







## HOG OF THE MONTH: HENRIETTA

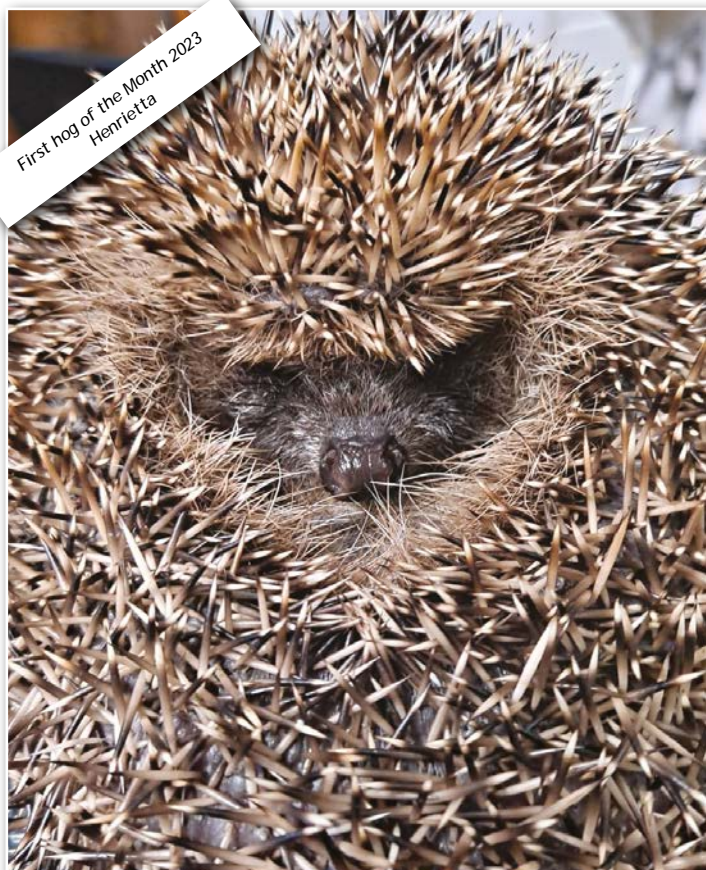
It's never easy to pick hog of the month, as every hedgehog has its own personality and its own story to tell, but one hedgehog who had an early battle this year was Henrietta.

Henrietta was the very first poorly hedgehog in this year, arriving from the Chippenham area on the 14th January and weighing just 261g - the smallest we have seen at this time of the year.

It wasn't all plain sailing for Henrietta's recovery. The day after arriving at Hedgehog Rescue she lost even more weight and dropped down to 249g. She had bad, bright green diarrhoea, so we took a faecal sample, which determined that she had capillaria and oocyst eggs.

She was given fluids to rehydrate her and started on antibiotics, including four treatments of Ivomec for her heavy worm burden.

The good news is that, at time of writing, she is 644g, eating well, and hopeful for a release in the Spring.



## ALLOTMENTS AND EXTENSIONS

A couple of new projects are in the pipeline, the first one being the "Elvira Suite" (named after the lady who kindly left money to HR in her will), which is an extension to the hedgehog hospital facilities at Yvonne's house. Although the space is very narrow (just 87cm wide), we can accommodate 15 hedgehogs for pre-release or hibernation in there, so it makes a lot of difference. We are currently waiting for the electrician to put sockets and lights in there, before painting the wall and laying the lino.

We've also been working hard over winter to create an allotment to over-winter hedgehogs who reach good health too late to be released before winter, as they won't have time to find somewhere to hibernate. It has definitely helped over winter, and the long-term plan is that healthy hedgehogs can move to the allotment to hibernate, and can be released early Springtime, freeing up valuable space at Hedgehog Rescue for those hogs that still need more attention.

However, although the allotment has been useful over winter it has hit a major stumbling block due to the amount of water lying there. It really is a damp area, and unsuitable for our wooden hutches. In the long term it may be that we need to raise funds for some new purpose-built pens there... watch this space.

In the meantime our Open Day happens at the allotment on 1st May, so do come and visit us.







### WHO'S IN.. WHO'S OUT?

A short catch up on just some of the hedgehog visitors we have had over winter. Thanks to Karen for the updates!

#### BRUNO

In October, juvenile Bruno came in from the vets at Knowle, weighing just 160g. He had flystrike and ticks, so after having the necessary medications, he was brought to Karen who popped him in with her other two hoglets Bernard and Floss.

He was very slow to gain weight so was given Profender, which helped immensely. In November, when Karen was happy with him (at 619g), he went to Jo's outside hutch and then was released into Caroline's garden on 31st January weighing 877g. (Bruno is bottom left in the main photo with Bernard and Floss, he's the very dark one.)

Weigh-in time!



Release day!

#### ELVYN

Female hedgehog Elyvn came in to Hedgehog Rescue on November, weighing 297g. She had poorly eyes and so had Isathal applied, but it soon became clear that her right eye was missing.

Luckily hedgehogs can manage perfectly well with only one eye, so Elyvn was given medications to improve her general health and went out to the hibernation shed on 16th December. Unfortunately she had to come straight back as she had contracted ringworm, so she started treatments for that instead. She had her final ringworm

bath in mid February, and now weighs 726g.

Elyvn is very boisterous, always trying to get out of her holding box, so we gave her warm hay and a lavender bag in her pen to calm her down. We hope to release her very soon.



#### ERROLL

Young juvenile Erroll came from the Yate area on the 24th January. Weighing just 346g, he was very

poorly, and after Yvonne did a faecal sample, we discovered that he had no ringworm but a lot of capillaria (a

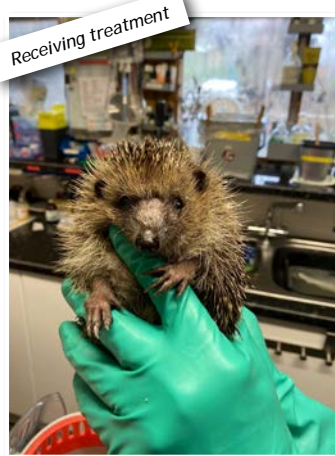
parasitic worm transferred in faeces), oocyst eggs (also parasitic worms), a lot of ticks and a very bald, sore

nose. He had to have rehydration fluids and a lot of medications, including Renasan antiseptic spray for his nose.

Today Erroll is looking very healthy, weighing in at a strong 644g. We are now just waiting for his nose hair to finish growing back, and then he will be ready for release.



Very poorly on arrival



Receiving treatment



Waiting for that nose hair to grow







## BECOMING A SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE HEDGEHOG HERO

As part of their long-term climate and nature emergency strategy, South Gloucestershire Council are working with Hedgehog Rescue to encourage residents to create hedgehog highways, with an aim to create 3000 hedgehog holes throughout the county.

They want to lead the way in making South Gloucestershire a hedgehog friendly zone and this will be coordinated through their Local Nature Action Plans (LNAPs), which support town/parish councils in drawing up their climate-related action plans.

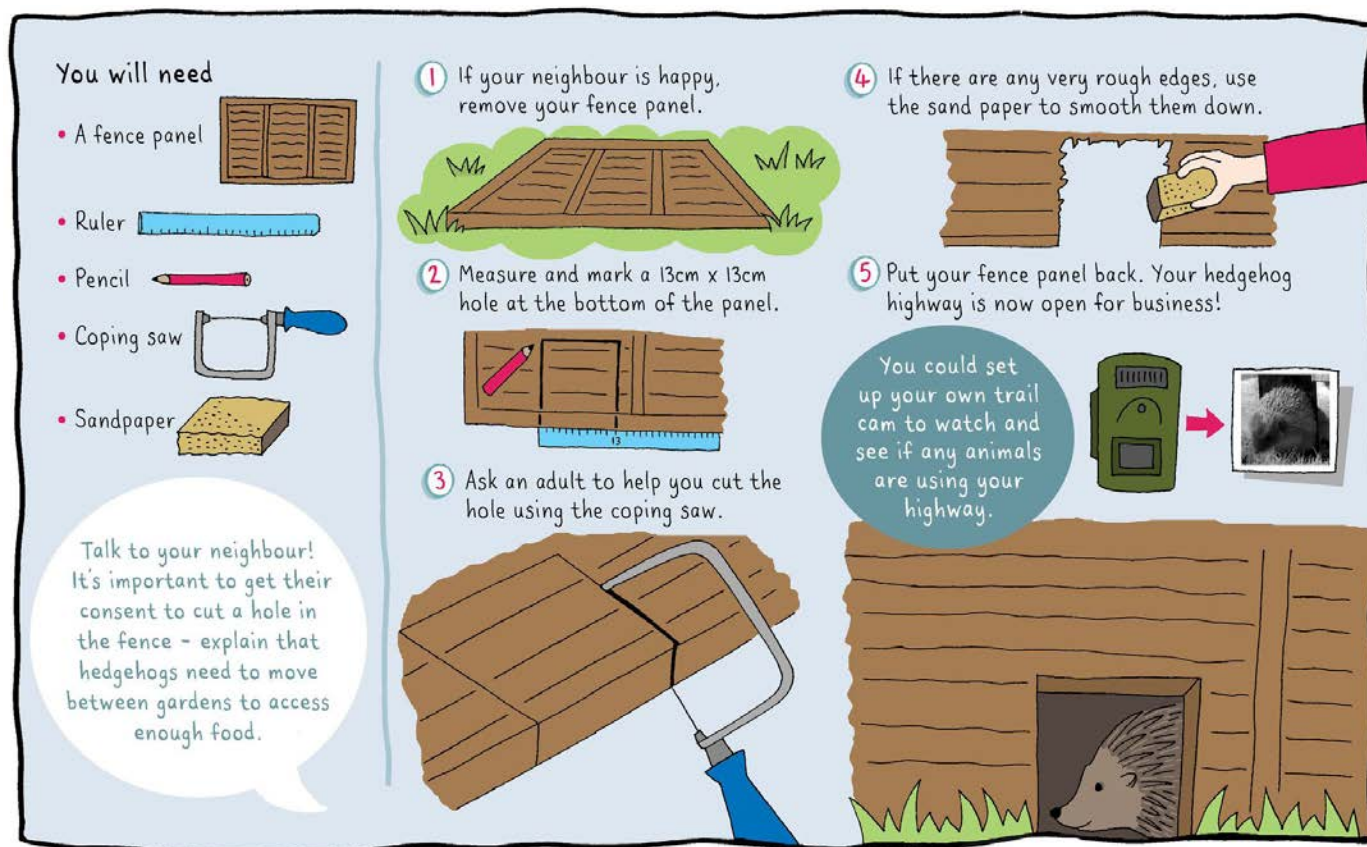
So please do create hedgehog holes in your fences! To find out how, see below diagram, courtesy of [www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk). Also, anyone who takes part and creates a hedgehog highway can log it on the hedgehog map at [www.bighedgehogmap.org](http://www.bighedgehogmap.org)



From left: Tom Hampson, volunteer at Hedgehog Rescue, Councillor Steve Reade, cabinet member responsible for the environment at South Gloucestershire Council, and our very own Yvonne Cox. Photo courtesy of South Gloucestershire Newsroom.

If you would like to read the whole article, it's here:

<https://sites.southglos.gov.uk/newsroom/environment/become-a-hedgehog-hero-and-help-our-hedgehogs-thrive>



[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)



# Hedgehog Rescue NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

Many thanks to HR volunteer Ami who has been helping to come up with ideas for the newsletter. Ami is going be interviewing our volunteers over the next few editions, so that you can see why we have such a love of hedgehogs! This month is the turn of volunteer Melinda.

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS

### How did you find out about Hedgehog Rescue?

I am Hungarian and part of a Hungarian gardening group and community on Facebook. A member of that group used to post pictures of a disabled hedgehog she had in her garden within the group, and as I am allergic to most animals' fur I thought hedgehogs may be a safe bet for me!

I found out about Hedgehog Rescue through this member of the group and her work with hedgehogs.

### What attracted you to Hedgehog Rescue?

I started fostering two disabled hedgehogs from Hedgehog Rescue. Soon after I got them they had babies and over the summer their babies died, and that's when I decided to volunteer for Hedgehog Rescue as I wanted to learn more so that I could help them in my garden and in the wild, so that I could try and stop this happening again. Shortly after that I started doing shifts in the hospital on a Friday.

### What hedgehog 'success stories' have you had since joining Hedgehog Rescue?

I recently found a hedgehog close to work, weighing just 250g in the cold of late November/early December last year. It was covered in fleas, clearly underweight and very cold. He had had his spines cut by a garden strimmer so needed a lot of help to survive the winter. I gave him a bath, took him home and started to take care of him by feeding him, giving him water, warmth and shelter/a place to stay. As I found him on a cold and frosty day I named him 'Frosty'.

Within a month of my care he had gained good weight and was ready for release in January into another volunteer's open garden. He has been seen on her wildlife camera,



One of the babies from Melinda's garden last year

going in and out of the garden, as well as in and out of hibernation, and he seems happy and well. I like to see the video footage and get updates from the other volunteer of how Frosty is doing.

### How long have you been at Hedgehog Rescue?

I have been a volunteer for more than a year now, starting in the Hospital in August 2021, and helping every Friday for 2-3 hours each week.

### What do you enjoy the most about volunteering for Hedgehog Rescue?

I enjoy the company of and getting to know the other volunteers. I really like doing the medication for the hedgehogs when the other medication volunteer isn't in, which I have learnt how to do since starting with Hedgehog Rescue.

This makes me feel that I am really making a difference to their care and helping the hedgehogs with a more 'hands on' approach, rather than when I am just cleaning them out. More often than not I can see them getting better, which I enjoy and makes me happy.

### Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience at Hedgehog Rescue?

Fridays are my favourite day! I work in finance, which can be quite boring, so I really look forward to Fridays when I will be in the hospital with other volunteers.

To physically see the hedgehogs getting better in most cases is so rewarding and reassuring that I make a difference.







# Hedgehog Rescue NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

## COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY WORK PLACEMENTS

Hedgehog Rescue is working with colleges and universities in the area to provide work placements for their students. So far this has included SGS College, UWE, Yate Academy, and soon Exeter University.

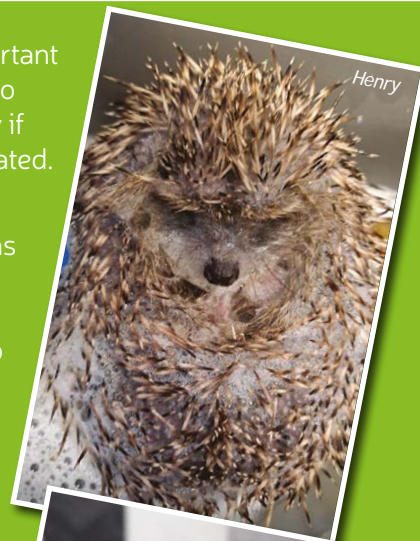
Featured in this picture is Yasmin, who is currently in her second year with us. and is studying Animal Management at SGS college - learning the skills to work in the animal husbandry industry. Like the other students, she's been carrying out health checks on all our hog visitors, cleaning hedgehog pens and generally preparing the hospital for new intakes of hedgehogs.

All of our work placement students are an invaluable part of the team, and it's great to be able to help you with your studies, so thank you Harvey, Fiji, Isabelle, Charlotte, Elliot Neve, Mia and Yasmin... and good luck for the future!



Bath time is often an important part of a hedgehog's visit to Hedgehog Rescue; usually if there's ringworm to be treated.

As Henry's grumpy face clearly demonstrates, baths are not always enjoyed by the hedgehogs; and, to be honest, Ruby just wants to get out; but they usually feel a lot better after a few treatments.



## IT'S BATHTIME!

some hedgehogs like Timex, who just came in filthy, go at their bath with gusto!



and some just see it as a time to reflect...





## PICK ME UP MAGAZINE - November 22

Here's the article, if you missed it...

# IN NEED OF A HEDGE-HUG

**Yvonne Cox, 62, from Bristol, used her sharp thinking to create a home for injured hoglings...**

**C**lipping a microphone to my jumper, I heard the loud interference from the speakers.

Clearing my throat, it was my time to shine.

'Hello everyone, welcome to Bristol Zoo,' I welcomed the audience, enlightening them with the best animal knowledge I had.

Studying an animal management diploma in my 30s, I had worked on various different placements over the years from veterinary practices, farms and then surrounding myself with nocturnal animals, too.

Bats, hedgehogs, dormice – you name it!

Only, constantly surrounded by wildlife, I knew how much they needed our help.

Due to all sorts of different events, our nature was having a really hard time.

So, in my spare time, over 23 years ago, I volunteered at Bristol

Zoo to give talks about the conservation projects, as well as facepainting the guests, too!

But I needed to do more.

And I had one nocturnal creature that I wanted to support – the hedgehog.

Remembering the joy I would feel when a spiky mammal would wander into our childhood garden, I wanted to provide a safe space for injured hogs to visit – a sort of hedgehog hospital!

Only, I didn't really have any means to get me started.

'Yvonne, I've found someone that needs you,' my husband John insisted over the phone.

Finding out more, a hog, who had been hit by a car, had a bent snout and a damaged front leg.

Rushing the critter straight to the vets, to have his injuries treated, it was then our turn to nurse him to full health.

Hand rearing the hogling, feeding him mushed up tuna, which

I didn't realise wasn't the best nutritional choice, he loved it!

Within hours, the hedgehog was recovering leaps and bounds – his whiskers sniffing the unfamiliar smells of our household.

'Let's call you Bronson,' I said.

Living in the garden with a run to explore, as he couldn't be released back into the wild, Bronson came

with me to my educational talks.

If anything, he actually gave me confidence to speak out.

Showing him off, the audience would always be intrigued by his story, and the recovery process.

However, they weren't the only ones – I was fascinated, too.

And from that moment, I couldn't stop taking in hedgehogs.

From those injured by a dog bite, caught in a bonfire accident, or hogs with spines falling from their backs, my garden became their new haven.

Setting up a purpose build shed in the back garden, in 1999, my community talks funded the project.

Aiming to help local hogs that needed me, I managed to take in 12 spiny mammals within the first year – one for every month.

Then, the following year I had multiplied that number by five!

Creating a warm, insulated hospital area for really poorly mammals, I plunged into the world of being a hogling mum.

Waking up at roughly 8am, I'd put the kettle on, before administering medication, checking

weights, and making up plenty of baby milk.

It was important for me to check the hog's poo under a microscope, working out what their diet needed and if they had any underlying health conditions.

Buying tinned cat or dog food in bulk, I would then place a spoonful in a bowl for the hoglings that were back on their feet.

The more I spoke about my hedgehog hospital in the community, and as I advertised myself in the Yellow Pages, my phone started ringing off the hook.

'I have an injured hedgehog that needs your help...' a local said.

'Do you have room for a poorly hog?' another asked.

To start with I didn't have the facilities to supply the greatest support, so I'd work alongside local vets to offer advice.

Only, as my knowledge grew, that meant I could take on more.

And now, 23 years later, I have over 500 hogs pass through my hospital every single year.

But with numbers like those, I'm

**I'm a hedgehog mum**



**He had a bent snout as a result**

**One of our hog babies**



continued...



# Hedgehog Rescue NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

## OF A MUG



Bronson on tour!



The volunteers busy at work

not on my own.

I have 35 volunteers that work with me at Hedgehog Rescue, still running the scheme from my very own back garden.

"There's a baby that has just come in... who wants it?" I ask, and within seconds the little hog will have a home.

The process that a hedgehog takes in our hospital is a little different to how it used to be when I first started.

Upon arrival, the volunteers will fill in location details, so that we can eventually release the hog back in the same place if it is safe to do so.

Once these details are in, our hogs are given a name, and are checked over, being treated accordingly.

This could include anything from antibiotics, clipping their nails, or giving them a soak.

They are then placed in a pen with food, water, bedding and a heat pad.

Depending on the time of the year, the hedgehog may stay in the shed for a few months before being released back into the wild.

Of course, whilst this is all going

on, I'll be answering the phone to any calls, and picking up any local hogs.

To know that we have saved just under 5,000 UK hedgehogs is an incredible feeling, it's been an enormous effort from everyone.

This time of year is particularly busy, especially as there are plenty of autumn babies, as well as the dangers of bonfires, too.

Many hogs will come in frazzled from firework activities – it's heartbreaking to see.

Only, we strive to bring them back to their full potential.

Hedgehogs are such an underrated member of UK wildlife, but their presence is important.

In terms of the future, I'm always on the lookout for new volunteers who want to give something back and lend a helping hand.

Who knows, I could end up seeing thousands of hedgehogs in my lifetime.

For we've got to keep those little spiky creatures looking sharp!

● If you have come across a hog, email [hedgehogrescue@live.com](mailto:hedgehogrescue@live.com) or visit: [hedgehogrescue.info](http://hedgehogrescue.info)

## SWEET REAL LIFE

### Meet the hedgehogs

#### Wombat

With an unusually long snout, Wombat came into Hedgehog Rescue weighing a tiny 171g.

One of our volunteer's Ria, took him home to foster but he quickly began to lose weight.

So, he is back in the hospital for further fluids – the battle is certainly not over for little wombat.



#### Acorn

With a nasty spout of lungworm, an infection caused by a parasite often found in slugs and snails, she came to Hedgehog Rescue with the snuffles and a cough.

She was given the usual two-week treatment of medications and sessions with the nebulizer.

Her chest quickly cleared up and she was able to go home.



#### Stubby

Appearing dead, Stubby looked like a rag doll.

She received a large dose of steroids for shock, and at first, no one thought she was going to survive.

But the next day, she was up and eating, and looking like a hog again.

She needed a few baths as she was filthy and had oil on her – we think she was possibly knocked by a car.

Despite everything, Stubby recovered within a few weeks, where she was released back into the wild.



#### Midge

In October last year, Midge arrived as a hoglet. After successful treatment for ringworm, he actually lost most of his spines.

The spines still hadn't grown back almost five months later.

Staying with our volunteer Karen, she would give 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.

Thankfully, he spines grew back, and we said goodbye to him earlier on in May this year.



## Triple check

With firework celebrations taking place over the course of November, it's important to remember to check bonfires carefully for sleeping hedgehogs before lighting.

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

Hedgehogs will make a hissing sound when they have been disturbed – so listen out!

Pick Me Up! 63



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



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Hedgehog Rescue Bristol and South Gloucestershire



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