

Hoggie News

from

The Lancashire Hedgehog Care Trust
Registered Charity No. 1092285



Providing specialist care, treatment and rehabilitation for sick, injured and orphaned hedgehogs



ISSUE 23

June 2008

Are hedgehog numbers falling?

New Forum and website

Although we are getting lots of visitors on the forum, not many people are actually posting messages. We really want to get our new forum 'off the ground' and make it as interesting and informative as we possibly can, so come on - we need your encounters, queries, questions and photos about anything to do with hedgehogs. This could be a really good way to exchange information and that can only be beneficial in helping hedgehogs. And if you are not into hedgehogs, then there are other non-hedgehog / other wildlife / fun sections where you can post just about any topic you like. It only takes a few seconds to register.

We also need feedback from you about the new website. Let us know if there is anything that you would like to see included in it or perhaps a particular topic covered.

In the meantime, please visit the forum. We hope that you will find it interesting, informative and fun.

Welcome to our newest member Debbie Phillip and also Stacey Meeker and Eric Gans from California, USA.

I have to say, it has been a very strange year so far with hedgehog admissions down by over 50%. In fifteen years of caring for hedgehogs, we have never had such a quiet spell. It may just be that hedgehogs don't need us at this time—but I doubt that. It will be interesting to see if other Rescue Centres countrywide are experiencing the same.

Could it be the drastic reduction in numbers we predicted or maybe the unpredictable weather has something to do with it. No doubt, once this newsletter goes to print they will all come flooding in! The hospital unit will be full and my lounge will once again be crammed full of babies! In the meantime, we have taken the opportunity to give the hospital unit a much-needed spring clean and a lick of paint!

Because of health reasons, we are trying to phase out using shredded newspaper as bedding for the hedgehogs. I have spent hours upon hours searching for a replacement that we could use which was dust-free and also cost effective, but there is nothing available out there at this time.

We have always used towels as bedding for hedgehogs on admission, as it makes it easier to see if there are any wounds / bleeding etc. The downside to this however, is that towels have a limited life span once the threads are pulled, and also the cost involved in drying them on rainy days and in winter. So, the only other alternative I can think of is to use fleece material cut into little blankets. We already use fleece hats and blankets for baby hedgehogs which is very successful.

Fleece is nice and soft and has no loose threads to get their little legs caught in. It is also much quicker to wash and dry than towels. Has anyone any fleece remnants (any size) or unwanted fleece clothing please which we could cut up to make blankets? Please get in touch if you can help us. Thank you.

It's always sad when we get a casualty like this. This is Emily, brought to us after being found out in daylight hours - usually a bad sign as hedgehogs are nocturnal. Emily was the worst case of anaemia I have ever seen. She had literally hundreds of adult blood sucking ticks on her. Despite treatment including subcutaneous drip fluids to try and get her fluid levels up again, she died within the hour.

I spent hours getting all the remaining ticks off her. Even though she was dead I could not leave her like that. Surprisingly, there were hardly any at all on her underside. Most were on her back, which may well suggest the ticks took hold whilst she was hibernating in a curled up position.

Emily had so little blood left in her body that the skin on her legs, ears and nose had turned white. I took a photo of her on admission for future reference, as it is quite unusual for a hedgehog to have such an excessive number of ticks.



A Hedgehog's Lot by Sandra Duckworth.



A hedgehog's life, it can be said
Is not a happy one.
They seem to be in jeopardy
As soon as it's begun.

The humble hedgehog is under threat
A hard time they've been dealt.
Soon they will simply disappear
If they don't get our help.

When working in the garden
If you should disturb a nest,
Please ring the Hedgehog Careline
As they will know what's best.

Just stop and think before you plunge
Your fork in the compost heap.
They love to make their home in there,
And could be curled up fast asleep.

Keep garden netting off the ground,
Or they might get stuck fast.
And if they fall in an open drain,
That night might be their last!

Slug pellets that you throw around,
Are dangerous as well.
So use a wildlife-friendly type,
The Garden Centre's sell.

A hedgehog out in daytime?
Please, please just don't think twice.
Just pop it in a cardboard box,
Then ring us for advice.

And while we're on the subject,
To make it crystal clear,
Never feed them bread and milk,
It makes them feel real queer.

Some cat food would be welcome,
And a dish of water too.
Crushed nuts, biscuits and kitchen scraps,
Would help to see them through.

The garden pond—another place,
They might fall in and drown.
So make it so they can climb out,
Or build a fence around.

The strimmer is a mean machine,
You really should take care
When mowing grass or chopping weeds,
Check first there's no hog there.

The injuries caused are horrific,
We see them all the time,
Yet it only takes a minute or two
To alleviate this crime.

Stop dropping those containers,
Yoghurt pots and also cans.
The dreaded plastic rings on beer,
They really should be banned.

When driving, keep an eye out
And your speed down on the road,
As it could prove quite difficult
Teaching them the Green Cross Code.

Please educate your children
Not to kick or throw a hog.
And you should also be alert
If you happen to own a dog.

When bonfire night approaches,
Before you light the fire,
Check no hedgehogs have moved in,
The consequences could be dire!

So when you're in the garden,
Just think before you do,
And help protect the hedgehog,
And other wildlife too.

Remember, leave a pile of logs,
Don't make it spik and span,
You'll be repaid in many ways,
If you help them all you can.

They bear the brunt of many jokes,
It's always been the trend,
Let's help the hedgehogs all we can,
After all, he's the gardener's friend!

THE LANCASHIRE HEDGEHOG CARE TRUST
Registered Charity No. 1092285
9 Alisan Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire. FY6 7QF

HEDGEHOG CARELINE: (01253) 899404

Website: www.hedgehogcare.co.uk

Email: info@hedgehogcare.co.uk

CHARITY MANAGER Janis Dean
TRUSTEES Sandra Duckworth, Bill Hamer, Alan Cotton.

The contents of this newsletter including photographs, all text and poems remain the property of Lancashire Hedgehog Care and must not be copied or reproduced in any form without permission. Copyright © 2002—2008. All rights reserved.

If anyone would like to receive the newsletter by email instead of snail mail could you please let me have your email address. (You will need Microsoft Office Publisher installed). This would help us to save on postage too. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If your copy of "Hoggie News" has a cross below, it means that your membership subscription is due for renewal soon. Your continuing support is vital to enable us to provide care and treatment for many future hedgehog casualties that will need our help. Thank you.