



# Hedgehog Rescue NEWSLETTER

Spring  
Summer  
2020



It's been a tough and busy few months for Hedgehog Rescue, especially without the volunteers. However, we finally put the new cages in the hospital, just in time for Hoglet season. We've managed to file all the care sheets, we'll put them on the database to keep track of our success and for research information.

I've been hosting virtual Open Days on Facebook Live. The videos have had over 5000 views and I've received really kind messages of support, which have really helped during this period so thank you!

It was a warm and wet winter, resulting in a lot of late born and underweight hogs. Keep looking after your local hogs over these summer months, especially with this unpredictable weather. *Yvonne*

## COVID-19 AND HEDGEHOG RESCUE - WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Following government guidelines, in March we had to close the rescue to the public and our wonderful volunteers. We have still been taking in as many hogs as we can and as the hogs are now all out of hibernation the hospital is busier than ever. Our newly refurbished cages are already full, with only Yvonne to look after them.



In June, Yvonne took in 12 Hogs in one day! Unfortunately, we've lost quite a few already this spring including 5 from one litter. Patients include two females with babies, a probable pregnant female attacked by a dog and a little two and a half week old Hoglet weighing 135g (pictured).

It's all hands on deck as the volunteers care for some in their own homes as the hospital continues to fill up!

In April, our volunteers released 18 healthy hogs back into the South Glos. and Bristol area, whilst keeping to social distancing measures. Our long-staying resident Bumble, who had been with us since November, was finally released into Yvonne's garden in May. We've been watching him on the trail camera and have spied another Hog. Maybe we'll see some babies soon! You can read Bumble's rollercoaster story below.

It's officially Hoglet season, so please keep your eyes peeled when clearing the garden!

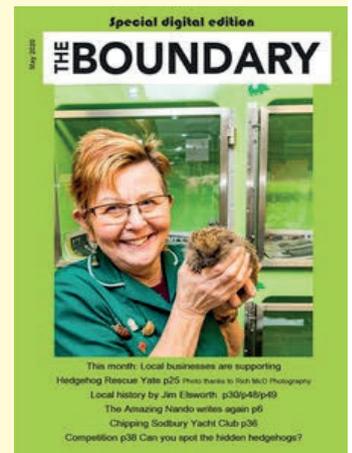


## A FEW THANK YOU'S!

We've had a lot of support during this difficult time, which we appreciate so much. The majority of these donations have gone towards the cage refurbishment. Without this help we wouldn't have been able to give the hogs better temporary housing to recover in. Here's just a few businesses who have supported us!

### BOUNDARY MAGAZINE

Editor of boundary Magazine, Angie, suggested to her advertisers and readers that they donate to our Crowdfunding page. This raised a staggering £1200! You can read her interview with Yvonne in May's digital Issue.



## LOVE ART EXHIBITION

This exhibition of local artists put on a raffle in aid of Hedgehog Rescue and managed to raise more funds for our refurb. Thank you!

## BRISTOL PRESTIGE AWARD



We are extremely proud to report that Hedgehog Rescue has won the Wildlife Care Service of the Year 2020. This award supports independent businesses and individuals that are successful on a local level.

Everyone involved with Hedgehog Rescue has worked so hard this year, thanks to a very cold and wet winter, so it's a great honour to receive this recognition.



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## HEDGEHOG HOSPITAL REFURBISHMENT

Of course, the big exciting news for Hedgehog Rescue this Spring is the completion of Stage One of the Hedgehog Hospital refurbishment. This was the result of a huge amount of organisation, hard work and fundraising!

As this was happening we still had hogs in the hospital, so it took a lot of planning. We moved as many hogs as we could into the pre-release shed and released all those



that were ready, as the weather was unseasonably mild. The week before, the entire office and hospital had to be cleared out in order for the new vinyl flooring to go down.

The first phase consisted of three twin cages and nine mini cages, at a cost of over £13000. Richard from Harrison Veterinary Equipment came to install all the units, and Jason did all the electrics.

In the second phase we will hopefully be installing another bank of three cages, another bank at the rear, and two cages that can be split into four. We've still got a lot to decide and with this costing us about £6000 -7000, a lot of fundraising to do as well. The old cages have certainly not gone to waste. They've all gone to new homes. Some with Caroline who is hoping to gain enough experience to set up another rescue in Chepstow. Some to Judy in Charfield, and the rest to Beryl in Portishead to help her look after the hogs in that area.



Calling all creatives and hedgehog enthusiasts! If you have any unique fundraising ideas, please contact us via our email: [hedgehogrescue@live.com](mailto:hedgehogrescue@live.com)

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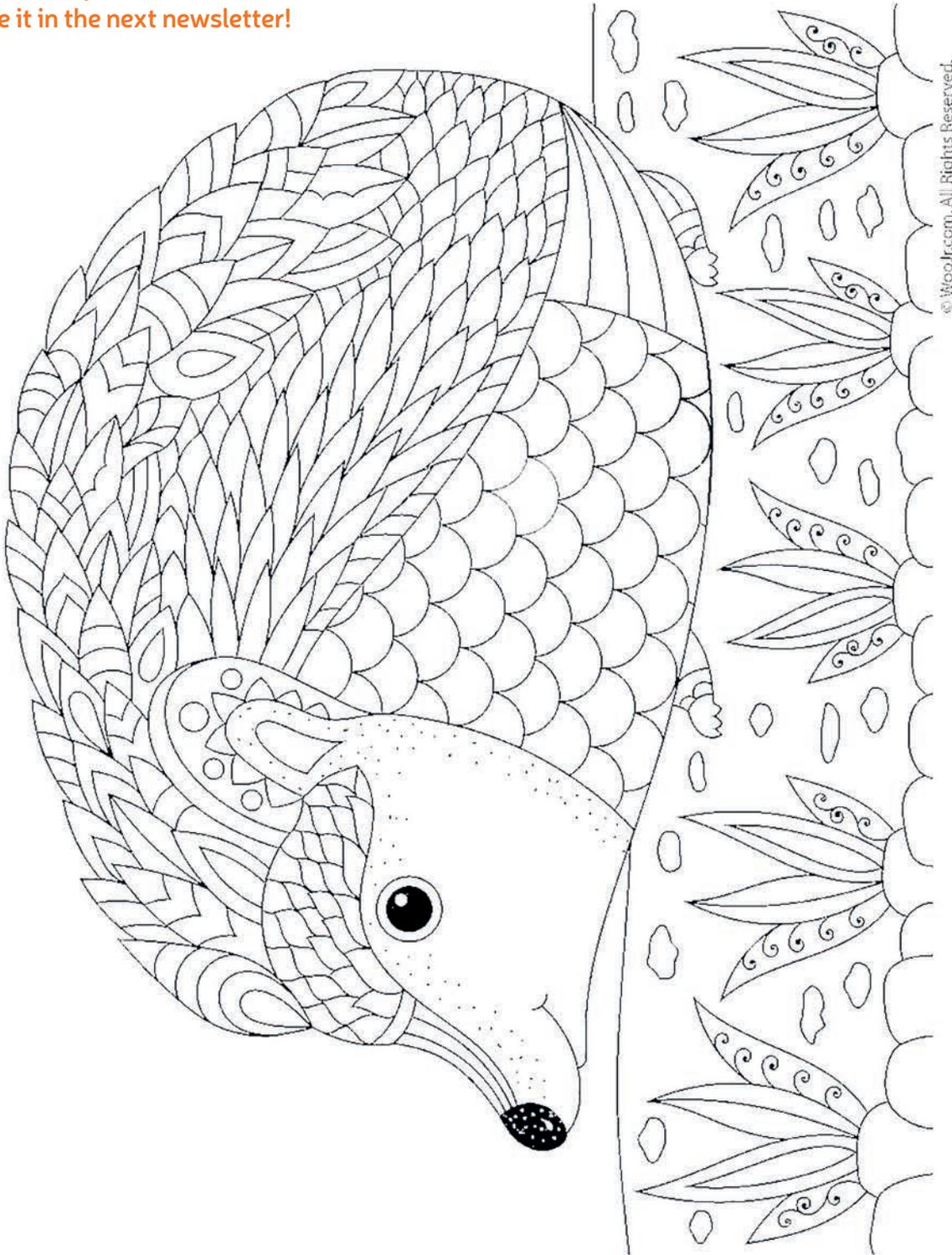
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## Colour me in

Send us your picture or a photo of your design, we'll pick our favourite and feature it in the next newsletter!





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## BUMBLE'S RECOVERY

I was volunteering on 17th November 2019 when Bumble arrived at the Hospital. He was so small and swollen, due to his aggressive ringworm infection. Paula bathed him straight away, hoping to alleviate some of his pain. We then put him on a strict ringworm regime, and shortly after, all his fur and spines fell out. He showed a striking resemblance to a naked mole-rat. While we continued to treat him, a few spines did start to grow back, but he kept shedding them.

When the Hospital was being refurbished, I thought it was a good idea for Bumble to come to my house while we waited for his spines to regrow. He came home on 2 February, along with another small female I called Snowdrop. She enjoyed biting my husband's feet and hanging onto his socks. Unfortunately, despite everyone's efforts over the months, Snowdrop didn't make it. She captured our hearts with her cheeky character.

Bumble had been cooped up in his cage for so long recovering, that I thought it was a good idea for him to get some exercise. Our bathroom seemed a safe environment. He'd lost a lot of strength, so at first, his bum was dragging along the floor. After daily runs of up to 4 1/2 hours, his legs grew stronger, and he was soon racing around. Sometimes he'd try to go too fast and trip over his own front feet. He had also been having hydrotherapy sessions in the bath, which he was not so keen on. We kept up with his ringworm regime, and the fur on his face and skirt grew back. About three weeks ago, all of his spines started to regrow in abundance, and he has transformed into a handsome hog. Admittedly, it is strange not to see him spineless because he was like it for so long.

Bumble comes out of his house when he hears my voice, wanting to come out of his cat box. He even seems to get excited when he gets to the bathroom for his daily run. I will be sad to see him go, but knowing Yvonne and all the dedicated volunteers have had another success story of such a poorly hog going back out to the wild, makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Besides, how many people can say they've had the privilege of having a hedgehog running around their bathroom whilst taking a shower!

*Karen*



## LOOKING FOR A BIRTHDAY GIFT?

Why not give an adoption pack?

The recipient receives a small beanie hedgehog, a pin badge, a pen, and a key ring, along with an adoption certificate for just

# £25



Do you have a story to tell about your experiences or about one of the hedgehogs you've been looking after for Hedgehog Rescue. We always love to hear what our volunteers are doing! If so, drop us an email.



## GIVING YOUR LOCAL HEDGEHOG A HELPING HAND

In a single night, the average Hedgehog can roam about 2km in search of food. When it comes to breeding season, males have been known to roam a distance of 3km in search of a female. Sturdy fences, along with increased housing, reduce the amount of land available to Hedgehogs.

A Hedgehog that wanders through your garden is really beneficial as they feed on slugs, snails and beetles. They're basically nature's pest repellent. So, to ensure they're successful on their journey, we need your help.



## We're always on the lookout for suitable gardens to release our disabled Hedgehogs.

We are looking for a largish, fully enclosed garden that is well stocked, so that the hedgehog has plenty of food, water and shelter. You will need to supplement this with additional food and water for the hedgehog every day. You will also need to provide a hedgehog house.

Contact us on 07971 663009 if you think you have a garden that matches our criteria.

## Creating a Haven

### Provide Access with a Hedgehog Highway

- Hogs love having the freedom to roam. By creating a small gap of 13x13cm under a garden fence, is the easiest way to ensure their search for food and a mate is successful.

### Make it accident proof

- Cover any drains and holes you can find and remove any unused netting, so the hogs don't become entangled. Surprisingly hedgehogs are keen swimmers, but make sure that if you do have a pond, there is a way for the hogs to exit the water safely. A sloping entrance or stones work well.

### Create a wild patch

- Choose a corner of your garden to become overgrown with piles of leaves and logs. Not only will it provide an enticing sheltered nest, especially for hibernation, but it's a haven for invertebrates.

### Put out food

- Providing food and fresh water in shallow dishes will encourage hedgehogs to return to your garden. Their favourites are meat-based cat and dog food, you can also get Brambles specialist Hedgehog food. Avoid milk as Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant and will make them poorly.

### Check before you cut

- if your grass is especially long, give it a once over before you mow to make sure there are no hogs or hoglets nestled in there.

Make a feeding station (See overleaf)



## HOW TO MAKE A HEDGEHOG FEEDING STATION

In this hot weather, it's a good idea to put food and water out, but you may need to deter other larger mammals from accessing it. This simple feeding station design should help to protect the food you offer hedgehogs.

### What will you need?

- Large plastic storage box
- Hacksaw/strong scissors
- Insulation tape
- 2 bricks or large stones

1. Carefully cut a 13x13cm square gap in one of the short sides of the box, cover any sharp edges with the insulation tape.
2. Tuck the box against a fence or bush.
3. Cover the box with twigs and leaves for camouflage
4. Place the food and water at the back of the box, as far away from the entrance as possible
5. Place one brick on top of the box to prevent it from being easily moved and another approx 13cm away from the entrance to stop larger mammals being able to lie down and hook out the food with their paws.



We'd love to see how you've transformed your gardens to help our prickly friends. Please send us your photos, along with the area you live, so we can feature you in our next newsletter.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Check out the latest updates on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

