



Hedgehog Rescue NEWSLETTER

Autumn
2020



Summer has faded away, and autumn is approaching. Conkers are falling from the trees, a time when my grandchildren get excited. The nights are drawing in, and the evenings getting colder, so my guess is, hibernation is not too far away for our prickly friends. Did you know the hedgehog is one of three mammals that hibernate here in the U.K? The others are the dormouse and bats.

Hedgehogs hibernate when the nighttime temperature drops to around four degrees celsius. Their heart rate goes from about 190 to 20 beats per minute. They may stop eating for a few nights and will often do a green poo to clear out of their liver before they fall into a deep sleep. This is to make sure all food is out of their system, so it doesn't rot inside of them.

Over the past few weeks, we have been able to welcome some of our volunteers back into the hospital by creating bubbles, who work together on specific days each week. It's been a great help, and I have been able to enjoy a bit of time off with family and cleaning the house. It's been lovely to welcome some of the volunteers back. It will be great when everyone can fully return as autumn juvenile season begins. We are getting ready for a busy time as we move into winter.

Yvonne

HOG OF THE MONTH: BANDIT

This hog was found very thin and dragging one of his back legs. When he first came in, he had a massive infection, which I initially thought stemmed from his leg.

These aren't always the easiest to diagnose due to the hogs curling up. I cleaned the infection as best I could and put Bandit straight on antibiotics and pain relief. I soon found that there was a large hole above his hip, fusing the hip into a weird position.

The vet took a sample of the abscess and found he had two different bacterial infections going on! We started him on a treatment of Synulox and Convenia and five minutes of physio every day. He stayed with us for two weeks and has now been fostered by Karen, where he'll begin hydrotherapy.

We look forward to following his progress!



IMPORTANT PETITIONS TO HELP SAVE OUR HEDGEHOGS AND THEIR HABITAT



Protect the UK's dwindling hedgehog population before it's too late.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 provides protection for our native flora and fauna in Great Britain. Hedgehogs are now listed as vulnerable to extinction and this petition is calling on the government to give them greater protection. Signing this petition could help us create change and see numbers recover.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/550379/>

Ancient woodland under threat

HS2 is a high-speed rail going between London and Birmingham. To build this 34 areas of ancient woodland are going to be removed. Old and young trees will be uprooted, fungi and flora will be lost, and wildlife will be evicted. Our environment is struggling, and this rail link will be devastating for Britain's already dwindling woodlands and wildlife. Show your objection and protect our species by signing The Woodland Trust's petition.

<https://campaigns.woodlandtrust.org.uk/page/67857/action/1>





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AUTUMN JUVENILES

From September through November, the season for autumn juveniles begins. These second litter hogs are not able to build up enough fat for the colder temperatures, making them too small for this year's hibernation. To safely hibernate, a hog needs to weigh 600g. If a young hedgehog weighs less than 450g, it's unlikely that it will survive. However, at 4-5 weeks old, youngsters will venture out on their own.

DURING THIS CRUCIAL PERIOD, THERE ARE MANY THINGS WE CAN DO TO HELP.

If you have a hog that visits your garden or you know of hogs in the area, then leave out some cat food or specialist hedgehog food and water. As food becomes more scarce in winter, for hogs that can't hibernate, this meal could be essential.

As Autumn sets in, sweep your fallen leaves into a corner, but don't throw them away. Hedgehogs will use these for their winter nest, known as a hibernaculum. If you've grown vegetables over the summer months, make sure to tidy away any netting as hedgehogs can get easily tangled. Create an over-wintering insect home out of stacked hollow sticks, providing young hogs with much-needed meals as food becomes limited.

Check out our previous newsletter for information on how to make a feeding station for you local hogs.

Hedgehogs are nocturnal, so if you spot one in your garden and it's regularly eating, then do not disturb it. However, if you see a hog of any size out during the day, the animal is likely unwell. Keep an eye out to see if it's staggering or wobbly.

Autumn Juveniles often carry lungworm, which causes breathing difficulty and needs medication. Symptoms include lack of appetite and weight loss, coughing, and rapid breathing. To treat these young hogs, we use a nebuliser and worming medication. It's going to be a busy few months at HR.

The best way you can help is to line a high sided box with newspaper and soft towelling, making sure there are air holes in the lid. If the hog seems lethargic or feels cold to the touch, then use a hot water bottle to warm it up. Ensure the bottle is wrapped in a towel. Alternatively, you could use a heating pad for reptiles if you have one to hand. Provide the hog with some food and water, and then call your local rescue centre or the vets.



If you're located in South Gloucestershire and Bristol and are worried about a hog please call us on 07971 663009.

BRINGING WILDLIFE AWARENESS BY TANDEM

Animal Journeys was founded by a couple and their love for travel, cycling and wildlife. Their website follows them through a series of blogs as they travel up and down the country on a tandem bike. On their journey they're meeting with a variety of people fighting and working to preserve our natural world.

They recently interviewed our very own Yvonne, as they bring awareness to animal charities and rescues, including HR, and highlight the effects lockdown has had. By using this platform and doing something as unique as riding a tandem, they hope to inspire people to act to protect our species and their habitats.



And read the full interview with Yvonne on

www.animaljourneys.co.uk/silent-night-no-more-spikes-hedgehog-rescue-gloucestershire-cloned-876



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HELPING HEDGEHOGS AT CHRISTMAS

As Autumn approaches, the Christmas preparations will shortly begin. Who knows what this year will bring or if we can gather together to celebrate. One thing's for certain if you're stuck on what gifts to buy, then why not donate to Hedgehog Rescue on behalf of a loved one?

We've struggled immensely with fundraising this year and support over Christmas, however small, is always greatly appreciated. Hopefully, in the New Year, we'll be able to complete the second and last phase of the hospital refurbishments. Unfortunately, we haven't had the cage capacity meaning we've had to turn away hogs! Something we never wish to do.

If you would like to give a donation to HR, you can do this directly through PayPal on our website, or use the QR code on this page. Alternatively, take a look at our Amazon Wishlist to see what items the hospital needs to help us through to the new year.

A FEW EASY WAYS TO HELP US:

Scan in our QR code >>>

Via our Website:
hedgehogrescue.info/support-us

Via easyfundraising:
easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hedgehogrescue

Via our Amazon Wishlist:
<https://amzn.eu/d8EmyNX>



The Waitrose 'Community Matters' scheme raised £333 for Hedgehog Rescue. A great way to give back to the local community while you shop.

We raised £1405 through our JustGiving page, which helped us care for the hedgehogs throughout lockdown. Big thank you to everyone who donated, it's been amazing to have this support during these confusing times.



easyfundraising
feel good shopping

Raise FREE donations for HEDGEHOG RESCUE

every time you shop online

Find us on easyfundraising.org.uk

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hedgehogrescue

or download the App

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

Shop at over 4,000 online stores

ebay | M&S | Argos | Apple | Currys | PCWorld | ASOS | Debenhams | 150 | Boden | Booking.com

STUCK FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT?

We have a variety of gifts for sale in the hospital that would make perfect stocking fillers, from handmade necklaces to hedgehog fridge magnets and cuddly toys. All the money from these purchases goes straight towards our fundraising and would be a huge help during this period.



Please send HR an email if you are interested in any of these Christmas gifts and we can arrange a socially distanced pick up for you.

AND DON'T FORGET OUR ADOPTION PACKS...

Your loved one will receive a small beanie hedgehog, a pin badge, a HR pen, and a keyring, along with an adoption certificate, for just £25.





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PRICKLY TALES FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS: THE HOG FATHER

My husband and I have three disabled hogs in our enclosed garden. Dizzy, a three-legged male who has been living with us since 2016. April, a three-legged female who has been with us since 2017, and Audrey, a blind female who joined us in October 2019.

One late afternoon in June, we saw a baby hoglet emerging from one of the sleeping boxes. We were ecstatic and focused our garden-cam on the box that night. Looking at the images the next day, we discovered that a fox picked up the hoglet during the night. Fearing the worst, we opened the sleeping box straight away, and to our relief, we found two surviving hoglets and Dizzy! We estimated the two hoglets to be about four weeks old.

Wanting to protect them, we put their sleeping box in a large pen, but we had no idea who the mother was. We rounded up April and Aubrey - no easy task in our wild garden - to put in the pen. They didn't show any interest, so instead, we left the hoglets on their own and watched them through the camera.

We noticed the next morning that the hoglets hadn't emerged all night and didn't touch their food. Initially, we found them sleeping with Dizzy, so we added him to the pen with the hoglets. Males don't usually engage with hoglets, so we didn't know what to expect. We were astonished when Dizzy immediately went into parenting mode, taking grass, hay, and leaves into the sleeping box. For the next two weeks, we watched in awe as the hoglets followed Dizzy around, eating and drinking with him, and snuggling up to him at night. He didn't seem to mind them nudging and climbing on him. He even licked them occasionally!

We put Dizzy back into our garden for a well-earned rest. The next week, the hoglets joined Dizzy in the garden, who seemed unfazed by their presence. After some time spent in the garden, we finally released the two hoglets into the wild.

In August, we spotted another new hoglet. We checked the nesting box and found Audrey and the hoglet curled up with - guess who - Dizzy! We put the three of them back into the pen and enjoyed watching Dizzy wandering around with the hoglet in tow. Audrey's maternal instincts kicked in this time, and she was more attentive to the hoglet, so we put Dizzy back into the garden.

As I write this, Audrey and the hoglet are doing well. She's a very laid-back hog, so this quiet life seems to agree with her. We hope that in a few weeks, we'll be able to release this latest healthy hoglet into the wild. Every little hoglet is essential in boosting our decreasing wild population.

Helen Richards, Volunteer



OVER 3000 LIKES!!!

GREAT NEWS! Our Facebook page has hit over 3000 likes and yet more followers on Instagram and Twitter.

www.facebook.com/Hedgehogrescuesouthgloucestershire





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Just for fun... Autumn Word Search



Acorns
Apples
Autumn
Berry
Bonfire Night
Breezy
Brown
Burrow
Chilly
Cozy
Crisp
Earthy
Fall
Falling Leaves
Foraging
Golden
Furzepig
Harvest Moon
Hedgepig
Hedgehog Rescue
Hibernation
Insects
Nest
Nocturnal
November
Nuts
October
Orange
Pumpkin
Prickles
Russet
September
Snout
Snuffling
Spine





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Bonfire night is often the epitome of Autumn. Families wrapped up in scarves and gloves, colourful fireworks, hot chocolate, and a glowing fire. But for rescue centres, it's always a concerning time of year. Fireworks scare most animals, but for hedgehogs, it isn't just the noise. A pile of sticks, logs, or leaves for a bonfire can seem like the perfect nest for a hedgehog. Each year at Hedgehog Rescue, we treat hogs with painful burns because people haven't checked before lighting these fires.

To prevent this, we urge people to build their bonfire on the day of lighting. Ensure it's built on clear ground, not piles of leaves or pampas grass - where hedgehogs could be living. Of course, sometimes this isn't possible, so alternatively surround the bonfire with chicken wire. Ensure it's one metre tall, sloped outwards, and held in place with stakes to prevent the hogs from climbing over.

Before lighting, always double-check. Hedgehogs love to nestle in the centre of a bonfire, so take a pole or broom and gently lift it section by section. Using a torch to see underneath, listen for hissing, the sound of an angry hedgehog who has been disturbed. Never use a spade or a fork as this could accidentally injure the animal.

What if you do find a hedgehog?

Make sure you can get as much of the nest as possible and put it into a high sided box with shredded newspaper and towelling. Put a secure lid on top with air holes, as hedgehogs are great climbers. To reduce stress, put the box in a quiet place along with cat food and water. Once the bonfire is dampened, and festivities are over, release the hedgehog back to where it was found.

Do you think your garden might be suitable for a release site for a healthy hedgehog?

If so, please check out this list of criteria to see if you are possibly eligible, and give us a call.

- Are there hogs in the area?
- Do you have a hedgehog house, or a well-stocked garden with food and water sources?
- Do you have a way in and out of your garden (needs to be CD sized or larger)?
- Have you seen any badgers nearby? (This would make it unsuitable as they are a predator).
- Are you and your neighbour's dogs okay with hedgehogs? Many bother or hurt hedgehogs, so we would need to check.



**PLEASE
CHECK
BONFIRES
CAREFULLY
FOR SLEEPING
HEDGEHOGS
BEFORE LIGHTING**

#rememberhedgehogs

If possible the entire pile should be re-sited before being lit, if not possible, use broom handles to lift from the base of the pile, and shine torches, looking and listening carefully for any signs of life.

British Hedgehog Preservation Society
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www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk