

December 2023 



Newsletter

P.O. Box 8686, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 0AG • Registered Charity No. 1194494

Tel: 07940 714830 • admin@hedgehogwelfare.org.uk

Please note our new email address is admin@hedgehogwelfare.org.uk

Firstly, thank you all for your support over the last year. We could not achieve what we do without your help - whether it's frontline support caring for hedgehogs or simply tearing up newspapers for bedding. Every job we pitch in with helps release more than 150 hedgehogs back into the wild in the year 2022-23 - hogs that would never have stood a chance.

As you might have spotted, we have a new email address - admin@hedgehogwelfare.org.uk

However, despite our tentative foot into the world of technology - Facebook, WhatsApp, and all the rest - it is best to contact us about a distressed hedgehog on our dedicated line 07940 714830. If there is no reply, we will phone you back as soon as we can.

Our new website should be up and running next year. It is taking a lot of time to put together and hedgehogs are always our priority. We have also opened a new online bank account, to be compliant with Charity Commission Regulations, ensuring that more than one person signs for every outgoing transaction. This has been a real paperwork and online challenge. The new bank details are as follows: National Westminster Bank Plc, Hedgehog Welfare, Account Sort Code 55-50-11, Account No. 57750203. Please put your name as the reference.

For those who are kind enough to support us with monthly donations under the Friends of Hedgehog Scheme, you should have already received a letter in September 2023 about changing your standing order. Thank you to those who have already changed to the new account. If you haven't, don't worry. We still have the old bank account, so we can continue to receive your donations, but if you could change it, that would be a big help. Thank you.

Can You Help US, please?

We are asking you if you can help us to help the hedgehogs.

The RSPCA statement (in our September 2023 newsletter) has increased the number of animals that need transporting between the public and vets (area covered Great Pontin in the South, Retford in the North, Ancaster in the East, and Bingham in the West). If you think you could help with the transportation, training and equipment will be provided, you will be going to Sally in Elston or Vicky in Bottesford (but she is moving, so it will depend on where she finishes up). Also, Vicky does not have her own transport and may need help in taking a hedgehog to Grantham for

urgent medication attention if you can help. We have a few volunteers for Grantham, and one for Bingham but we do need several for each area, especially Newark and surrounding villages are urgently needed. Again, if you can help, please contact us on our new email address admin@hedgehogwelfare.org.uk or phone 07940 714830

Because of the increase in hedgehog numbers, we need volunteers to help in other ways, some of which could be done in your own home or at Janet's house in Foston.

Help at Fund Raising Events - these are usually at weekends during the summer and of course our own annual fund raiser in Foston Village Hall, which this year will be on Sunday 15th September 2024. 12 Noon until 17.15 (that is not the opening times)

Help packing up Fund Raising Items into sales bags - this could be done in your own home or at Janet's house.

Help in making or repairing cages and dividers - all materials would be provided, and a detailed drawing given.

Becoming a hedgehog carer - don't worry, training and equipment will be given, even if it is only fattening up a hedgehog, which is where everyone starts, that are just too small to be released. We never give you more than one hedgehog or one litter of hoglets, unless you ask to do more. After you have cared for a few, then it is a maximum of three, to any one person (except Sally, Vicky, and Linda). The work is no more than daily cleaning out after a rabbit and would be done in your own home. We are hoping to run some training in February 2024 before the next season of hedgehogs comes in.

If you wanted, after training for the above, we always need very dedicated carers who can cope with little sleep, to help bottle feed our orphaned hoglets. **This needs real dedication.** To start with, when the hoglets are exceedingly small (as little as 12g) they need to be fed every two hours day and night. Even if it is only for a couple of days at a time, it will give carers a chance to catch up on sleep.

If you think you can help with any of these, please can you request a volunteer's form at our new email address admin@hedgehogwelfare.org.uk or phone 07940 714830



Our volunteer Vicky regularly updates our **Facebook** page - follow us as it happens (almost). Vicky is doing a wonderful job keeping up with all the hogs' comings and goings. Facebook will link with our new website and the newsletter. We have 123 followers and it's quickly growing. <https://www.facebook.com/Hedgehog-Welfare-102664205902433/>

Winter Releasing and Weights

A difficult question, looking after hedgehogs is what the best weight for them to be released into the wild. To reassure you all, we have been releasing hedgehogs under the guides lines for years and we know that our hedgehogs are fit and well before they are released. Past research shows the ideal weight for a hedgehog out in the wild, to get through hibernation is 408 grams. Despite the years, this study is still relevant today. Dr Pat Morris - carried out the study - and Janet has been on speaking terms with Dr Morris for more than 40 years. Hedgehog Welfare has worked closely with many scientists over the years. Janet herself has been involved with the care of hedgehogs for more than 44 years. We constantly strive to improve the standard of care for hedgehogs and to help carers.



Hedgehog Welfare has run many courses and has spoken at Wildlife and Hedgehog Conferences over a long period of time. Every rescue centre or rehabilitation centre does things differently, no one way is correct, so long as hedgehogs are not put at risk, we do not think it is our place to comment. Our hedgehogs are released between 550g and 600g in the winter months, and only into garden where food and water will continue to be left out for the rest of the winter.

However, not all hedgehogs are the same, we release not only on weight, but body mass as well, as well as general health. We can assure you every hedgehog is given individual attention, and we work within the guidelines. But do remember, they are not rules set in stone but guidelines. We have found what we do is working. We constantly review our care programme by attending courses.



Ghost Hedgehog signs - We are still selling our Hedgehog Signs, which are being put up round the villages. Before you attach them to the post you should first ask the local council. Let us know if they object, please.

Hedgehog Welfare Annual Fund Raiser Sunday 17th September 2023



Thank you all who came along to support us on the day, and for those who were unable to come to the event but sent a donation, thank you. A £2,336.09 profit was made which is wonderful. It will help us through the winter months. We would like to thank the



Foston Brownies and Guides for their help on the day, without them we would really struggle. We would also like to thank Charlie Charlton for putting on two Hedgehog Puppet shows during the afternoon. We also received a donation from Long Bennington Co-Op of a voucher of £10.00 to buy teas and coffee with. We would also like to thank the following for donations to our raffle Eden Hall, Downtown, Flora Media in Caunton, Mens Sheds, Daisy Dog Creatives, Hannah Colson, The Blossom Tree in Long Bennington, and Strawberry Cupcakes in West Bridgford. The first raffle prize winner was Janet Dammes who won the two Twilight tickets to Eden Hall. Janet said, "it wasn't quite her thing" and promptly gave the tickets to carers Sally and Vicky.



Sally said: "We had a great evening. Even though it was nippy at night we relaxed in the warm hydrotherapy pool. It was a clear night sky and we had a tremendous view of the stars - and the odd planet [Venus]. It was magical." Vicky added: "What a way to relax. We had a great supper and a totally laid-back evening" Both Sally and Vicky said: "We can't thank Janet enough for passing on her prize."

Hedgehog Update from last Newsletter and more hedgehog news.

Victoria, Kevin and Jacob came in on the 23rd August 2023 after being seen by a lady in Newark.



We are pleased to say that all three have been released, Kevin and Victoria were released on the 25th September 2023 and Jacob was released on

the 30th September 2023.



The Disney Trio

Belle 93g, Olaf 107g and Ariel 107g, arrived on Sunday September 3rd. They were all returned to the wild fit and well. They have since been caught on camera.



Left to right, Ariel was released on the 17th of October. Belle was released on the 7th and Olaf - never wanting to show his face - was released on the same day.

Despite the festive season we are still receiving phone calls about hedgehogs that need our help. Most weigh less than 170 g and appear to be full of internal parasites. These parasites are being difficult to remove, often needing two or even three courses of treatment before they start to respond. Sadly, we have lost some but we cannot save them all, we can only do our best for them. Remember, some hedgehogs are still out and about and as it warms up again, they make come out of hibernation, so please do leave a little food out for them and of course ensure there is clean water.

Quiz results

The Quiz which closed on the 28th October 2023 was "Group Therapy". It raised, including donations, £315.50. Several people have written to say how much they enjoyed the quiz. Once again, thank you to those who supported us in this lovely way.

The Winners of the "Group Therapy Quiz" were:

First Prize of £15.00 went to Susan Dyson of Stockport

Second Prize of £5.00 went to Shelley Challenger of Reading

Consolation Prize of £5.00 went to Mrs P Utting of Leasingham

The new quiz - "Old Macdonald's Frenzy" - which has a closing date of 27th January 2024. If you are interested and wish to enter, please contact John on letsgetquizzical25@yahoo.com. Or if you prefer, they are available from Hedgehog Welfare at admin@hedgehogwelfare.org.uk or by post from Hedgehog Welfare, PO Box 8686. Grantham, NG31 0AG. If you are applying by post, please send £1.00 entry fee per sheet with a SAE. Make cheques out to Hedgehog Welfare. You have plenty of time to complete the quiz and may be fun to do on Christmas Day or New Year's Eve with the family.

Hedgehog Welfare hopes you all had a very happy Christmas, and would like to wish everyone a healthy and Happy New Year.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THESE NEWSLETTERS, PLEASE EMAIL BACK (OR FOR THOSE WHO RECEIVE IT BY POST CAN YOU EITHER PHONE, TEXT OR DROP HEDGEHOG WELFARE A NOTE) AND WE WILL REMOVE YOU FROM OUR DATABASE.



And, after years of asking here's a new photograph of our editor Philip Braund. Philip is a former Fleet Street journalist and an award-winning television producer. If you have any stories for the newsletter then please contact him on DaisyDogMedia@gmail.com