



MESSAGE FROM YVONNE

I'm desperately waiting for the warmer weather, winter seemed to arrive so early and it still feels a long way off from extracting my t-shirts from the bottom of the drawer! That said, hedgehogs are waking up. So far we have admitted 22 which is almost double of what my intake was in 1999 for the whole six months when I first started Hedgehog Rescue.

We have seen lots of ticks - I recently took about 200 off just one hedgehog - also dehydrated and underweight hedgehogs, hogs with internal parasites and more hogs locked in garages and sheds for who knows how long?

We are now eagerly waiting for the fifteen new pens for the annex, Richard from Harrison Veterinary Equipment is busy making them to fit our minimal space. We have many people to thank for this including Lush, Yate Town Council, MAFF Grant, The Co-op and Bradley Stoke Council, to name a few. These new pens will be easier for us to clean and to maintain a high level of hygiene, so cross-contamination will be greatly reduced. They will also have a much longer life span than the current wooden hutches. We are truly grateful for the kindness of our generous sponsors, referees, and supporters of HR. Thank you!

And huge thank you to Mike, who has been hard at work making our hedgehog boxes! In 2024 alone, he's crafted an impressive 40 boxes, each sold for £40. With orders still coming in, his efforts are making a real difference for hedgehogs in need. Thank you, Mike!

Not sure if your hogs are visiting yet? Look for poo, it's always a sign they have returned. Put out food and water in a flat-bottomed shallow dishes, best placed in feeding station where cats and foxes can't get to it. On chilly nights a teaspoon of cider vinegar in the water can help to reduce the water forming in to ice, you can put this in your bird baths too but you will need to increase the quantity.

We are out and about again with our talks and events so hopefully we will see some of you there.

Our open day this year will be in a hall as I am fed up with battling the British weather! We are aiming for July 5th celebrating our 26th birthday. We will have our popular tombola, crafts, teddy stall and lots more. Please come and support us as these funds raise vital money to enable us to continue the rescue.

Yvonne

Spring/Early Summer checklist

- Provide shelter - leave piles of leaves, twigs and logs for nesting, or build a hedgehog house in a quiet spot.
- Create access gaps (13cm x 13cm) in fences for hedgehog movement.
- Leave out wet cat/dog food or hedgehog food and water in a shallow dish.
- Reduce light - use low-level or motion-sensor lighting in your garden, to cause least disturbance.
- Plant wildflowers to attract insects and other invertebrates like worms and caterpillars to provide food for hedgehogs.
- Create a compost pile as these are a safe foraging space for hedgehogs.
- Check for hibernating hogs before starting gardening, and be cautious when clearing garden debris.



Hog of the Month Guy certainly likes walking over his food!





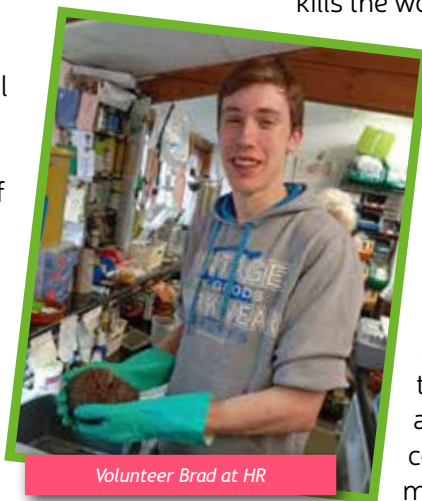
VOLUNTEERING WITH HR

I'm **Bradley Ford**, a second-year student studying **Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science** at **UWE, Bristol**. I first met **Yvonne** in 2021, after writing to my local MP to ask for his support on an upcoming bill in Parliament aimed at increasing protection for hedgehogs.

Hedgehogs are conservation icons in Britain, acting as "flagship species" in many ways. They are a beloved symbol of broader environmental concern and play a key role in driving conservation efforts within communities. Because of their iconic status, people are eager to create space for hedgehogs, which, in turn, benefits other wildlife as well.

In time, the three of us – Yvonne, my local MP, and I – met in my garden to discuss what the government was doing to ensure a secure future for these animals. Fast forward four years, when I needed to complete 60 hours of volunteering for a university assignment, and I knew exactly where to go.

My volunteering experience has been incredibly rewarding. Not only have I learned about the hedgehogs and the various threats they face, but I've also gained



Volunteer Brad at HR

knowledge about different medications used in their care. Karen, a more experienced volunteer, has been kind enough to share her time and teach me how to administer injections and use nebulisers. For example, we use Rapidexon and Levamisole to treat lungworm. Levamisole kills the worms, while Rapidexon, a steroid, helps the hedgehogs to cough them up.

This volunteering experience has introduced me to a new veterinary perspective that I wouldn't have gotten elsewhere. As I become more confident with administering medications, I'm sure it will prove invaluable in my future career search.

Recently, I applied some of my knowledge about how hedgehogs are particularly threatened by fragmented habitats to another assignment. I analyzed three sites in Bristol, compared their ecological value, and created a management plan for one.

I also can't forget to mention how friendly everyone is at the rescue – it's always a laugh, and to top it off, I'm regularly fueled by cups of tea. I couldn't recommend volunteering at your local rescue more. It's a valuable, engaging, and truly positive experience.

Brad



DOGS AND HOGS

Do you have a dog? Do you have hedgehogs visiting or living in your garden? I think during the summer I can pretty much get a daily call along the lines of, "I have a dog, and it doesn't like the hedgehog"... or words to that effect.

From my experience I find that there are two main types of dog owners; those who want them to live in harmony and those who just want the hedgehog gone and the problem to disappear. My advice is that we can't just move hedgehogs away from their territory. The chances are they will try and return, and in doing so, will most likely get killed crossing roads they are unfamiliar with. Also, they could have babies locally, so moving a female hedgehog to another location would inevitably mean her babies will die.



It comes down to responsible dog ownership. Put your dog on a lead when letting it out during darker periods. This

gives you control, ensuring the dog and hedgehog can share the space safely. Hedgehogs are nocturnal so are unlikely to be out in your garden during the day.

If the hedgehog is nesting in your garden, providing a safe place such as a hedgehog house will mean the hog can sleep in her house during the day, and the dog can play in the garden without getting to the hedgehog. The dog may be quite obsessed, so distracting the dog with favourite toys or a game can help, or screening the hedgehog house off so the dog cannot get to it and removing screening again in the evening so the hog can go about its usual night-time activity.

Yvonne



DIARY DATES:

Yvonne is always busy doing talks for Brownies, WIs and Garden Clubs, as well as taking the stall out to various events with others from the Hedgehog Rescue team.

If you have a community event that you would like us to attend, or would like to book in one of Yvonne's talks, please do get in contact.

29 March 2025 • 10am-3pm

Spring into Action

Olveston Parish Hall, Upper Tockington Rd, BS32 4LQ

Nature and climate event featuring Nicholas Gates, BBC Wild Isles Director. Includes children's activities.

5 May 2025 • Times tbc

Old Down Country Park Spring Fayre

Old Down Estate, Foxholes Lane, Tockington. BS32 4PG

Including Hedgehog Workshop.

10 May 2025 • 11am-4pm

Hedgehog Awareness Week Event

Hedgehog Rescue Allotment, Robin Way, Yate

Come join us for a fun day of advice sharing, talks, games and cakes at our allotment.

5 July 2025 • details tbc

Hedgehog Rescue Open Day 2025

Our annual celebration of all things hedgehog!

12 July 2025 • 2-5pm

Westerleigh Fun Day

details tbc

16 July 2025 • 11am - 3pm

Yate Ageing Better Festival

Yate Shopping Centre

We will be there with the Hedgehog Rescue information stands and stall.

Lynne



Putting a hedgehog highway in your fence or gate makes a massive difference to the distance a hedgehog can travel, and the amount of food a hedgehog can find

FAQs: WHAT WE LOOK FOR IN A RELEASE SITE?

The most important thing is whether there are hogs already there as the directive from the BHPS is that we must release where hedgehogs already exist. The reason for this is that we know the area already supports them and there are other hogs around to mate with.

The other is to release where they were originally found as they are territorial. Sometimes we can't do this as the garden has had a total makeover and is no longer suitable, or the dog was attacking it and the finder doesn't want it back. When this happens we still try to release it as near to its original location as possible.

I am often asked if I can release hogs with someone, or in a particular area, and the question about other nearby hedgehogs is the first thing I ask them. I also ask them to check out the Big Hedgehog Map on the www.hedgehogstreet.org.uk website.

By doing this and putting in your postcode you can see the sightings of hedgehogs in the area you live. Hedgehogs travel up to 1-2 miles or 2-3 kms a night, There was also one reported that travelled further than that and mated several times along the way! (this was tracked on Uist some years ago).

We look for habitat, hedges, shrubs, plenty of cover, lawns, planted beds, gaps in fences or under gates, wood piles, low level pond, we want the hedgehogs in our care to find the best possible place that they will survive.

We don't want to release where there is there an aggressive dog next door, people using poisons, astroturf, concrete, decking, football nets/garden netting, recycling boxes left out, steep ponds, drains uncovered.

Poo, yes do you have hedgehog poo in your garden, on your path, on your doorstep? Then you may have hedgehogs visiting but you don't see them because you are fast asleep in bed.

Yvonne





A HOLE DIFFERENCE

For most of my city dwelling life I never once saw a hedgehog. I had seen one, briefly, in Devon, and assumed that that was where they lived. The countryside.

But owning my first garden changed me. I started reading about the climate and ecological crisis, and reports on our dwindling UK wildlife. Hedgehog numbers had gone from 30 million to one million. Feeling sad, I read an alluring fact: hedgehogs were surviving better in towns and cities than in rural areas.

I could make a difference.

I confess my own garden was fenced like Fort Knox. We had pet rabbits so had plugged the gaps in our perimeter. I started reading about hedgehogs online. I watched grey-scale night videos of pointy-faced hogs, bristling their spines and bending surprisingly long legs to scratch their backsides. I asked neighbours if they had seen any. They all said "not for many years".

And then, a month later, as if mentioning them made them appear... a neighbour messaged me. He had seen two hedgehogs in the lane behind his house. Encouraged, I cut a hole in our fence, with a door so we could close it for the rabbits.

For two weeks nothing happened. Then one night, our proximity light went on and there, startled in the brightness, stood a fox. Beside the fox sat a hearty hedgehog.

I danced a jig of delight as they all scarpered.

I learned that proximity lights may hurt their eyes, and switched them off. [This is better for bats too]. It was

I cut a hole in our fence, but added a door so that we could close it if we needed to keep our rabbits in.



A neighbour told us of hedgehogs in the area, and putting the new hole in the fence was enough to entice them in



August and I would open our patio doors at night and hear rustling in the bushes, and see a dark bricklike shape skitter along the boundaries. I heard the crunching of the kitten biscuits I scattered, and chewing. I imagined worms being scooped and smiled at the darkness. Then, on a whim, I placed some kitten kibble in a rabbit tunnel, right on the patio, two metres from our doors.

To my utter joy, a half-pint hedgehog appeared with another beside him. We formed a pyramid of husband, wife and two pre-teens, stretched out on the carpet, elbowing each other to see.

Within a week we had five visitors. They all came at once, and I learned that they fight by charging each other like cannon balls, chuffing and snuffling, bulldozing rivals in spine rattling collisions. They seemed to quickly organise a rota, though, and soon took turns throughout the night.

Six months on I am still amazed by their survival in our concrete jungle. I wonder why I kept them out for so long, unthinkingly, when I've always been an animal lover.

The answer is... too many reasons... but I am making up for it. I feed them every night and leave out water. And

I pray that neighbours I've never met in the streets around me don't replace that old cracked fence and, accidentally, as I once did, shut my delightful visitors out.

Emma



HOG OF THE MONTH - GUY

Guy was found alone in a garden in Wick, crying out for his mum, weighing just 88g—he was a late juvenile in October. Julie collected him, and since Hedgehog Rescue was full, he had to stay at hers.

It was immediately clear from the way he was walking, high on his back legs, that he was carrying a



Guy finally starts to put on weight

heavy worm burden. He also had a very bubbly and rattly chest. After three trips to the vets and ten days of antibiotics, his chest still rattled, so he went into the nebuliser for a month and received 15 continuous fluid treatments.

Despite being syringe-fed kitten milk every 3-4 hours, he was gaining very little, if any, weight. Some days, it seemed like he might not survive, but after four weeks of medication, and plenty of TLC, he finally started to steadily gain weight.

He had a strong personality, always 'huffy' whenever he was disturbed, but still adorable. He was moved into an indoor hutch for weight gain, and once he reached over 900g, he went into hibernation.

As an example of a late hoglet from last year, Guy is now waiting for the weather to warm up before his release—yet another success story for HR, thanks to Julie's hard work and dedication. Well done!

ESME

Great news! Last issue's HOTM Esme has been released to the garden she came from.

...and her finders have bought her a top-of-the-range hog box, feeding station and the best biscuits!



Esme makes her nest

WHO'S IN, WHO'S OUT

Karen

POPPET

Poppet, a long-term resident with HR, came in as a hoglet infected with ringworm and with very crusty dry skin. It has certainly been a long battle to get her to this point, but here you can see her with a fine amount of strong looking spines.



Poppet

VERA

Vera was found hibernating in a rubbish bag in a skip. After being checked and given treatment, including metacam, fluids and baths, she stayed for 8 days to ensure she was eating and toileting well. She gained over 100g and was released into Yvonne's garden.



Vera

KIMBERLEY

Kimberley came in after being disturbed by a gardener. After receiving worm medication, she was moved into a hutch and gave birth the next day to five healthy hoglets: Oatmeal, Omelette, Orzo, Oregano, and Onion. At three weeks, they were moved (in their hutch) to a larger space, and after a week, the hutch was removed. All hoglets were doing well at over 200g, except Onion, who was only 97g. He was separated and syringe-fed for a few weeks. Now, all are over 900g, have hibernated, and are waiting for warm weather before release.



Oatmeal



Onion



STEPS FOR PLANTING A LAVENDER HEDGE

Choose a sunny, well-drained flower bed or patch in your garden. An area that receives eight hours of sun during the summer months is ideal.

Choose a variety of Lavender such as the English Hidcote, Munstead or an English hybrid as these plants are hardier to our weather.

Preparing and Planting

1. Remove old woody or broken plants if you are replacing your existing lavenders.
2. Dig over the bed, remove any weeds and add some fertiliser. Growmore is perfect as it is high in nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Use one handful per square metre. Also add grit or organic compost for good drainage.
3. Place your new lavender plants on the ground about 30 to 45 cm apart. This will depend on the variety of lavender you have chosen and how much room they need to grow into a small hedge, so check the instructions.
4. Dig a hole twice as big as the pot and add a base of compost. Place the lavender plant in the hole, cover and press firmly in the soil.
5. Give it all a very good drink of water!

Aftercare

1. Water your new lavender plants about every 4 to 5 days if we have a dry spring or autumn, but don't water if a frost is forecast.
2. Feed your plants with liquid tomato food or seaweed fertiliser for a balanced feeding plan to give them the best chance and supply them with all the correct growing nutrients.
3. Sit with a cup of tea and watch the bees and butterflies enjoy the flowers all through the summer and early autumn!
4. Prune annually after flowering to keep compact and in shape ready for the next year!

Victoria





ARTERIVIRUS

Wild hedgehogs have tested positive for a newly identified arterivirus (HhAV-1), which may be linked to a neurological disease. While this virus has previously affected other animal species such as horses, pigs and primates (but no known threat to humans), it now appears in hedgehogs.

Vale Wildlife Hospital (www.valewildlife.org.uk) first identified the virus in their hedgehog intake in 2019, and in 2024, Wild Hogs Hedgehog Rescue ([Wild Hogs Hedgehog Rescue](#)) also received a case from the BS36 area.

Infested hedgehogs displayed signs including tremors, twitching and seizures. There is currently no known treatment for hedgehogs affected by HhAV-1, and cases identified so far have had a high mortality rate.

At HR we have informed our vets about the situation and are now sending our hedgehogs for post-mortem examinations to determine if they have been affected and to assess the potential spread of the virus. To find out more about arteriviruses, visit:

www.gardenwildlifehealth.org/portfolio/arteriviruses-in-hedgehogs

It's a good reminder to everyone of why good hygiene is essential when handling wild hedgehogs. The public can help by regularly cleaning feeding dishes, and reporting sick or dead hedgehogs to us at Hedgehog Rescue.

Yvonne

HEDGEHOG BISCUIT RECIPE

- 8oz/250g flour - sieved
- 4oz/125g margarine or butter
- 3oz/100g caster sugar
- ½ egg - beaten
- Pinch of salt

Oven temp: Gas 5/ 190°C/375°F

Method

- Cream the fat and sugar until pale in colour.
- Add the egg slowly, beat in well.
- Gradually add the flour until you have a soft formed dough. Roll out on loured surface to ¼" thick. Prick the dough and cut out using a hedgehog cutter.
- Bake on greased baking sheet for about 10-15 minutes, until golden brown and place on a cooling rack.
- Decorate with chocolate icing and chocolate hundreds and thousands or pine nuts. Use your imagination, and create your own unique hedgehogs. You will need something to make the 'spikes' stick so icing, jam, chocolate spread, Nutella or marmalade works.
- And don't forget to add an eye and nose too!



WHAT ARE OTHER PEOPLE DOING FOR HEDGEHOGS?

HUGH WARWICK continues to campaign for new building developments to have to supply holes in their fences for hedgehogs.

The campaign was going well until the elections. For many environmental supporters, it was a bit of a blow when the new government came in with a campaign to build on green belt land.

As a result of the changeover, Hugh's petition is now no longer being considered by the current government, which means starting again to gain the 100,000 votes it needs to be read in parliament.

To read more about what Hugh is doing, go to:

www.hughwarwick.com

HANNAH TOMBS is a vet who also runs her own rescue and has written a book called hedgehogs. It's mainly aimed at vets and rescue centres, but clarifies a lot of things.

We have purchased two copies one for the rescue and one for our vets.

You can follow Hannah on her Facebook page ([Hannah's Hedgehog Rehabilitation](#))



UPDATE ON THE CO-OP COMMUNITY FUND

membership.coop.co.uk/causes

Hedgehog Rescue should receive an interim grant payment of £500 from the Co-op community fund during March which will go towards replacing our wooden hutches with veterinary grade pens.

Our year with the Co-op Community Fund runs until 18th October 2025, so there is still time for co-op members to nominate Hedgehog Rescue and boost our final payment. If you or a friend or family are a co-op member please ask them to consider choosing hedgehog rescue as their community cause:

1. Select Hedgehog Rescue as your Local Community Fund cause. This can be done via the co-op website or in the app. *****We are cause ID 91144 *****
2. During the funding period visit a Co-op near you and spend a minimum of £5 or online via shop.coop.co.uk – every time you do this Hedgehog Rescue will be entered into the monthly prize draw to win a little extra.
3. Scan your membership card at the till and your cause (Hedgehog Rescue) will automatically be entered for a chance to win big for you and Hedgehog Rescue. .



Anne


HEDGEHOG RESCUE TO BENEFIT FROM MEMBER AWARDED FUNDING

Thanks to support from local councillors Chris Willmore, Louise Harris, Cheryl Kirby and Mike Drew, Hedgehog Rescue will receive just over £1000 to help complete the replacement pen project. Their commitment to our work is very much acknowledged and appreciated. Thank you!

CHOOSE US AS YOUR LOCAL CAUSE

Co-op Members can support us through the Local Community Fund

membership.coop.co.uk/causes



OTHER WAYS TO DONATE

AMAZON: www.amazon.co.uk/registry/wishlist/1667YMU5IY05P

PAYPAL: www.paypal.com/paypalme/HedgehogRescueYate

WEBSITE: www.hedgehogrescue.info/support-us

EASYFUNDRAISING: see below

Shop at over 4,000 online stores



Find us on easyfundraising.org.uk

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hedgehogrescue

or download the App

