



# Hedgehog Rescue NEWSLETTER



Winter 2019

It's time to wish everyone a Happy Christmas already! I cannot believe another year has gone by. Yate saw its first snow fall on the 18th November. BRRR!!!! Does this mean a cold winter like the weather forecasters are predicting? If so, what does this mean for our hedgehogs?

We are getting a lot of calls about small hedgehogs so please do keep putting food out for them as these late-born hogs will not survive the winter hibernation without our help. One of the reasons hedgehogs hibernate is due to lack of food, another is the temperature, and also the longer nights. This is all sensed by the hypothalamus and the pituitary gland, which triggers the hedgehogs to think about that long deep sleep. So feeding them now will ensure they have enough reserves to survive when they do hibernate.

So, keep checking for hedgehogs in your garden in case you still have small ones visiting. Keep putting out water - cider vinegar in the water can prevent freezing up to around -6°C. If they are over 450g just keep feeding them, but if they are less than that that bring them in. Most rescue centres are full including here, so the more that you can do at home the better.

A big thank you to all the people who volunteer their time, donate, courier, write newsletters, help with administration, apply for grants, etc. You are all brilliant! All the best for the new year and good health to you all! The new year will see the start of the new cage installation, exciting times!!

*Yvonne*

## HEDGEHOG ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

This year has been so very busy; we have taken in 373 so far. We have around 60 at the moment. Liz B is fostering 4, Julie 4, Jason 2 and Paula is eagerly awaiting some for over-wintering.

A mum and three 8-day old babies arrived in October, sadly found with a nest made up mainly of litter. They're doing well, with mum and the girls large enough to be fostered out, and the male, who was the runt and is only 200g, will stay a while longer to fatten up.

And Albert.. only the second albino hedgehog that we have had in 20 years! But more about him overleaf...



## WHAT DO WE NEED?

If you would like to donate a gift to us in the run up to Christmas, it would be very welcome.. in particular, cat/dog food (chicken or turkey preferred), cat biscuits or Farley's Rusks. We also have an updated Amazon Wishlist which shows the essential items that we are running out of or one-off items:

[www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1667YMU51Y05P/ref=cm\\_go\\_nav\\_hz](http://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1667YMU51Y05P/ref=cm_go_nav_hz)

In early autumn, we were desperate for newspapers and a call for help resulted in loads. A message on the Nextdoor website in the Horfield area has brought in so many that we are currently fully stocked. Thank you again! If we need more later in the year we will put a message up on Facebook, but for now we are okay.

## STUCK FOR A CHRISTMAS 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



We also have several items for sale in the hospital that would make perfect stocking fillers such as hedgehog-themed pens, keyrings and necklaces.

Please do give HR a call if you'd like to pop in and stock up!

## OUR STAR FUNDRAISER!

In November, Wesley came to visit, he walked 100 miles in October and raised £225 for HR.

Well done Wesley and thank you!





# Hedgehog Rescue NEWSLETTER



Winter 2019

## A MOST UNUSUAL VISITOR...

As you may see on our Facebook page, we are currently caring for only our second albino in 20 years of HR.

Albert came in too small for the cold weather; only the second one in twenty years of Hedgehog Rescue. He had a heavy worm burden which he received treatment for and was then introduced to a female who we naturally called Victoria.

Albinism occurs in both animal and humans and is caused by the lack of an enzyme involved in the production of melanin, it is harmless to hedgehogs. This means that they have little or no pigment in their eyes, skin and hair. A common misconception is that all albinos have red eyes, it is in fact rare even among those with the genetic deficiency. Most albinos, both human and animals, have blue eyes.

Victoria and Albert have bonded well (which is actually not that natural for a solitary animal) and will be released together soon as they have both reached their target weight of 600g. It will be difficult for Albert as he will stick out like a sore thumb and will be more at risk of being predated. Other than his genetics he is perfectly healthy, so my decision has to be release. I will probably cry the day he leaves here!



Albert and Victoria

## EVENTS OVER THE WINTER

### Bristol University

Hedgehog Rescue attended the Friendly Campus Launch event at the University Gardens, which was really well attended, and we are happy to now have good links with the University

A big thank you to Jason who was my taxi for the day after my car was written off in October.

### Lush

We were also asked to attend Lush in Cribbs Causeway, we were their charity pot event - where the profits from every pot sold was donated to Hedgehog Rescue for the whole weekend. They very kindly raised £380.

### Lyde Green

We also attended the Lyde Green, Green spaces event in October where we made contact with Men in Sheds who had made several hedgehog houses (below).

We also did lots of talks at schools and nurseries throughout September, October and November too. Autumn is always a busy time for these. We now have a little break but the talks will start again in January.



Our stall at Lush



Hedgehog houses created by Men in Sheds



## FACEBOOK

Our Facebook page has hit over 3000 likes. Plus we have many new followers on Instagram and twitter. This is great news!  
[www.facebook.com/hedgehogrescuesouthgloucestershire/](http://www.facebook.com/hedgehogrescuesouthgloucestershire/)





# Hedgehog Rescue NEWSLETTER



Winter 2019

## PRICKLY TALES FROM HEDGEHOG RESCUE VOLUNTEERS...

**My husband and I foster hogs from Yvonne's Hedgehog Rescue when they can't be released into the wild.**

Our garden is a mini nature reserve, with native shrubs, lots of hedging, brambles, long grass and a small shallow pond, so it provides a very natural habitat for the hogs.

Earlier this month, we took in a female hedgehog who had been brought into the Hedgehog Rescue hospital. She was blind and had ringworm, but thanks to Yvonne and the Hedgehog Rescue team, she was eventually fit to be released into a safe haven. She had been a true favourite at the hospital due to her

friendly nature, and the volunteers even kissed her goodbye!

We named her Audrey, and she immediately made herself at home in one of our many hog houses. Since then, she has appeared nightly on our 'hogcams' (night-time cameras which record footage of garden activity when it's too dark for us to see).

She has a huge appetite and has put on weight, ready for hibernation. Being blind has not appeared to be a problem - we see her on our cameras all over the garden!

Audrey has joined our two other rescue hogs - April, a three-legged



female, and Dizzy, a three-legged male - both of whom have been with us for a few years. Dizzy and April produced a litter of two healthy hoglets last year, which have been released into the wild.

*Helen R.*

## This month's featured volunteer role: Our Database Administrator, Jenny...

I live in Thornbury and was so pleased when in 2018 I borrowed a night camera to see what visitors we were getting as I had noticed hedgehog poop in the garden and greenhouse. We were so excited when it captured 2 hedgehogs! It was such fun knowing that when the security light came on, they were on their way, they would then appear from under the gate, we even cut a bigger hole under the gate as we were worried as they grew bigger they would get stuck! It was funny watching them drinking and eating and rummaging around the garden.

### How cute is our Summer visitor?

In October 2018 I answered an advert in the Thornbury Gazette asking for volunteers to help at Hedgehog Rescue. I wanted to help but wasn't able to commit to a lot of time, so I have helped when I can, ie in the hospital, cleaning out hutches, shredding paper for the cages and in July helped the children make hedgehog clay models and colouring in of hedgehog pictures at the open day in Yate.

In March this year Yvonne showed me thousands of care sheets from 1999 to 2019 that she was hoping to put on a spreadsheet so everything is logged and used for stats for Hedgehog Rescue. So I went back home and designed a spreadsheet so other volunteers like myself could start inputting the historical records when we had any spare time. I've completed 1999 to 2002 and am now

ready to pick up the next year. The best thing is, if I have a spare moment I can do my bit for volunteering at home.

My hedgehog experience of joy has recently turned to sadness as we have lost all our visitors to the busy road on Midland Way. I did hear some good news from my brother who lives a mile away, he reported a hedgehog this week near his garden. I just hope his visitor stays safe and away from the horrible busy road.

Our hedgehogs need all the help they can get. If you have any spare time, however much you can spare there are a wide variety of jobs you can help with, from admin, helping in the hospital, cleaning hutches, and much more. For further information and advice on what you can do to help hedgehogs, please take a look at their wonderful informative website.

*Jenny O.*

