



HEDGEHOG SOS!

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INFORMATION SHEET

AUTUMN & WINTER DANGERS

DO NOT DISTURB!

MAKING A HEDGEHOG BOX

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

From Hedgehog Welfare



Hedgehog Welfare

P.O. Box 8686
Grantham, Lincolnshire
NG31 0AG
Tel: 07940 714830

Information Sheet about your Garden Hedgehog

Hedgehogs are usually about in our gardens from late February to early December, but it really depends on the weather. After the first one or two warm days of the year, the hedgehogs may appear out of hibernation, but this is when they run into trouble. The weather can turn back to bitter cold and the hedgehog will be weak from its hibernation, having used up all its reserve of body fat. When a hedgehog first comes out of hibernation, it will be very thin, hungry and dehydrated. It can appear wobbly, if you see a hedgehog like this you can help by feeding cat, dog or hedgehog food (Spikes Dinner or Wild Things Hedgehog food)* and ensure there is plenty of water for them to drink (**never feed bread and milk or mealworms**, as these can kill hedgehogs). If you do not have any cat, dog or hedgehog food, a digestive biscuit with peanut butter on it is a good short-term substitute, or chopped chicken (raw or cooked) or a little mince. If you wish to feed regularly feeding under an up turned tomato box weighted down with a brick on it, will keep the cats away from the hedgehog's food.

In really hot weather, hedgehogs starve to death and/or die of dehydration, so please remember to feed them and put out plenty of water, more hedgehogs die each year of dehydration than are killed on the road. Many hedgehogs also die from eating slugs, which have been poisoned by slug pellets. Beer-traps, coarse sand or ashes scattered around plants is a safer alternative.

In the late autumn hedgehogs are thinking about hibernation, they need a safe, dry place to sleep the winter away. A piece of wood 24" x 24" (minimum size) propped up against a fence or shed with hay and dried leaves for bedding is a good cheap alternative to a specially made hedgehog box. Other favourite places to nest (summer or winter) are compost heaps, under sheds or in piles of garden rubbish but you must remember the hedgehog, when you disturb any of these places. During the Spring and Summer you may disturb a female with her young in any of these nest sites, if this happens, please pick up the mother hedgehog **quickly before she runs away**, then deal with the babies. Try not to touch the babies (piglets or hoglets) but pick them up in the nest with as much nesting material as possible and placing the whole thing in a large box and then placing the mother with them, calling for help immediately. Try to be careful if you set fire to bonfires which have been in place for more than a few hours as hedgehog may think you have made a nest just for them. Hedgehogs need to be a minimum of 450gms to get through hibernation, but it is not just weight, it is shape as well, hedgehogs should have big round bottoms and not pointed at the rear end, so if you see any hedgehogs underweight when the heavy frosts start, please pick them up and give us a call for advice.

Signs of problems and what to do

The general rule is, if a hedgehog is out and about in daylight, it generally means there is something wrong. If it is active, looks healthy and going about its business in a usual manner, **do not** pick it up, it could be a female who stayed with her new young the previous evening because she has giving birth or it was cold or predators were about. Do keep an eye on it to ensure nothing is wrong. Hedgehogs never sunbathe, if they are ever found out of a nest lying on their sides or non active for more than half an hour, there is a problem whether it is in the day time or not. If a hedgehog at anytime appears wobbly, unsteady on its feet (almost drunk like) there is a problem, it could be only hunger or thirst, but if they are wobbly they will be dehydrated caused through one of a number of things. You should always pick up any hedgehog, which has obvious signs of injuries or any breathing problems. The sooner you get help for the animal, the more chance there is to save it and delay can be fatal.

When picking up a hedgehog, wear gloves or pick up in a towel, never with bare hands. Place in a high sided box (at least 15") or a pet carrier. Line the bottom with at least 5 sheets of newspaper (making sure any staples are removed or taped over from the bottom of the box). Tear more newspaper at least 12 sheets into 1-1.5" strips, the full length or width of the newspaper. Put the newspaper strips at one end of the box to make a nest. Then fill a plastic or glass screw top bottle with hot water, (making sure the top is on really tight), wrap another couple of sheets of newspaper round the bottle, placing it in the torn up newspaper strips. Then gently place the hedgehog next to the hot bottle and cover with the strips of newspaper, please do this whatever the weather, a sick hedgehog will be cold and if they are cold, they will not eat. At the other end of the box place a plate of cat, dog or hedgehog food and some water. Change the hot bottle every three/four hours and just before going to bed. Place the box somewhere away from any noise and cover to stop flies getting in (a bath towel over the top or a piece of sheeting is good as the hedgehog will need some air) then call for help.

24 hours a day

RSPCA – 0300 1234999

07.30 to 22.30

Hedgehog Welfare – 07940 714830
(please call after 18.30)

unless in an emergency about an animal

- For your nearest stockist telephone Spikes World on 01522 696467 or buy direct from www.spikesite.co.uk

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Autumn and Winter is a Dangerous Time for Hedgehogs

As we come into cooler days and the nights have started to draw in, it is now time to start thinking about what you can do to help the hedgehog in your garden (our little gardener's friend). Hedgehogs hibernate as the ground starts to freeze not at a set time of the year, some years they could go into hibernation at the end of October but in other years it has been as late as the middle of January.

Hedgehogs need to be a minimum of 450g to get through hibernation but it is not just weight we need to take into consideration, if you look at the hedgehog it should have a good round bottom and not pointed (or we call it pencilled effect). With a big round bottom and 450g plus weight then you can almost be certain that your hedgehogs are in the best possible shape to face whatever the winter has to throw at it. If a hedgehog is thin and does not have enough body mass the animal will not make it through the winter. **Never feed bread and milk**, as this can kill hedgehogs. Although they do eat seeds, nuts and fruit they find these difficult to digest and they will often pass straight through the hedgehog undigested. Remember it is good to put at least a little food (6-10 biscuits) out every night all through winter, if you do have a hedgehog that wakes up, or the nest is disturbed, he will always have some food to find, especially if you feed in the same place all the time. Remember to check the water just before you go to bed as it may freeze overnight.

To help the hedgehog to get to a peak of fitness for winter, we suggest that you start feeding the hedgehogs about now with any kitten biscuits. Kitten biscuits are better as they are smaller biscuits and if you have any young hedgehog still about they will find them easier to eat and the kitten biscuits are higher in protein which will help all the hedgehog put on weight. Ensure that you have at least one cat bowl or large plant pot saucer of water in the garden as the hedgehogs will need water to drink and many die from the lack of water. If you wish you can add a few meal worms, live or dried, these are also high in protein but only feed a few as they are not a good balanced diet on their own.

To stop the local cats from eating the biscuits overnight, we suggest that you either use a 4" drainage pipe which is between 18" and 28" long, if you put the biscuits inside the tube the hedgehogs will be happy to go up to get the biscuits but the local cats will not be able to get them. You can also use an under the bed clear box without the lid, cut four 4" holes one on each side at ground level (hedgehogs may bite one another over food, so with four holes they can always escape if one is a bully). Place the box over some kitten biscuits which are on the ground, **not in a dish**, and put a small brick or something heavy on the top of the box to stop it being blown away in the any strong wind. The clear box will mean that you can then have the joy of watching them while they eat.

Try to be careful if you light bonfires which have been in place for more than a few hours as hedgehogs may think you have made a nest just for them.

Signs of problems and what to do

The general rule is, if a hedgehog is out and about in daylight, or underweight, it generally means there is something wrong. Hedgehogs never sunbathe, if they are ever found out of a nest lying on their sides or non-active for more than half an hour, there is a problem, whether it is in the daytime or not. If a hedgehog at any time appears wobbly, unsteady on its feet (almost drunk like) there is a problem, it could be only hunger or thirst, but if they are wobbly they will be dehydrated caused through one of a number of things. You should always pick up any hedgehog, which has obvious signs of injuries or any breathing problems. The sooner you get help for the animal, the more chance there is to save it and delay can be fatal.

When picking up a hedgehog, wear gloves or pick up in a towel, never with bare hands. Place in a high sided box cardboard or plastic (at least 18" high) or a pet carrier. Line the bottom with at least 5 sheets of newspaper (making sure any staples are removed or taped over from the bottom of the box). Tear more newspaper, at least 12 sheets, into 1"-1.5" strips the full length or width of the newspaper. Put the newspaper strips at one end of the box to make a nest. Then fill a plastic or glass screw top bottle with hot water, (making sure the top is on really tight), wrap another couple of sheets of newspaper round the bottle, placing it in the torn up newspaper strips. Then gently place the hedgehog next to the hot bottle and cover with the strips of newspaper, a sick hedgehog will be cold and if they are cold they will not eat. At the other end of the box place a plate of food (as described above) and some water in a glass or pot ramekin. Change the hot bottle every three/four hours and just before going to bed. Place the box somewhere away from any noise and cover any open boxes to stop the hedgehog from escaping **as they will try to escape** but remember they do need to some air getting into the box. Call for help - Hedgehog Welfare 07940 714830 (Grantham-Retford Area) or the British Hedgehog Preservation Society 01584 890801 or take it to the nearest vet.

If you would like more information about hedgehogs please call Hedgehog Welfare after 18.30 and before 22.30 any evening and we will be pleased to send you some information sheets.



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What to do if you disturb a Hedgehogs Nest

If you know you have hedgehogs in your garden, please never disturb the nest to see the hedgehog/s, if they have young, sometimes they will leave them or even attack them. If it is the winter and they are hibernating you could be breaking the thermal properties of the nest.

If you ever accidentally disturb a hedgehog nest and the Mother is still with her hoglets (baby hedgehogs), please can you pick up the Mother immediately, if not she will run away, place her in a large box (cardboard or plastic) which has newspaper in the bottom and close the top or cover it, to make it dark inside the box and making sure she cannot escape. Then, wearing gloves pick up the nest with all the hoglets in it, careful not to drop any of the hoglet from the nest. Place the nest and hoglets into the box with the Mother, put a small dish of water in the box (and some cat food if you have any) remembering to do the box up again. Do not try to touch the hoglets or look in the box as this will disturb the Mother and she may attack or kill her babies. Telephone Hedgehog Welfare 07940 714830 Grantham/Newark Area (or your nearest Hedgehog Carer, list of carers are on www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk) straight away. That way the mother will hopefully look after her own babies, Hedgehog Welfare has special cages that has been especially made for Mum and hoglets and the carers will get some sleep, of course we will keep an eye on things which is possible in our cage and if necessary take over the feeding. We will only have to keep the feeding area part of the cage clean and the mother fed and watered, no nightly feeds. Of course once they are all big enough, the mother and hoglets will be returned to your garden were they belong.

If of course, you do not realise that you have disturbed a nest until it is too late and the mother has left the nest, please do not leave it too long before you contact us or another carer, the quicker we have them the more success we are likely to have. We suggest you pick them up in the nest, put them in a cardboard or plastic box which has newspaper on the bottom, making sure they cannot escape; even new born hedgehogs can move around and escape a low level box. Put a screw top wine bottle (or similar glass or plastic bottle which has a good screw top), filled with HOT water into the box, wrapping the bottle in newspaper to conserve the heat and stop the hoglets from getting too hot, remember to close the box as this will also keep them warm. This bottle is really important as they are small and cannot keep themselves warm, they will need this even on a really hot day. Then please phone for help as soon as possible, you do not know how long it is since the mother left and they could be dehydrated, so often we hear that they had been left for two or three days and then we do struggle to save them, especially if they are really tiny. Remember to keep the box covered to as this stops the flies laying their eggs on the hoglets which then turn into maggots.

If you are ever unsure what to do, please give us a call - do not leave it until it is too late.

It is of course better that nests are not disturbed, so between early May and end of September why not just do other types of gardening, like cutting the grass, a little pruning and weeding, then sit back and watch the wildlife in your own garden.

PLEASE NEVER EMAIL ME ABOUT A SICK, INJURED OR ORPHANED HEDGEHOG AS EMAILS ARE NOT CHECKED DAILY.



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How to make a Hedgehog Box for your Garden

Take a thick cardboard box, minimum 30cm but not more than 45cm square or oblong, if possible a box that opens from the top rather than the side. Ask an adult to help you cut a 12cm hole, as near as possible to one of the bottom-side corners of the box, this is where the hedgehog can go in and out of the box.

In the bottom of the box you want to place several sheets of newspaper, so the box does not get cold from underneath but remember the hedgehog does need to get in and out of the hole you have just made, about 8-10 sheets is about right.

You then want to go into the garden and find some dry/crisp leaves (or buy some hay, most pet shops sell this in small bags for rabbits, etc.) If you want you can make your own hay by picking some long grass and letting it dry in the sun. Turning it once or twice but remember to take it in and store it in a paper sack or cardboard box, (not a plastic carriage bag) before the damp nights start or rain makes it wet again. If you cannot buy or make hay or find any dry leaves, you can use long stripes of newspaper. A mixture of dry leaves, hay and newspaper stripes is what is best for the hedgehog. Only fill the box about two-third full, do not press it down too much, so the hedgehog can bring in their own nest material and make this their own home.

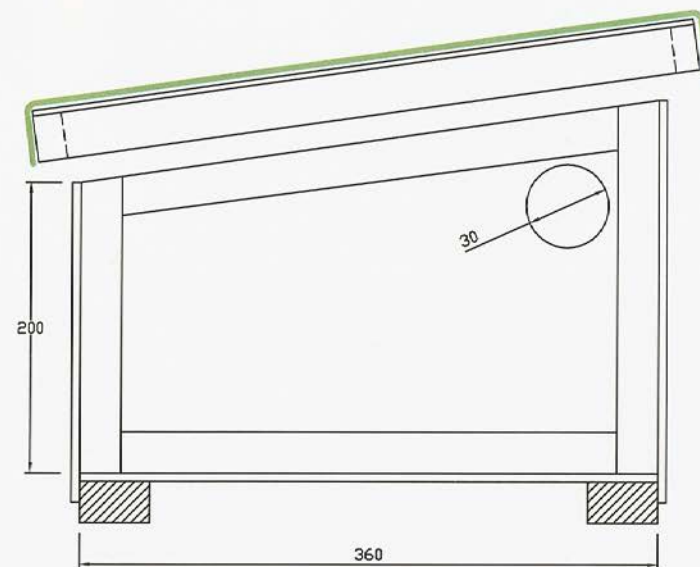
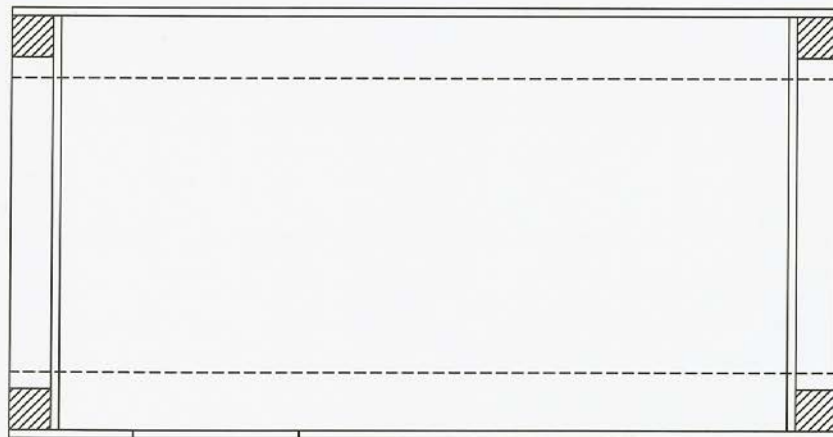
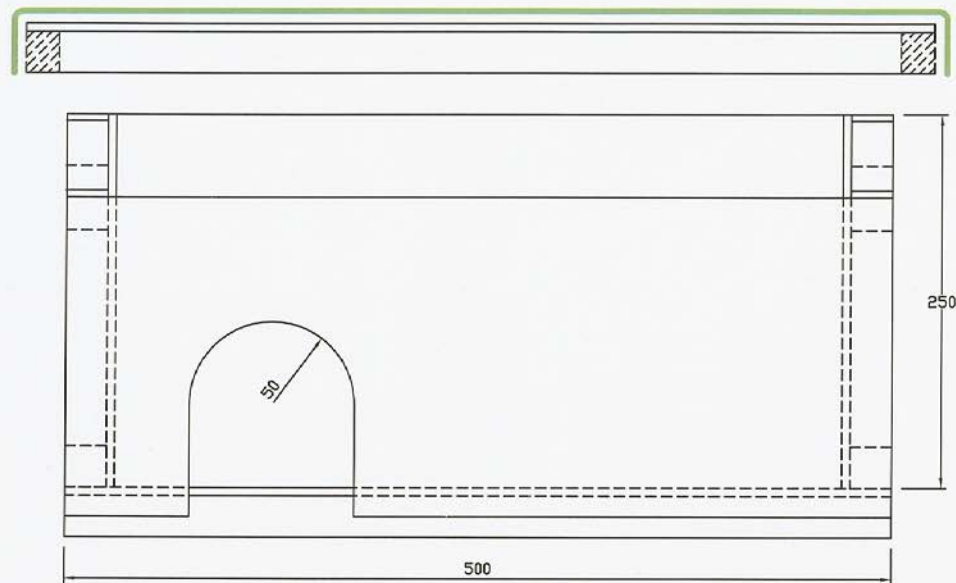
To keep the box dry all winter, while he sleeps during the very cold months (this long sleep is called hibernation). Cover the box in thick plastic (perhaps a bin liner) and stick it down with some tape, if possible waterproof tape. Again ask an adult to help cut another 12cm hole to match the where you have cut one in the box. If you do this carefully you can make a neat hole and stick the plastic round the hole on the inside so the edges of the cardboard are not showing and therefore get wet when it rains or snows.

You have now made a good hedgehog house; you will want to place this under some brambles, hedge or bush, so that it will remain in place when it is windy. Try to place the entrance of the box so it is protected from the driving rain and cold winds. Remember this needs to be in an area of the garden when you will not need to move the box until next year or even longer.

So you can tell if a hedgehog is using the box without disturbing the hedgehog inside the box, you can either put some sand about 5cm deep and about 25cm-40cm wide in front of the box. Make it really flat and pat it down well and you will then be able to see foot prints of the hedgehog going in and out of the box. If you do not have any sand you can put a tissue just inside the hole across the entrance, place it so it is only just inside. When you check the box you will be able to see the tissue pushed in if the hedgehog is in the box and if he has come out again the tissue will be outside the box. You will need to do this every time you check the box but remember not to disturb the box while you are doing this. Remember not to go near the box for a few days so the hedgehog gets to know about the box. Also in the spring remember to check the box is empty before you throw it away. If you take the plastic off the box, in the late spring, you could put the box in your compost heap to rot away.

You can also help the hedgehogs by leaving out water in a cat or dog bowl, remember to check the water and bowl are clean every day. You can also leave out food, cat or dog food or special hedgehog biscuits (Iams Kitten Food – dried is a good food to feed, but any good quality kitten food will really help) see other leaflet for more details on this.

Hedgehog Welfare also uses these boxes as release boxes.



NOTES

1. External frame for smooth inside
2. Timber frame 25 x 25
3. Leg battens 25 x 40
4. Roof 4mm ply fully framed & felted
5. Roof frame battens 25 x 18
6. All panels 4mm exterior grade ply
7. Panels glued & pinned to frame
8. Finished box treated inside & out with polyurethane (yacht) varnish
9. All dimensions millimetres

HEDGEHOG RELEASE BOX

October 2013

© Hedgehog Welfare



Hedgehog Welfare

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September 2020

It has been a difficult summer for hedgehogs and us at Hedgehog Welfare. The long dry spells have left many hogs thin, dehydrated, cold and infected by parasites. We took in a record numbers, but some were too far gone to save. Many did not have the fat reserves needed to pull through. It's always distressing to see a hedgehog in such a state, and we do try our best to save them. No matter how many times you see them helpless it always gets to you. But we fight on.

Our plans are progressing to register Hedgehog Welfare as a charity. There is a lot of paperwork coming and going to solicitors so, hopefully, it might be done by Christmas.

Our work this year has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown - and so have our finances. We are setting up a new way people can support us on a regular basis. You can make a standing order to "Friends of Hedgehog Welfare" for a minimum monthly donation of £2.00 - the price of a coffee. In return for your support you will have access to hedgehog news updates on a private Facebook page starting very soon. Also, as a supporter, there is a free cuppa and slice of cake at our events - when they are up and running again. Being a "Friend of Hedgehog Welfare" helps keep us going. Our weekly costs of food and vet bills can be about £100. None of our carers charge for their time or running around costs. Once the charity registration is completed, we'll be able to claim gift aid on this donation, (if you are a taxpayer). Simply, we can add another 25% on to the donation. If you would like to know more, email Janet on janethedgehog49@gmail.com or write to Hedgehog Welfare at the address at the top of this letter.

We will also be running a second public Facebook page, where we will have hedgehog information, some news, and we will also be putting on regularly some of our fund-raising items for you to buy.

Red List of Endangered Animals - Hedgehogs are Listed as Vulnerable to Extinction

We thought you might be interested in this July report about the new Red List of Endangered Animals.

<https://www.london-globe.com/united-kingdom/2020/07/30/a-quarter-of-bri...ion-warns-report/>

A quarter of Britain's native mammals are at risk of extinction, a report warns, Red squirrels, wildcats, beavers - even hedgehogs - are in danger of disappearing. The Red List for British Mammals shows 11 of our 47 native species are at risk. A raft of reasons endangers the animals - persecution, the use of farming chemicals, loss of habitat and the introduction of non-native species. Wildcat numbers in Scotland are fewer than 20 and there's just one known mouse-eared

bat living. Beavers, red squirrels, water voles and grey long-eared bats are also on the verge of being wiped out. Hedgehogs and hazel dormice are classified as vulnerable to extinction. Hedgehogs once numbered 30 million in the 1950s - it's now estimated there are less than million. For the first time the Red List has been formally accepted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Mammal Society compiled the list for government agencies in England, Wales, and Scotland. Professor Fiona Mathews, Mammal Society chairwoman and report lead, said: "Once an animal becomes endangered or critically endangered, it's really a scramble for time to put measures in place to rescue them, so we need to be taking a hard look at the species on the next level down so that it doesn't become a crisis. Tony Juniper, Natural England chairman, said: "This is a wake-up call, but it is not too late to act." "Central to the recovery of mammals the protection and restoration of large areas of suitable habitat, including through the creation of a vibrant and wildlife-rich nature recovery network, enabling populations of rare animals to increase and be reconnected with one another".

Another Article from the London Globe which may interest you.

More than 796,000 people have signed a petition calling for "hedgehog highways" to be included in building plans. The hedgehog - one of Britain's most loved mammals - is in danger of being wiped out. Over the last 50 years its population has fallen from 30 million to fewer than one and a half million. The hedgehog has not only become a victim of intensive farming with chemicals, but of garden fences. Too many houses have fenced back gardens stopping hedgehogs roaming freely throughout the night as they look for food. Hugh Warwick, of Hedgehog Watch, started the petition. He said:

"Repeated studies have shown that the nation's favourite animal is being wiped out. "But there is something we can do to save them. "A key cause of them dying out is that our landscapes are being fenced off into ever smaller fragments. "We need to make sure new housing developments include 'hedgehog highways' - a 13 cm hole in the bottom of a fence that allows hedgehogs to move freely between gardens to find food and find a mate. "This simple move would have a big impact on the UK's hedgehogs - and it's cheap and easy for developers to carry out." The petition calls upon the Government and Housing Minister Robert Jenrick to ensure all new builds have a hedgehog highway. The "road" system, connecting gardens, will create the pathways they need to survive.

The petition can be found at: <https://www.change.org/p/help-save-britain-s-hedgehogs-with-hedgehog-highways>

The London Globe is doing well with hedgehog news (this may be something to do with our Editor Phil who is the Globe's UK Editor). Here is another article which you may like to think about and making your own ghost hedgehogs for outside your house, school, or workplace to warn speeding drivers to think about hedgehogs.

<https://www.london-globe.com/united-kingdom/2020/09/08/ghost-hedgehogs-appear-on-roads-to-warn-speeding-drivers/>

The article said

"Ghost hedgehogs" are appearing on country roads to warn drivers to slow down. The campaign started after a Dorset village reported more than 20 deaths in a year. The hedgehog has

recently been added to Britain's Red List of species as "vulnerable to extinction". During the 1950s the country had more than 30 million hedgehogs - now it's feared the number is closer to one million. Many are killed at night while the mammal is out searching for food. It's hoped the ghostly white hogs will encourage drivers to slow down and stay alert. Hugh Warwick, an ecologist, and hedgehog expert, said: "The hedgehog, the nation's favourite animal, has just been added to the Red List as 'vulnerable to extinction'. "This is tragic. "Hedgehogs provide a point of connection to the natural world more effectively than any other animal. "They share our gardens and green spaces - but for that to happen, we need to help them."

Hedgehog Information

We are still receiving a lot of calls about hedgehogs being out during the day, particularly early morning, and evenings. Like us, some hedgehogs get up early and others are sleepy heads and stay in their nest. They all need time to find food, and during hot dry spells it takes them longer. If possible, watch the hedgehog and see if it is foraging and moving about normally. Ensure there is water and some food nearby. **BUT** if they are lying on their sides or out in the sun and not moving - hedgehogs do not sunbathe - they need to be picked up quickly before flies land on them.

If the hedgehog is limping or has an injury or circling there is something wrong and you need to telephone our help line 07940 714830 straightaway. Despite the better conditions, continue to leave out food (dried, chicken based, kitten or cat biscuits). Also, plant-pot saucers of fresh water.

Hedgehogs, Hibernation and Cleaning Out Hedgehog Houses - although hedgehogs are thinking about hibernation, knowing they must put on lots of weight- minimum 450g - it is also about body mass. Their bottoms should be well-rounded and not pencilled. They are now trying to eat more food so they can build up their fat reserves - this is what they live on during hibernation. They do not start hibernation until the ground starts to freeze or we have really hard frosts. So please put out some food and water. We have had many calls to say hedgehogs are not 450g yet, well there is still plenty of time for them to gain weight, especially if they have some help from you.

We have also had several inquiries about cleaning out hedgehog boxes/houses. The best time is the end of September or during the first couple of weeks of October. Have a cardboard box ready, just in case there is a mother and her hoglets in the box. If so, put them in the cardboard box, with all the bedding from the box and give us a call 07940 714830. If a hedgehog is asleep in the box transfer it to the cardboard box with clean bedding while you clean your box and then return it back to your nest box. Remember to cover the hedgehog up well.

HELP - CAN YOU HELP

We have had so many hedgehogs in this summer, we are low on clean newspapers for bedding. If you have any, can you either email or telephone Janet on janethedgehog49@gmail.com or 07940 714830.

Do you recognize these hoglets?

We receive a small hedgehog which we have called Scamp, (who has a purple nail varnish on the centre of his back), on the 3rd September. Two days later we received another hedgehog from the same garden, about the same age, in the area of Cliffe Road, Goneaby Hill Foot, Grantham. The second hedgehog we have called Tinker has purple marking on his head and bottom. They are both doing all right but are still poorly. If you know who put on the markings, please give Janet a ring. 07940 714830.



Scamp Purple Nail Varnish on his back



Tinker with Purple Nail Varnish on Head & Bottom

Meet the team behind Hedgehog Welfare:

Bev Goodyear - Bev is one of our newer carers



I have always loved wildlife and once found two young hedgehogs in my garden during the day. I took them to Janet to try to help. Sadly, they didn't make it, but it sparked an interest in hedgehogs. After getting used to handling them - and a few panics - it is a real pleasure to look after them, they all have their own little personalities. It's great when they can be released and hopefully thrive once again. I have looked after a hedgehog over the winter and this year a mother and hoglets and our Harry (who is the case study who is in this letter).

Sally Smith

I took an interest in hedgehogs when our grandson Thomas told me, "Granny, there's a little hedgehog in the school playground". It soon became clear it needed help and no one in our village knew what to do. So, I enrolled on a one-day course on wildlife first aid arranged by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. It is a great course, but I didn't have a handy relationship with a vet so rapidly ran into problems when I started taking in hedgehogs. I was lucky as the editor of The Bridge (Grantham Canal Magazine) suggested I talk to Janet. Since then I've cared for a few, including tiny hoglets. It's been a voyage of discovery and a real privilege to feel I can do something to help hedgehogs - they need all the help they can get as their territory is gradually being eroded.



Along with caring for hedgehogs when possible we keep egg-laying hens and Pekin hens, rearing a few Pekin chicks. We have a large productive organic vegetable patch, poly-tunnel, and orchard area. We belong to Wwoof (Working Weekends on Organic Farms) and host visitors from abroad (sadly not this year though). We also have two Glen of Imaal Terriers, one of the UK's native vulnerable breeds which involves committee duties and promoting the breed at Game Fairs. I also belong to the Nottingham Society of Artists. My husband spins wool and I can often be found knitting and practising a bit of crochet. I am making hoglets in Jacob wool which is easy to care for - although handwash only!

Local Duke of Edinburgh Award To Help Hedgehogs

As part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Lucy McKee asked if she could help by building hedgehog boxes to raise funds.



"My name is Lucy McKee and I am making hedgehog hibernation boxes to sell to help raise funds for Hedgehog Welfare. The hedgehog population is declining and needs our help to survive. People who buy my hibernation boxes will be helping fund the amazing work of our local Hedgehog Welfare charity as well as ensuring the survival of hedgehogs in our gardens. I have chosen to do this for my Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award because I am interested in helping all animals. I especially want to help hedgehogs as they are an endangered animal. There are many things that we can do to help them, such as

creating hedgehog highways, providing food and water and a safe place to hibernate over the winter. I will have boxes ready to sell by the end of September and during October."

If you are interested in a hedgehog house Janet will send on your details to Lucy.

And, if anyone would like a copy of this poster (right) to put up in their window, work's notice board or local shop can you please contact Janet.



DONATIONS

Following our last newsletter, we were contacted by several people wanted to donate but we had not given our bank details. It is: Account Name: Hedgehog Welfare, Bank Sort Code **54-41-26**, Account No. **35577770**. Can you please put your name as a reference. If you would like to donate we would really appreciate it, especially we have had to cancel our annual fund raiser. You can send us a cheque to the address at the top of this letter, making the cheque payable to

Hedgehog Welfare. Thank you to everyone who has sent in donations, your support is much appreciated.

In July 2020, Waitrose in Newark had Hedgehog Welfare as the Community Fund. We received £335.00 of the total of £1,000.00 share for the month. We are most grateful to all the customers who voted for us with their tokens and to Waitrose.

Hedgehog Welfare Quiz Results and Start of next Quiz

Quiz Results: A cryptic quiz entitled "Girls on Song", run by John Kitchen to raise funds for Hedgehog Welfare, ended on 28th August. It made £324.00, there were 87 entries, and 18 correct ones.

The winners are:-

First £10 Mrs L. Allison of Brampton by Sawdon, Scarborough

Second £5 Miss J. Milne, of Launceston

Consolation £5 Helen Williamson of Elgin

Congratulation to all the winners and thank you to everyone who entered.

Our next quiz is "Britain in Bloom" and is available now with a closing date of 30th November 2020. The subject, as the name suggests, is flowering plants, trees and shrubs. You can pick up the sheets on or after the 11th September 2020 from letsgetquizzical25@yahoo.com (John's E-mail address for quizzes). 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 required together with a SAE for us to send the quiz sheet(s) to you. Hedgehog Welfare is very grateful to John and Pat not only for the quizzes but for donating the prize money.

We still have Special Measures for taking in and releasing hedgehogs.

If you find a sick or injured hedgehog **TELEPHONE US FIRST ON 07940 714830. PLEASE DO NOT JUST TURN UP, HOWEVER WELL YOU KNOW US.**

You will be told what to do and where to bring the hedgehog - it will be to one of our carers. Bring the animal in a small cardboard box. Wear gloves that can be washed or thrown away. On arrival you will find one of our intensive care boxes with just a sheet of newspaper in the bottom. Transfer the hedgehog to the box with no bedding using your gloves, try not to touch our box or speak to the hedgehog. We will get all the information needed when you make the first call. If we need more, we will telephone you after we have examined the hedgehog. If you wish, we will keep in contact with you via email or text, so you know how your hedgehog is doing. After you have placed the hedgehog in the box, return to your car taking your cardboard box and gloves with you. Use a hand cleaner if possible. Please destroy the box at home, never re-use the box for another hedgehog as we do not know what is wrong with your hedgehog and we do not want to pass it on. Once you are back in your car, we will collect the hedgehog. If you want to wait to ensure we do this, that is all right **but do not approach us please**. Of course, if you have or anyone in your household have Covid-19 or even cold symptoms, please do not come. I regret the hedgehog will have to take its chances in the wild if not too sick. We will give you as much help

and advice as we can over the telephone, so you can help them in the wild or in your home. If the animal is extremely injured or sick, we will ask you to see if your support person can take it to a vet.

Hedgehogs in our Care

All our hoglets have been released - the J family, the Spice Family and the Herb Family. We only had one hoglet come back to us and that was Tarragon from the Herb Family. He was not doing very well, started to lose weight, and was shaking his head about. The vet diagnosed possible Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome, this is usually associated to pet African Pygmy Hedgehogs. It's only the second time Janet has seen a European Hedgehog with the illness. Sadly, Tarragon was put to sleep.

Case Study

Dear Cute, Lovely Harry



Harry came in on the 24th July 2020, having been abandoned by his mother. It was caught on camera. The video shows a mother carrying a hoglet, which should have been able to walk but she was obviously in a hurry to abandon Harry as you can see her running up the path with Harry's sibling in her mouth and taking it into a hole in a wooden garage wall. Harry's finders rushed back to where he had been left. They watched for some time but his mother did not come back for him. When they picked him up, it was obvious Harry was very unwell. He was about three-week-old, his teeth were just through, he was squeaking loudly, he had a chest infection and ticks and he was

cold. Over the next few weeks, little Harry stole the hearts of everyone who cared for him. He feed well from the bottle to start with, until he was strong enough to lap at his "Milk, Meaty Mash" (known to us as MMM or slop). He gained weight once the antibiotics started to work. Once he was off the bottle he went into the care of Bev Goodyear, who thought he was so cute and said he was the cleanest hedgehog she had looked after. He went back to Sally to spend a week in her walled garden. He was released back where he was found on the 22th August 2020. He has been sighted since, he has left his release box, moved into the compost heap and then into a hedgehog box.



Plant Sale

Sally grew dozens of plants for our annual fund raiser - which is not going to happen, but, through friends, she managed to sell most of them - raising £159.00. She still has a few left - salvias and fuchsias and jasmine officinale, all these are at £4.00 each, and Sally also has some Delphiniums which have now gone past their best but will be wonderful if planted out now for next years, these are just £2.00 each. Sorry we cannot post plants to you. If you're interested, you please contact Janet on her email or telephone on 07940 714830.

Sally has also been busy making face masks. Children's at £5.00 each, adults at £6.00 (plus some which are extra-large). For people who wear glasses there are anti-fog masks at £6.00 each. If you are interested please contact Janet by email or 07940 714830



Plain Navy or Cars



Hares, Flowers, Yellow with dots



Hedgehogs, Woodland Beige or Grey



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

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS, CARERS AND SUPPORTERS, WITHOUT YOU HEDGEHOG WELFARE WOULD NOT BE HERE TO HELP ALL THE HEDGEHOGS.

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