

September 2023 



Newsletter

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

Firstly, an apology to everyone who did not receive their Spring 2023 newsletter. We have so many people wanting to read our news it overloaded the mailing system. As a result, Janet's account was blocked because Google thought she was a scammer! So, we've upgraded to an emailing service. We will also be able to set up special groups on this, like Friends of Hedgehog Welfare and the different volunteer groups. We have also been working hard on a new email address which - once it is set up - works direct from the website.

The new email address is admin@hedgehogwelfare.org.uk.

Please do not use our Facebook, website (when set up) or email, text or What's App about hedgehogs that need our help. It makes things so much quicker to help the hog, if you telephone Hedgehog Welfare 07940 714830.

If there is no reply, leave a message and we will phone you back as soon as we are available. Our new website should be up and running by the end of the year. We were hoping that it would be ready to launch at our annual fundraiser on 17th September 2023. Our new logo for Facebook and our standard logo is at the top of the page. We are busy updating all our information and forms with our new email address and logo. All this is being done as we handle an extremely busy time with the hedgehogs.

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, Account Sort Code 55-50-11, Account No. 57750203. For those who are kind enough to support us with monthly donations under the Friends of Hedgehog Scheme, you will be receiving a letter about this shortly.

We'll be asking you to change your standing order to the new bank. Do not worry, we are leaving our old account open for a few months and transferring money as it comes in.

RSPCA

In the past, we've had an arrangement with the RSPCA that if a hedgehog needed picking up, if the finder had no transport or it was at a vet who could not get the animal to us, they would transport the animal.

In exchange we agreed, however busy we were, we would take any animal from them, and not make a charge for the animal's care. We have now received the following statement from John Kerslake, RSPCA Chief Operating Officer:

"As valued wildlife partners you will know that this time of year sees a huge surge in the numbers of sick and injured wildlife being brought in by the public.

"The RSPCA has always encouraged members of the public who contact our cruelty helpline to take small wild animals (currently excluding birds) directly to vets or approved wildlife rehabilitators.

"However, our officers were often travelling long distances, sometimes taking many hours to reach wildlife that could be easily transported by members of the public.

"This is not good for the welfare of those animals and it has also affected on our ability to respond to other animal welfare incidents.

"This spring we are taking a different approach to achieve the quickest and best animal welfare outcomes and ensuring our resources are focused on where they are most needed.

"We are now asking the public to take all sick, injured, or orphaned small animals to vets or approved wildlife rehabilitators directly.

"The RSPCA is NOT stopping wildlife work.

"This is not a cost cutting exercise, it is about ensuring the best possible animal welfare outcomes.

"All our officers are as busy as ever responding to calls to help animals who need our help but focusing on animals where our specialist skills are needed.

"Our wildlife centres will continue to accept small wildlife directly from the public and vets, as well as larger and trapped wildlife from our frontline officers, providing expert advice and specialist rehabilitation services.

"We get a million calls a year and we can't reach every animal.

"Our frontline officers will only respond to small wildlife in exceptional circumstances, such as vulnerable callers who have no other way of transporting the animal.

"We know that you already provide a vast amount of vital rehabilitation care for wild animals and are very grateful for what you do and your support of the RSPCA and our field officers.

"What wildlife does it affect?"

"Wildlife that is the size of an adult rabbit or hedgehog for mammals or smaller - this doesn't include snakes or other reptiles.

"The list of animals includes, but is not limited to, wild rabbits; small rodents (mice, rats etc), hedgehogs, and squirrels (subject to IAS restrictions).

"Wildlife that can be handled safely without specialist PPE, using just a towel or tea towel and advice to wash hands after handling.

"Wildlife that you would expect a competent member of the public to be able to safely gather up in a towel.

"We have put together additional guidance tools and support for the public on our website at www.rspca.org.uk/injuredanimals including guidance about what to do when they find sick and injured animals and handling videos to help them transport them safely."

We have agreed with the RSPCA that we will continue to be one of their Approved Wildlife Rehabilitating Centre (hedgehogs only) but this means we will need lots more volunteers.

Can Your Help US?

We are now asking you if you can help us to help the hedgehogs. The RSPCA statement has increased the number of animals that have needed transporting from members of the public and from 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 but sometimes it may be to Janet in Foston or Vicky in Bottesford.

Also, sometimes Vicky - who does not have transport own during the day - may need help in taking a hedgehog to Grantham for urgent medication attention.

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.

Tearing up Newspaper into 1" wide strips. Sally is going through more than a large black bin bag a day. Having this ready prepared is a real help as we tear up newspapers for up to 45 minutes a day. We will supply the bags and the newspapers. Even if you can only do 1 bag a month, it would be a wonderful help.

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 17th September 2023

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 hedgehog 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, then it is a maximum of 3 to any one person (except Sally, Vicky, and Janet) The work is not much more than looking after a rabbit and would be done in your own home.

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.

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.



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/>



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 in Foston Village Hall, doors open 13.30 until 16.30. This will be a 13th year of having an Annual Fund Raiser, we started in 2010 but of we had Covid during this time.

There are refreshments with homemade cakes plus a plant and craft stall, second-hand book stall, Daisy Dog Creatives, Mens Shed selling and taking orders for bird boxes and hedgehog houses, a puppet show about hedgehogs for the children and young at heart adults, a tombola and raffle.

Plus, our own stall with lots of hedgehog things for you to buy.

It always an enjoyable afternoon, so please come along and support us.

We have some wonderful raffle prizes, two twilight tickets for Eden Hall, a Radley handbag donated by Downtown, a £30.00 voucher towards a course with Floral Media in Caunton, Newark, A hedgehog house for your garden from Mens Shed, a bird box from Daisy Dog Creatives and a box of hand-crafted chocolates from chocolatier Hannah Cawson.

Hedgehog Update from last Newsletter and more hedgehog news.

Gretel - who came in so very poorly on the 11-10-2022 was released on the 01-05-2023 in the garden of Vicky who has been caring for her most of the time. Since the release, Vicky has snapped her several time on her night camera. Gretel is looking well and enjoying life in the wild. She returns for food and water most of the time. Vicky has fingers cross she will see Gretel hoglets running about.

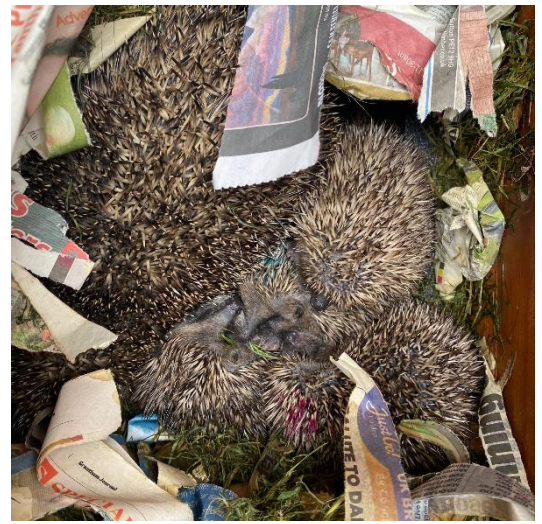


This year has been heart-breaking, so many hedgehogs have come in or we have sent the finders direct to the vet. We have seen a large increase in the number of hedgehogs with dreadful injuries. Under guidelines, we do not keep disabled hedgehogs, so these animals must be put to sleep. So, if you are gardening, especially cutting long grass with a strimmer or mower, or have workmen in, please can you ask them to look out for your gardeners' friend. Always check the area before starting work. Perhaps have a cardboard high-sided box ready in case you disturb a nest with mum and hoglets in or disturb a sleeping hedgehog during the day. Remember, if it's a nest, to grab mum first, and then collect up all the hoglets. Wear gloves. Mum will always do a runner and rarely returns to the nest. Hedgehogs do not scream out in pain when injured, as this would attract any predators. We also think that "No Mow May" had a lot to do with the number of injuries we had in during June, July and are still having. There has been so many more than in any other year. It is no good just walking through the long grass before strimming, as hedgehogs curl into a ball and do not run away.

On 20th June we received mother Olive with her four hoglets, they were about three-four days old. Olive has done a wonderful job of feeding them, far better than we could do. The hoglets are Doris who came in at 41g, Emma who came in at 47g, George who came in at 40g, and Oliver who came in at 38g. They were all in early July

weighing in at more than 400g.

This is Oliver from the day he came in to release.



Oliver 3-4 days old



Oliver 8-9 days



Oliver 12-13 days old, curling



Oliver 19-20 days old,



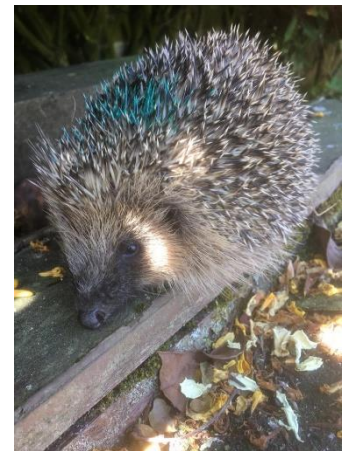
Olive and George on release



Doris on release 545g



Emma on release 528g



Oliver on release 540g

This was only one of our sets of mums and hoglets we received this year. If ever you disturb and nest, please, please grab mum first, she does such a better job of raising her hoglets than we can, and it means Sally and Vicky get some sleep while the mother hog does all the feeding.

A sad tale the dedication of Sally our main carer - the story of Mia



Little Mia came in on June 4th, 2023, from a lady in Grantham. Mia was picked up with her brother who was so ill we had to rush him immediately to the emergency vet to be put to sleep as his bowel had prolapsed. They were collected by Nick, one of our Grantham transporters and brought to Janet. We called her Mia, (next name on the list) her weight was just 45g and she was very cold and approximately four-five days old. She was at once given some warm fluids by injections

as she was extremely dehydrated. She was too cold to bottle feed.

We also noticed that she had several peck/claw marks on her, so she was given an oral antibiotic as per our vet's instructions.

She was given a warm soft bed and put on a heat pad which is a very gentle heat; you have to warm animals up very slowly when they are extremely cold.



Because of Janet's tremor she was unable to bottle feed but she knew the fluids would be enough for a couple of hours until Mia had started to warm up. She was taken over to Sally our champion carer for doing the impossible with tiny hedgehogs. Mia was feed 0.5ml every hour to start with, progressing well, putting on weight and taking a larger amount of feed.

Sally was now feeding her every two hours day and night but as the feeds grow, Sally even had her lapping off her hand a little when she was 84g on 18th June.

For a few nights she lapped a little for herself during the night, but Sally was still getting up every three hours to feed her with a bottle.



Her first tooth came through on 19th June 2023. Then things started to go downhill. Mia started to lose weight, refusing to take a bottle or eat on her own. Her tummy started became swollen and on 21st June 2023, little Mia died. We were so upset, especially Sally. We asked our vet to do a postmortem examination out to ensure that we had not done anything wrong. Sally knew she had done the same for Mia as she had done for so many other tiny pinkie hedgehogs.

The result of the PM was Mia had large stomach ulcers and damaged kidneys. All Sally's dedication to our little spiny creatures is amazing. Thank you, Sally, from all of us and all the hedgehogs you help.

Victoria, Kevin and little Jacob came in on the 23rd August 2023 after being seen by a lady in Newark around her stables for three days. She left them mashed-up cat food and water but they were too little and needed special milk. Victoria was 82g, and Kevin 111g. Both were very dehydrated, almost collapsed, and full of fleas. Jacob too was collapsed, with fleas, dehydration and extremely weak. We really were surprised he made it through the first night. They were all given fluids by injection and after a couple of hours Sally started bottle feeding them. At first, they all fed but were not putting on weight, so the droppings were tested and they all had capillaria - an internal parasite - which they must have had from their mother.



After treatment they started to eat by themselves our special MMM (milky, meaty mash) except for Jacob who did not like the MMM, so he had raw mince turkey thigh meat which must have at least 7% fat. They all have a baby cat biscuit mix. They are now all feeding themselves and Kevin is just over 200g and hopefully as the weather is so warm now, he is going into a big hutch outside soon. Victoria is 134g as is Jacob. We will update you on the three in the next newsletter.



Presentation On behalf of BHPS and Hedgehog Street

There was a presentation on behalf of BHPS and Hedgehog Street and one of the speakers was Tom Moorhouse whose background is in hedgehog research. A YouTube presentation is now available here is the link if you would like to hear or watch it. https://youtu.be/-mNz5GB_rbs

Or do what Janet did, take her laptop and listen and half watch while doing the ironing. It made the job so much more enjoyable. The presentation is just under an hour long. If you work from home, it could help your day pass by listening while you are working - or would that be too naughty.

Quiz results

The "Nursery Rhymes" Quiz closed on January 28th, 2023. There were 163 entries received and 51 were all correct. The quiz raised £337.50 for Hedgehog Welfare, including donations.

Thank you to everyone who entered. The winners of the "Nursery Rhymes" Quiz were:

First prize: £15 - L. Payne of Kettering

Second prize £5 - J. Tomlinson of Solihull

Consolation prize: £5 C. Duxbury of Carlton on Trent,

Congratulations to you all and thank you for entering the John's quizzes which helps Hedgehog Welfare return many hedgehogs back to the wild every year.

The next quiz from John was about "60 of your five a day" which closed on the 29th April 2023. There were 166 entries received, the average score was 54 and the amount raised for Hedgehog Welfare was £348.50 including donations. Thank you to everyone who supports us in this way. The winners of the "60 of your 5 a day" quiz

First Prize of £15.00 went to Angela Towler of Wisbech
Second Prize of £5.00 went to Jill Gibb of Peterborough
Consolation Prize of £5.00 went to Sue Starling of Dereham

The final quiz which has been closed must have been extremely hard, it was called "A Musical Interlude", there were only two all correct sheets returned to John, of the 146 entries. It closed on the 31st July 2023. Including donations, £308.00 was raised. Once again thank you to those who supported us in this lovely way. The Winners of the "Musical Interlude" were:

First Prize of £15.00 went to Jayne Morrison of Wolverhampton
Second Prize of £5.00 went to Shelley Challenger of Reading
Consolation Prize of £5.00 went to Elaine Scott of Peterhead

The new quiz - "Group Therapy" - has a closing date of October 28th, 2023.

If you are interested John (and his wife Pat) will be selling the quizzes at our annual fund raiser in Foston Village Hall. If you can't make the day, 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. The closing date for the latest quiz is **October 28th, 2023**. So, you have plenty of time to exercise you little grey cells and

It is not long now, just over a week

Do not forget our Annual Fund Raiser on 17th September 2023. We've also attached a poster to display at home and/or work; that would be wonderful. And, if you could send it to your contacts and put it on your social media, we would be very grateful. This event is so important to us as it helps us through the winter months.

Hope to see you there. It's such a lovely event not only for us who run it, but for the people who say they always enjoy attending.

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

STOP PRESS - The Disney Trio

Belle 93g, female Red bottom markings, Olaf 107g Male Green head markings, Ariel 107g, female Red head markings. These arrived on Sunday 03-09-2023, they lady from Grantham said they



were with their mother she thinks. As Sally was on holiday Janet was relieved as she cannot bottle feed now because of her tremor. But it turned out the mother was male, and the lady had been round her garden also looking for any hedgehog which may be the mother, but that was male as well. All three hoglets

were dehydrated, and very stressed. The two adult males were released back in the garden, back in their nests where they were found. Vickie and Esmae are now looking after and bottle feeding the Trio, they are feeding well and putting on weight, their eyes were not open when they came in, so they were less than 14 days old. Please remember only ever pick up the mother hedgehog if you are sure it is the mother. We were lucky the first large male hedgehog did not kill the hoglets.