



# Hedgehog Rescue NEWSLETTER

Spring  
2022

## HEDGEHOG RESCUE OPEN DAY JULY 9<sup>TH</sup> . 2-5PM

We will be holding our annual fundraising **HEDGEHOG RESCUE OPEN DAY** at **19 The Leaze, Yate, BS37 5XJ** where you can see the hogs in the hedgehog hospital and outside hutches... and there will, of course, be tea, cakes, gifts and crafts.

### MESSAGE FROM YVONNE

We have had 106 hedgehogs in so far this year. This is slightly less than last year as we had to close the hospital in at times in March and April due it being full. **We will be running a reduced service 19th May - 7th June due to me having a hand operation and being unable to go into the hedgehog hospital, but our volunteers will be in daily, 9am-12pm.**

As summer approaches we are asked to attend events but are now having to turn some down. We don't have enough people to man the stall as many are on the same day, so more volunteers would be very welcome, if anyone is interested.

Despite events being cancelled due to COVID, we've been out at festivals and awareness/education sessions, including the Lyde Green Festival in April, which raised just under £100. The aim there was to get residents thinking about hedgehog highways in the new development (which the developers overlooked). Thanks to Paula, Lynne and John for helping on the day and to Lawrence for organising the day.

Thank you to Mrs P for bequeathing money to HR. This is going towards improving the pre-release shed, which is currently leaking and urgently needs to be replaced.

In this edition we have asked our volunteers to show us examples of improvements they have made to their gardens in order to attract wildlife. Maybe you will find some inspiration there!

*Yvonne*



### UPCOMING EVENTS

As well as at our Open Day you can come and meet Hedgehog Rescue at the following events:

#### 3rd June: Warmley Jubilee Event

Warmley Signal Box, High Street, Warmley

#### 18th June: Three Greens Festival 2022

Emersons Green Village Park, S. Glos. • 10am - 4pm

#### 25th June: St Michael's School Summer Fair

Ratcliffe Drive, Stoke Gifford • 1-4pm

#### July 14th: Yate Ageing Better Festival 2022

Yate Shopping Centre ( by the Pop Inn Café)  
11am-2pm

*If you would like to help look after the stall and engage with the public, please give Yvonne a call.*

### ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN

As we are all aware, littering is an environmental issue that just doesn't seem to go away, so it's great that a local group has been working hard to clean up their area.

Hedgehog Rescue has been working with **Sodbury and Yate Clean Up Group** to clear away as much litter as they can... and together we have created posters for their anti-litter campaign.. much boosted by kind permission from Chris Packham to use his photos. Thank you Chris!

The posters have been put up in and around the Yate and Chipping Sodbury areas, so don't forget to look out for them!





## HEDGEHOG OF THE MONTH: FRED

I was in Hedgehog Rescue on 8th February, Yvonne asked if I could pick a hedgehog up from Fishponds on my way home. It was freezing cold and he had been found in a water-filled ditch that had been dug out for a fence post.

I was going to keep him overnight and take him to Hedgehog Rescue the following day, but I when got him home I realised he was very dehydrated, hypothermic and weighed 645g.

I didn't want to move him again in case the stress caused him more damage, so I warmed him up on a heat mat and syringed some warm fluids into him. Later he got up and started moving around but was very wobbly indeed.

Fred had fluids for 6 days and I still didn't think he was going to make it as he was so poorly. I started him on all medications and Metacam in case he was in pain. His chest was terrible, probably from where he had ingested water, and he would bring up brown phlegm while in the nebuliser. He also had continuous Synulox as his chest was so bad.

Finally after a week he turned a corner. After three weeks I had to take him into HR as I was going away for the weekend and he needed continuous nebulising and a third lot of meds. He then went out to the release shed until the weather warmed up. He couldn't go back to where he was found but was released on 29th March at 1475g into a lovely garden down the road from where a hog had come into HR the day after Fred. Such a lovely hog.

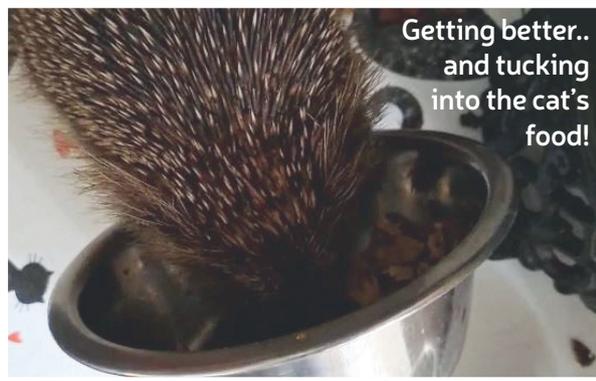
*Karen*



A very poorly boy



Hardly able to stand to eat



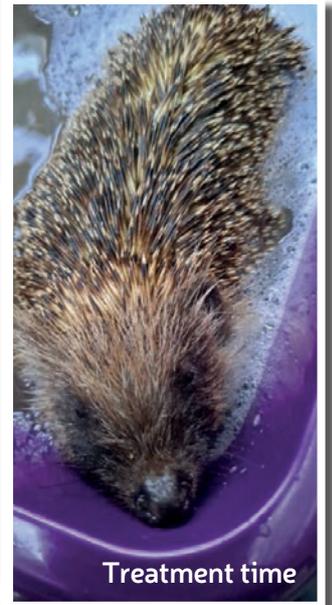
Getting better.. and tucking into the cat's food!



Handsome!



Cold, frozen feet



Treatment time



Ready for release



## WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY FOR A VOLUNTEER AT THE HEDGEHOG RESCUE HOSPITAL?

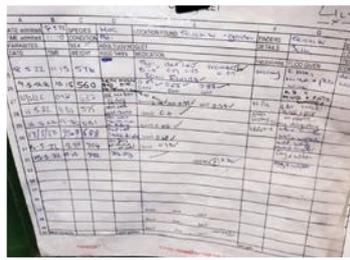
Are you thinking of becoming a Hedgehog Rescue volunteer, or just interested in knowing what we do? Well, we can tell you that it involves a lot of hard work by Yvonne and her wonderful team of volunteers!

A typical day starts early when Yvonne opens up the hospital, the kettle goes on and the day's volunteers arrive. The first job is to check in on the poorly hedgehogs who are staying in the heated hospital cages inside. These are the ones with the biggest health issues that may or may not have survived the night.

Each one is removed from its cage in order to be weighed and checked over. Updated details are recorded on the care sheet and comparisons are made to the previous weigh in. Weighing is a vital job as it gives us a good idea of whether the hedgehog is showing signs of improvement. Like any animal, a hedgehog that is losing weight is a cause for concern.



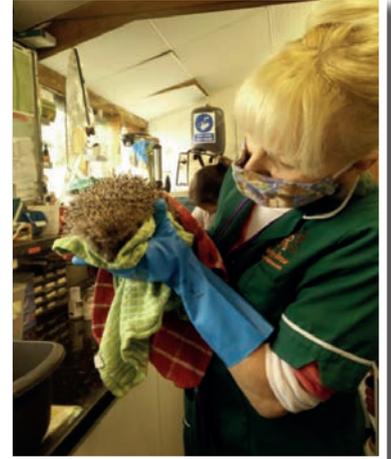
If the hedgehog is receiving treatment for a problem, this is the time that the day's first medication will be given. The hedgehog may be placed in the nebuliser to help with clearing airways and breathing, or may be given a bath of ringworm treatment if needed. More treatment and medication will be given during the day, and into the evening, if required.



Whilst these checkups and treatments are going on, each cage is cleaned out and sterilised, heat pads are wiped down,



bedding is changed and a new bowl of food and water added to the cage. It's a messy job, but keeping everything spotless is vital to ensuring that there are no infections, and the new cages have helped no-end in making this icky part of the job a lot easier.



Once the casualties in the main hospital are seen to, we then sort out the ones in the outside hutches. These are full of hedgehogs who no longer need the hospital and are just recovering or fattening up and getting rest in preparation for being released as soon as they are healthy enough to do so.

Of course, whilst all this is going on, as well as caring for the hedgehogs, Yvonne will be answering the phone to new calls for hedgehog advice or requests for educational talks. Often a member of the public will ring up, or bring in a hedgehog with a problem. If the person can't bring the hedgehog in, we have a bank of "hedgehog couriers" who will pick it up and bring it to Hedgehog Rescue for assessment.

During the day we will be often visited by other volunteers who are picking up hedgehogs to take back to their houses for rehabilitation or a halfway house to prepare for re-release.

Our hospital volunteers work on a shift basis, consisting of a few hours at a time, one or two days a week, so you can see, without them, we just couldn't save as many hedgehogs as we do.

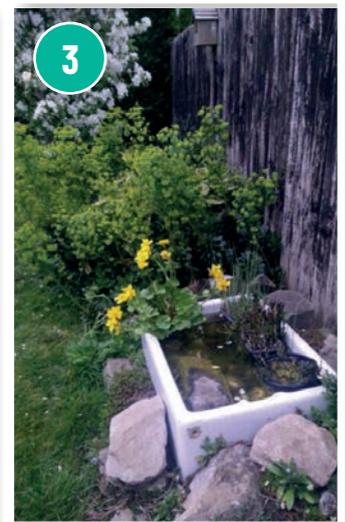
**If you can offer a few hours a week and are interested in joining our team of volunteers, please do get in touch.**



## A REMINDER OF WHAT YOU CAN DO IN YOUR GARDEN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO HELP WILDLIFE...

Hopefully you left your garden alone over winter, so that wildlife like bees and other insects can survive under the leaves. We've had a mixed Spring and the gardening bug has well and truly set in again. Here's some easy things you can be doing throughout the year, to make things better for wildlife. (Well, all are easy except for the pond!)

- 1 Stack any leftover autumnal leaves into a pile in a discreet corner of your garden to attract insects and their prey.
- 2 Continue to feed birds to help them prepare for breeding, particularly calorie-rich food such as fat/suet balls and sunflower hearts.
- 3 Install a pond or water feature and add pond plants to encourage amphibians and other insects, as well as a water-source for other wildlife too. Add a ramp for wildlife to climb up if it falls in.
- 4 Leave out food and water for hedgehogs, they will be emerging from hibernation in Spring and need to build up their fat reserves, ready for breeding.
- 5 When mowing the lawn, carry the clippings to a dry corner of the garden; you may see a queen bumblebee or a slowworm make a nest.
- 6 Increase your stock of nectar and pollen-rich plants. Plant a range that will flower throughout the year and provide food for longer, e.g. Mahonia (Winter flowering), Ajuga (Spring), Pulmonaria (Spring), Weilega (Spring/Summer), Star Jasmine (Summer, good for night scent), Lavender (Summer), Verbena (Summer), Salvia (Summer/Autumn)... or a 'living carpet' (see page 6).





## SOME OF OUR HEDGEHOG RESCUE VOLUNTEERS' GARDENS...

Unsurprisingly, our Hedgehog Rescue volunteers are wildlife lovers at heart, and have been creating all sorts of lovely habitats in their own gardens to attract wildlife in. Here's just a few projects that may help you with your inspiration. It doesn't matter what time of the year you create your habitat... you may just have to be patient until things move in, if you are out of season. If you have a wildlife habitat creation story that you'd like to share, please do get in touch and we will feature it in a future edition.

"Here's the bug hotel that I built out of old pallets. The two bottom ones I stacked differently to create a higher area underneath for hedgehogs to hideaway while exploring in the garden. I filled it with straw, hay, sticks, cardboard rolls etc and as it's rotted down it's created a perfect habitat for lots of insects, so food for visiting hedgehogs to eat." *Julie, volunteer*



Once you have made your garden wildlife friendly, with lots of sheltered corners, another great way to encourage hedgehogs into your garden is to put out hedgehog-friendly food for them. Here, Sue has found a quiet corner to place a nightly plate and as a result, has regular spiky visitors to her garden.



Julie has also created a hedgehog feeding station (above), along with a small pond out of an old Belfast sink, and plants such as wildlife-friendly Nepeta next to it ... and the frogs have moved straight in!



Katie has created a lovely habitat in a sheltered corner of her garden, with hedgehog homes, a pot of surplus straw for bedding, lots of stones and plants for insects to hide in... and wildlife-friendly plants. And she's left that dandelion for the bees... it's not a "weed"!



It doesn't have to be a big area to encourage wildlife into your garden. Liz has a tiny back garden, but has a woodpile in an unused corner to encourage insects. She's raised the bottom of her garden gate to enable wildlife into the garden, where there is a wildlife pond and pollinator-friendly shrub-filled borders, with mulch and leaves for foraging in.



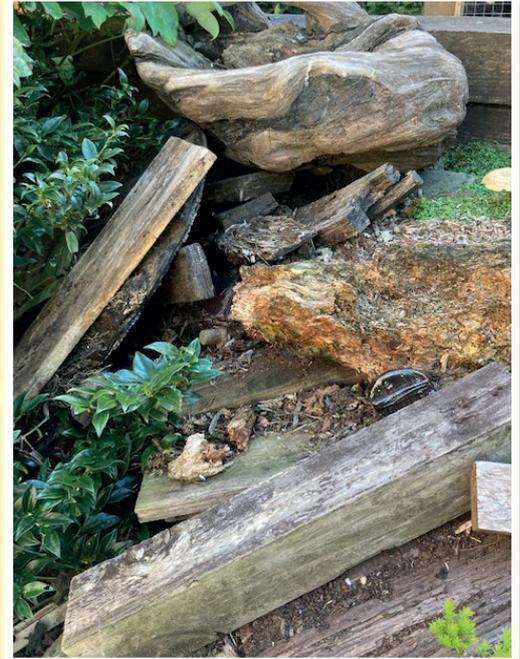
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And finally... if you need more inspiration for your garden... during lockdown Yvonne spent a lot of time working on her own garden to improve it for more varied wildlife. As you can see from the photos, she has a water source in the form of a pond. Next to this is a log pile which gives access to the pond for all wildlife... there's always more work to be done and she's still looking for the perfect piece of driftwood to make a better ramp. There are lots of plants at the edge of the pond which currently also enable wildlife to get in and out.

The garden is full of wildlife-friendly planting, with lots of plants that attract pollinators and provide shelter. Next to the gravel path, is a 'living carpet', which is a great alternative to a grass lawn. This is made up of Chamomile, Thyme, Saxifraga, Pratia and Corsican Mint. The bonus is that it doesn't need mowing!

The end result is that there are lots of corners and hidden bits that are attractive to insects... and what attracts insects will attract hedgehogs and other wildlife!





## SOME OF HEDGEHOG RESCUE'S MOST RECENT GUESTS...



### SPICE

Spice is a small amputee who arrived late last year and went to an enclosed garden for his own safety. He lost weight during hibernation and didn't regain it after coming out of it, so we picked him up again in April to give him a checkover. He had a bad chest so had medication and sessions in the nebuliser (see photo), before we took him back to his garden in May, now weighing 622g.



### MIDGE

In October Midge arrived as a hoglet weighing just 326g. He had wormy faeces and ringworm. After successful treatment for ringworm he lost most of his spines. The spines still hadn't grown back in March, and he had been with us so long that we felt it better if he went to volunteer Karen's home where she gave him a 10-minute aloe vera massage every night, along with multivitamins and a calcium supplement.

Although he had access to Karen's garden, he couldn't be left out overnight because his lack of spines made him very vulnerable to predators. However, his spines finally grew back and he was able to be released in May.



### SCRUMPY

In April, Scrumpy was found, along with his brother Whiskey, in Helen's neighbour's garden. He weighed just 353g and was very dehydrated and smelly. He was also really wheezy and so he received the standard fluids, meds and nebuliser. He was a model patient and gained 200g in a week. Scrumpy was released on 17th May at 731g.



### DAPHNE

Daphne came into HR on 23rd March, weighing 462g, and the person who found her noticed on her camera that Daphne was dragging her right back leg. She was put on metacam and quickly had a visit to the vet who did an X-ray and found that it was just an old fracture that had healed, so nothing to be too concerned about. After a few hydrotherapy sessions at HR, she went to a volunteer's house for massage and further hydrotherapy. Unfortunately she got ringworm, possibly from the stress, but that was quickly treated and she was released back where she was found in May, weighing a healthy 903g.





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## AND THERE'S MORE...

In fact it's been so busy that we've been full and have had to close our doors at times!



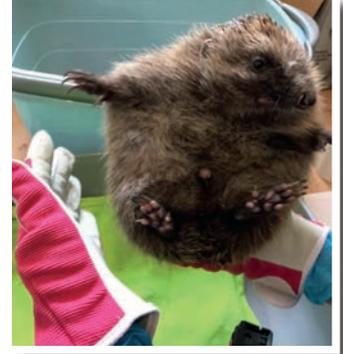
### WHISKEY

Whiskey is Scrumpy's brother and came in suffering with lungworm, weighing 657g. Unable to go back to his finder he went to volunteer Helen who has lots of wild hogs in her garden. He came out of hibernation in April but had a nasty chest so had meds and worming and was re-released in May weighing 1038g.



### DENNIS

Dennis has had three trips to HR - in September, March and May - due to recurrent ringworm, particularly around his face and nose (see photo). HR was running out of room in the hospital, so volunteer Helen took him to her garden, which he duly wrecked before being released last week.



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### SOCIAL MEDIA

Check out the latest updates about all our rescued hedgehogs and the Hedgehog Rescue team on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

If you are a wordsmith and would like to help to put together this newsletter once a quarter, please get in touch at the details below.