gmail.com

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THESE NEWSLETTERS, PLEASE EMAIL BACK AND WE WILL REMOVE YOU FROM OUR DATABASE.