



Hedgehog Rescue NEWSLETTER

August 2026

HEDGEHOG RESCUE WILL BE CLOSING AT THE END OF AUGUST

Summer is finally here, and what a beautiful day we had for our Open Day! We ran our usual tombola and cake stall, along with a craft stall and a new twist on the teddy stall with the ladder game. The children had to throw the teddies through each rung of the ladder in order. Once they missed, they were out, but they were able to take home all the teddies they had successfully thrown through the rungs.

Sadly, it was our final Open Day, as I have decided to close South Glos Hedgehog Rescue at the end of August, after twenty-seven years. This will mean that we will no longer accept new admissions, although we will still have existing hedgehogs here until the spring, when we will be able to release those that we have treated and kept over winter.

It has been a very difficult decision to make, but legislative changes introduced four years ago by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons have made it increasingly difficult for us to care for the hedgehogs to the standards we want. Practicalities like the fact that we can no longer keep antibiotics, certain worming treatments or ringworm medication at the rescue.

Additionally, vets can only see two hedgehogs a day, which means regularly driving between different branches to deliver a pair of hedgehogs to each vet, and collecting them again in the evening. Our volunteers and couriers have provided tremendous help with this, but they are not always available and when they aren't, the responsibility then falls to me. This, alongside two part-time jobs, running the rescue, giving talks and attending events has become impossible to manage, so sadly I have decided to close the centre.

Although this marks the end of an era for us at South Glos Hedgehog Rescue, there are still many wonderful people and organisations working tirelessly to help hedgehogs and other wildlife, so please do give them your support. They will need the same kindness, practical help and generous support that you have shown us.



Hedgehog Rescue first opened in 1999

A special thanks must go out to those people who have supported us with their generous monthly donations.

DR & HJ Browning
M Bull
S Sheppard
Alastair H Gambling
Edmund Cannon
Carol Marks
Jason Argent
J E Minto

C McDougall
Karen Fraser
Sue Myers
H N Crowther
G I Collins-Beckett
M S Sheppard
(L Sheppard)

If you have lots of hedgehogs in your area and are concerned that people may not know what to do when they find one in need, we have also created a poster overleaf that you can print and display locally.

In the meantime, please continue to look out for hedgehogs. Hedgehog Rescue may be closing, but the need to protect hedgehogs remains. By continuing to care, notice and take action, we can help give these much-loved animals a safer future.

Leave out fresh water, make your gardens accessible and wildlife-friendly, drive carefully at night, and seek advice whenever you find a hedgehog that may need help.

Most importantly, I would like to thank everyone who has supported me throughout this journey, whether you have helped hands-on, transported hedgehogs, raised funds, attended events or supported us behind the scenes.

I hope that the friendships formed through the rescue will continue long after we close, and that you will take away many happy memories of your time with us.

I wish all our volunteers and supporters the very best for the future.

Yvonne

To find your nearest wildlife rescue centre

please visit www.helpwildlife.co.uk
and select 'Find a Rescue', or visit
www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT FOR HEDGEHOG RESCUE OVER THE YEARS





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DOES THIS HEDGEHOG NEED HELP? KNOW THE SIGNS

Most hedgehogs you meet in the wild are simply going about their daily lives, and the best thing you can do is leave them be. However, there are times when a hedgehog genuinely needs help, and knowing the warning signs can make all the difference.

A hedgehog seen out during the daytime may be in trouble, particularly if it appears slow, disorientated, or lethargic. However, before intervening, observe from a distance for a short while. During spring and summer, a mother hedgehog may be gathering food, water, or nesting materials for her hoglets.

If a hedgehog is wobbling, staggering, or struggling to walk in a straight line, it is likely unwell and should receive help as soon as possible.

A healthy hedgehog will usually curl into a tight ball when approached. If it remains stretched out, appears weak, or is unresponsive, this is a sign that something may be wrong.

Check for visible injuries, swelling, or small white specks in the fur, which could be fly eggs. Unusual noises such as wheezing, persistent coughing, or laboured breathing should also be taken seriously, as they can indicate illness such as lungworm.

If you find a hedgehog in immediate danger, such as trapped in netting or fencing, carefully free it if it is safe to do so. Even if there are no obvious injuries, it is always best to contact a rescue centre, as the hedgehog may have suffered internal injuries that you can't see straight away.

On the other hand, a hedgehog curled up asleep in a nest during the day, or one moving purposefully around the garden at dusk or after dark, is usually fine and behaving normally. In these cases, it is best not to disturb them.

If you are worried about a hedgehog, place it in a high-sided box with a towel or newspaper, offer them water, and contact your local hedgehog rescue for advice. Avoid attempting to treat them yourself.

If you want to help hedgehogs in your area to thrive, consider leaving out fresh water and meaty cat food, creating a hedgehog home for your garden and even making a hedgehog highway in your fence to help them roam between gardens.

Overleaf, we've created a poster for you to put up in your local community, to tell people what to do if they see a struggling hedgehog. We'd really appreciate it if you can continue to spread the word...

Hannah

Just a few of our hedgehog guests over the years!



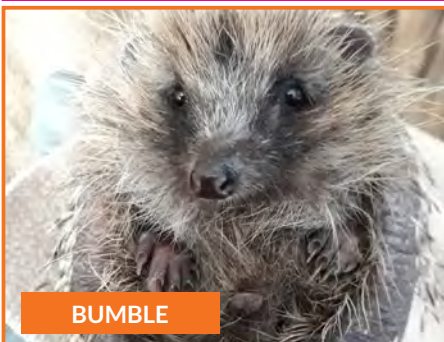
ACORN



GAVIN



WHISKEY



BUMBLE



TINSEL



AND JUST SOME OF THE HOGLETS!



**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT FOR
HEDGEHOG RESCUE OVER THE YEARS**



What should you do if you find a hedgehog that needs help?



Hedgehogs are usually most active at night, so a hedgehog out in the daytime may need help. However, in hot weather they may come out looking for water or shelter, and female hedgehogs may occasionally be seen collecting food or nesting materials.



If the hedgehog is injured

If the hedgehog is visibly injured, please take it straight to your local vet or contact a hedgehog rescue for urgent advice.



Watch first

If the hedgehog is not visibly injured, put down a shallow bowl of water and some wet or dry cat food, preferably non-fish and watch it quietly for a short while to see what it does. **Please do not give hedgehogs bread or milk.**



If you are worried

Use gardening gloves to pick it up and place it in a high-sided box, as hedgehogs can climb. Add a towel for it to hide in, and keep the box somewhere dark, quiet and secure, with a shallow bowl of water. You can place a towel over the top of the box to help keep it calm while you seek advice.



If you uncover a hibernating hedgehog

Please do not move it. Cover it over again with a thick layer of dry leaves and leave it to sleep.



Small hedgehogs in autumn



In autumn, if you see a hedgehog that looks very small, pick it up using thick gloves and weigh it.



If it weighs under 450g, or seems injured, cold, wobbly, weak or unwell, contact your local hedgehog rescue or vet for advice.



If it weighs 450g or more and otherwise looks healthy, it is usually best to leave it in the wild, as coming into rescue can be stressful.



When in doubt, ask for advice



Please contact your local hedgehog rescue or local vet if you are at all concerned.



Many vets will assess sick or injured wildlife without charging the finder, but it is best to phone first if you can.



You can find details of local wildlife rescues at:

www.helpwildlife.co.uk



Every hedgehog deserves a chance



Make your garden hedgehog friendly: leave gaps in fences.



Always provide fresh water.



Never use slug pellets or poisons.



Provide shelter with a hedgehog house or log pile.



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A BRILLIANT SEND-OFF: OUR FINAL SUMMER OPEN DAY

The sun came out for our final summer open day, held on Saturday 4th July from 10am to 4pm. It was a wonderful community celebration of all the hard work carried out at the Hedgehog Rescue.

Many visitors travelled from across the area to join us, and there was plenty to keep them busy throughout the day. Children got creative at the crafts table while the cake sale kept everyone's energy up, and those feeling lucky tried their hand at the raffle — one winner went home with a hedgehog costume, another with a brand-new hedgehog house!

There were fun games that had our younger visitors competing for cuddly toys, and our shop offered a range of hedgehog goodies to take home with them too.

The information stalls were also a great success, helping educate our visitors about hedgehog biology, the challenges they face, their preferred habitats, and practical ways to become a "Hedgehog Hero" in their own garden.

We were delighted to welcome MP Claire Young, with whom we discussed the hard work of the rescue and the importance of protecting hedgehogs and local wildlife. And we were also hugely grateful for the fantastic turnout of volunteers from Hedgehog Rescue, whose support made the day run so smoothly.

Thanks to everyone who came along, donated, and got involved. We raised a brilliant £198.90 for the rescue.

Hannah



Thank you to everyone who came along to our final Open Day, and to everyone who was involved in it!

THANK YOU YVONNE!

I had the pleasure of attending one of Yvonne's talks recently, and what became apparent was not just what she said about the history of the hedgehog, but also thinking about its future too.

Even after 27 years, and after giving so many talks, Yvonne is still able to get across the importance of protecting all of our native wildlife. She has done a truly amazing job and has brought together so many of us who care; many of whom have now become friends. Hopefully, we can all continue to play a part in this very worthy journey.

I also want to say a huge thank you from all of us for Yvonne's dedication to wildlife, and for bringing us together like a family along the way. Enjoy the rest... you've certainly earned it!

Julie



Just a few of the many volunteers who have helped Yvonne at HR



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