



# Hedgehog Rescue NEWSLETTER

Winter  
2021/22



## MESSAGE FROM YVONNE

Happy Belated New Year to everyone! 2021 was an incredibly busy year, with 528 hedgehogs passing through our doors; that's over 25% more than in our previous record-breaking year. We also welcomed many new volunteers too. Firstly I'd like to thank everyone for all the gifts and donations left at Hedgehog Rescue - whether items left, cheques, Amazon wishlist purchases, or Paypal donations. We really do appreciate every single one, and it has certainly kept us going in 2021.

In 2021 we continued to remain open throughout the pandemic, and since then have generally continued working in a trio. Volunteers took their own temperatures daily, and masks were worn at all times in the hospital, whilst the windows and doors were kept open, to try and keep everyone as safe as possible. Our cleaning was as stringent as ever, with regular disinfecting of surfaces.

Richard returned to finish off the last instalment of the new cages and replace the glass doors with perspex ones (after several of the glass ones exploded on us). The Mayor of Yate and Ruth Davis came to visit, to see the new cages that were partly funded by their grants (above right).



A huge thank you to all who helped in the funding of this mammoth project. It's a vast improvement for us all.

Unfortunately there was no open day for us in 2021, and fewer events attended, but we are hopeful that we will be busy this year. We have plans in the pipeline for an open day in May or July, and taking our stall to events marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.. watch this space!

We hope that you enjoy this quarterly newsletter. If there are any wordsmiths out there who would like to be involved in editing it, or writing articles for it, please do get in touch!

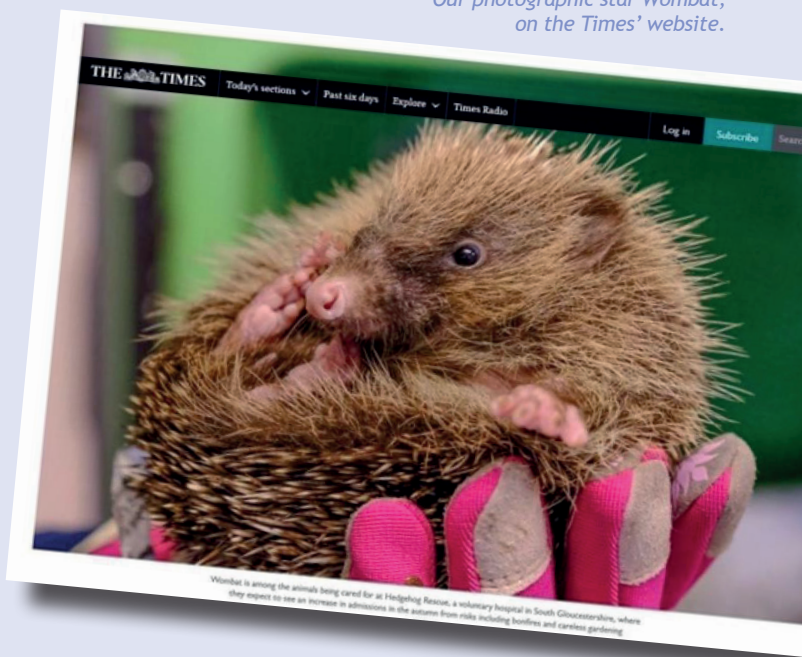
Yvonne

## A VERY SUCCESSFUL APPEAL FOR FOSTERERS

Following our high-profile appeal for hedgehog fosterers, we had a wonderful, almost overwhelming response. Thank you to every person who got in touch. We now have over 180 gardens to check over (out of 800 enquiries) and have made the decision to keep to a 10 miles radius of Yate, as the fostered hogs will need to be monitored by our volunteers to check that they are still well.

We are very grateful for those folks whose gardens are suitable for fostering, there are some old Victorian enclosed gardens which are perfect for us. However, we would like to encourage everyone else to open your garden for wildlife. Create a wildlife corridor, which will help wildlife to access your garden naturally - particularly if you have other attractions such as a wildlife-friendly pond or log piles full of insects and piles of leaves to snuggle in. Look at [www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org) for ideas! And please do encourage your neighbours to do the same, as wildlife needs a network of corridors all interlinking to get to your garden. The more the better!

Our photographic star Wombat, on the Times' website.







## SOME OF HEDGEHOG RESCUE'S LATEST PATIENTS...



### GAVIN & STACEY

Gavin (*above*) and pregnant Stacey (*centre top*) came in at the same time. Gavin is an amputee and Stacey is blind. After sadly losing her babies, Stacey quickly became fed up of being in a pen, and was released to an enclosed garden for her own safety. Despite her disability, she was a great climber and a destructive one at that!

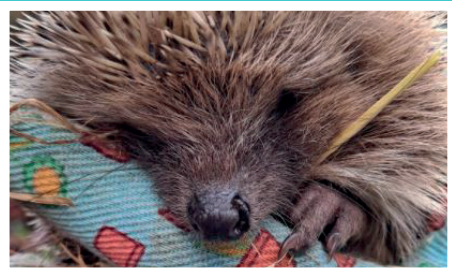


Gavin came in separately to Stacey, they were released together. He had his leg amputated, but recovered well and went to Julie's. The first photo shows Gavin having a weigh in on Christmas Day.



### HENRY

Henry is recent arrival, who is having a special treatment (*pictured*) for very persistent ringworm. Some of our hedgehogs love an itch-relieving bath!



### HERBY

Herby came in from Horfield - found wandering in a recreation area where lots of dogs were exercised. The area was too high-risk for her to stay there at such a small size, so, after a night's accommodation in a member of the public's safe shed, she came to HR & went off to a volunteer's house where, after initially losing weight was given Synolox and fluids and slowly fattened up before release.



### BUDDY

Buddy arrived with us on 30th November and it soon became apparent that he had a case of lungworm. He had the usual treatment of sessions in the nebuliser (*see above picture of him in the nebuliser*), and medication, and went out to the Hibernation Shed on 19th December where he stayed for three weeks before being released at a lovely healthy weight of 1013g.



### TINSEL

Tinsel, came in November, and after initial weight loss, was put her on meds, fluids and the nebuliser. We thought she wouldn't make it as her chest was so bad, but she fought through. She plateaued at 500g at New Year and we thought she was fed up so put her in our enclosed garden with other hogs. That did the trick and she was soon 659g and ready for release... our little Christmas miracle!





## THE ROUTE THROUGH THE HOSPITAL FOR A POORLY HEDGEHOG

Upon the arrival of a hedgehog, our Hedgehog Rescue volunteers fill in details of the finder and the location, so that we can eventually release it back in the same place if it is safe to do so. These details are copied in the admission book and an ID number (and name) is given.

The hedgehog is checked over and treated – usually fluids, medication and, if needed, the nebuliser.

A care sheet is filled in with these details and a record is made of the hedgehog's weight, what food and medication has been given, and details of any other treatment such as antibiotic spray, a bath, clipped nails.

They are then put in a hedgehog pen with food, water, bedding and a heat pad, whilst they are monitored, and a care sheet is attached to the correct pen. Each stage is monitored, to ensure a smooth handover to the next volunteer and to check if our hedgehogs are improving in health.

The following stage depends on what is wrong; it could be a visit to the vet, a series of ringworm baths, sprays and creams until the hog is better, a course of antibiotics or worming regime or both. This may include the nebuliser if there are breathing difficulties.

Once all this treatment is complete and the hog is of a reasonable weight it is transferred to the pre-release Hibernation Shed. Here there is a lot less handling and noise so that the hedgehog gets into a night-time routine and gets ready for its new adventures back out in the real world.

This stay in the shed may be anything from a few days to a few months, depending on the time of the year and whether they are big enough to be released into the wild for winter. If not, they will stay until Spring.

Some will be released into large enclosed gardens if there is an issue that means they would be vulnerable in the full wild; or if they need time to

acclimatise to being back out into the wild – an interim spot. These gardens are overseen by Hedgehog Rescue volunteers.

The final stage, for as many as possible, is to release them into the full wild. Wherever possible this happens where they were found (or close by). If it's not safe to do that, then they will be released into areas that we know are good for hedgehogs, and have regular hedgehog sightings.

1. Acorn having medication administered in the hospital.

2. Gus having ticks removed on arrival.

3. Buddy has lungworm, and spends some time in the nebuliser to help with his breathing, before commencing some lungworm medication

4. Once they are healthy enough to leave the hospital, they move to the Hibernation Shed to recuperate and fatten up for release.

5. The reason we do it...  
Gavin and Stacey prepare for release into an enclosed garden.





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## THE HIBERNATION SHED

As well as the warm hospital, where the really sick hedgehogs stay, we have our Hibernation Shed, which is a covered section by the side of the house that is full to the brim with 20 unheated wooden hutches.

This is where the hedgehogs stay who are otherwise healthy, but not quite ready for release. They usually just need to fatten up before being released into the wild or an enclosed garden.



Being just 5.5m x 1m, the Hibernation Shed is very cramped, and hard to work in, so will probably be Hedgehog Rescue's next fundraising project, after the success of the hospital.

When it happens, the shed will be in remembrance of Paul Richards and Elvira Pearson who very kindly left money to Hedgehog Rescue in their last wishes.

## OUT AND ABOUT

An important part of Yvonne's role is education, and she's been doing a LOT of talks: Sherston Pre School, Fairlawn Primary, Victoria Park, Tortworth Forest, Yate WI, Avon Wildlife Trust, Iron Acton Primary School, The British School, Brownies and Scouts, to name just a few. And on top of this she filmed for Points West!

It's so important to teach awareness of nature at a young age so it remains with them for life. If you have a group (of any age) and would like to book a talk please get in touch.

## ARE YOU GOOD AT FUNDRAISING?

We are always looking for people who might be interested in doing a sponsored event. In the past our volunteers have raised money via boot/garage sales and sponsored events such as sky dives, parachute jumps, 1/2 marathons, walks, 50 mile cycle rides, no alcohol/chocolate/meat months and swimming.

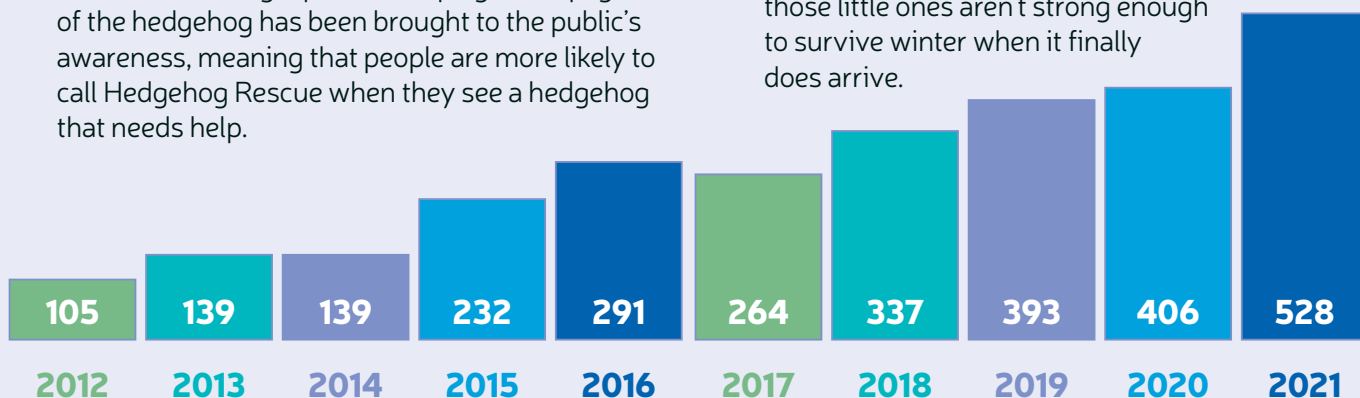
If you think you may be able to help, let us know and we will feature you on social media and our newsletter.

## AND STILL THEY COME...

2021 saw a total intake of 528 hedgehogs to Hedgehog Rescue. Unfortunately this is a massive increase on the year before and can be attributed to several factors.

- More and more construction of buildings and roads, meaning that the hedgehog's natural habitat is being concreted over.
- Due to various high-profile campaigns the plight of the hedgehog has been brought to the public's awareness, meaning that people are more likely to call Hedgehog Rescue when they see a hedgehog that needs help.

- Many people still don't have good access into and out of their gardens, meaning that hedgehogs are unable to travel as far as they need in order to find enough food to survive. (Easy to rectify.. put a hole in your fence!)
- Mild autumns mean that hedgehogs are having second litters (this time as late as January), but those little ones aren't strong enough to survive winter when it finally does arrive.



[www.hedgehogrescue.info](http://www.hedgehogrescue.info)



[hedgehog rescue](https://www.facebook.com/hedgehogrescue)



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## HOG OF THE MONTH: WOLFIE

Yvonne received a call from a lady in Hullavington on 12th October who had found three small hoglets in her garden. They were on their own with no sign of their mum, so Ria went to pick them up. However, when she got there, two had escaped as there was a hole in the box, and they were nowhere to be seen.

So the first hoglet Wolfie, came to me, as I was looking for a friend for another small hoglet called Herby. (Herby was found on her own on Horfield Common and has done very well, having since been re-released into Claudia's garden.)

The following day, Yvonne had another call to say that the other two (males) had returned, so Ria popped over again and successfully picked them up. The brothers went to the house of another volunteer, Crystal, and soon put on weight, eating Crystal out of house and home! Meanwhile Wolfie, who had arrived with a nasty cough, had started on medication for his chest, worming medications and was nebulised for two weeks.

By the beginning of November, the two brothers at Crystal's were big enough to be released. Sadly the elderly couple where they were found were unable to look after them due to ill health, as the hedgehogs needed a nesting box and supplementary feeding upon release.

Wolfie was a bit behind in putting on weight but soon caught up. Ria offered a home in her garden, as she had a spare nesting box. On November 18th, Wolfie hit his target weight of 650g and was transferred from my house to Ria's for preparation for his release.

It's always a happy (and sad) moment when you hand the hedgehogs over to be released after being in your care at home, but I knew he was going to a good home.

Since then I've had regular videos from Ria's wildlife camera which show Wolfie taking to his life in the wild straight away. He even got into the Christmas spirit by wearing some straw on his head that looked like reindeer antlers, and sharing his bowl of biscuits with Toffee. His house has been renamed "Wolfington Hall".

It is a joy to see these rehabilitated hogs returned to the wild and doing so well. It's all down to Yvonne and her dedicated team of volunteers who will go the extra mile for a hog in need.

*Karen*



*Wolfie and his friend Herby having their checks at volunteer Karen's house*



*Wolfie putting on weight...*



*Wolfie tucking into a huge amount of food at Wolfington Hall. Caught on Ria's wildlife camera*



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Autumnal  
Beetles  
Berries  
Bonfire  
Boar  
Bug hotel  
Cold  
Curl  
Earthworms  
Foraging

Frosty  
Leaf pile  
Habitat  
Hedgehog Highway  
Hoglets  
Insects  
Juveniles  
Litter  
Log pile  
Mammal

Nest  
Netting  
Nighttime  
Nocturnal  
Omnivore  
Pond  
Rustle  
Shy  
Sleep  
Slugs

Snails  
Snuffler  
Sow  
Springtime  
Summer  
Undergrowth  
Water  
Wildlife  
Wintery