

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 24
Sept 2008

Rescue Centre facing closure

From humble beginnings in a tiny garden shed, we have worked tirelessly for over fifteen years to build our Charity up to what it is today.

But all this is now at serious risk of being lost.

Unfortunately, this comes right at the time when hedgehogs have been identified as a species in desperate need of help to survive. Hedgehog numbers have more than halved in the last five years and continuing trends would lead to its extinction by 2025.

Hedgehogs now have to rely on urban gardens for their food and shelter, and consequently are coming across many more dangers in doing so, such as falling into garden ponds, getting trapped down drains and holes, becoming entangled in garden netting, burnt in bonfires and the horrific injuries we see caused by strimmers. They die in carelessly discarded items of litter such as ice-cream tubs, after getting stuck inside them looking for a potential meal, or suffocate when they investigate the contents of an empty yoghurt pot or tin can. They get caught in plastic can holders, poisoned by pesticides, slug pellets and weedkiller in fields and gardens. And that's before the carnage that we all see on the roads. The hedgehog's form of defence is to roll up into a ball, which of course is no match for the motorcar.

We rescue, treat and return to the wild hundreds of hedgehogs that would otherwise perish, but we can no longer continue to do this without help.

We do not receive any funding from the RSPCA, Government sources or from anywhere else. We are completely self-funded and rely greatly on the kindness and generosity of the public, along with our own fundraising efforts to keep the Rescue Centre up and running.

We work 18hour days all year round. This involves nursing very ill hedgehogs, hand feeding babies around the clock, administering medications, cleaning cages, collecting casualties, handling new admissions, trips to and from the vets, answering endless phone calls (day and night) and emails nationwide requiring advice on hedgehogs, mountains of paperwork, fundraising to keep going etc, etc. We are happy and more than willing to do all this, but we desperately need your support to continue.

We need to raise funds for food, milk substitute for the babies, jars of baby food, transport costs to keep our hedgehog ambulance on the road, electricity (mostly incubators), vet's bills, antibiotics and medications, phone calls, insurance, website costs etc. For example, this year alone the bill for the special milk substitute which we use to hand-rear orphaned baby hedgehogs is already at £264 (it costs £4 a small tin).

We need to secure a regular minimum income of £430 a month for the Rescue Centre to remain open.

A regular donation of just £2 a month by 215 people would make this possible, and would enable us to continue the work we are doing to give these animals the care they deserve.

If we don't raise these much needed funds, then sadly we will have to close, and there will be nowhere for wildlife to go to receive care and attention when they need it. Many hedgehogs will suffer and lives will be needlessly lost. And with it will go the aim we have always had for the future, that one day we would have a dedicated wildlife hospital, not just for hedgehogs but all wildlife needing our care, as there is no such facility in this area.

If you would like to help, please contact me on **01253 899404** or email me at info@hedgehogcare.co.uk with your name and address and I will send you the necessary short form to complete.

Also, if there is anyone that could possibly offer our charity some form of sponsorship, please get in touch - we would love to hear from you.

We desperately need to stay open, but we can't do this without your help.

Please help us to help them - thank you.

Poor summer takes a huge toll on baby hedgehogs.

After the report in the last issue that numbers at the time were down on previous years and that it was unusually quiet, the casualties soon came flooding in..... some quite literally. As the unseasonal weather continued throughout the summer, more and more babies and juveniles became casualties as they struggled to cope.

Most were coming in at death's door with hypothermia and the ones that seemed most at risk were the juveniles that would have just left the nest to become independent at around eight weeks old. One after the other, their lifeless little bodies were brought in and given warmth, food and fluids. Not all could be saved unfortunately, but most bounced back to life and went on to be released all fat and healthy back into the wild.

If anyone could please place one of our collection boxes in either your place of work, shop, pub, restaurant etc we would be very grateful. Please contact me if you can help. Thank you.



The Hedgehog Lady by Sandra Duckworth

I am 'The Hedgehog Lady',
You may have heard of me.
I take in all the hedgehogs
That need some TLC.

Yes, I'm a Hedgehog Carer
With just one pair of hands.
Sometimes it seems impossible
To meet with the day's demands.

I've been nursing poorly hedgehogs
For around fifteen years or so.
They tend to take up all my time,
As I'm always on the go.

There's times when I tend to get
Bogged down with all I do.
There's not enough hours in a day,
For what needs seeing to.

I'm busy with the babies
In the Springtime - May and June,
Then I'm often inundated
And I just don't have the room.

They need round the clock attention,
Feeding every hour or two,
And are very time consuming,
But I love doing what I do.

I find I need much patience
When I'm answering the phone.
You should hear some messages I get left
When I am not at home!

I sometimes get despondent
With the attitudes of some,
So please don't ring at 5am
When my brain is totally numb!

I cannot do 24 / 7
As I am not a machine.
I only have one pair of hands
To feed...and nurse...and clean...

I am not government funded
And no - I don't get paid.
I do it of my own free will,
Yes—you might well be amazed!

So please don't start creating
If I'm out, as it's quite rare,
And needs must every now and then
When my fridge is totally bare!

Just have a little
patience
If things don't go to
plan,
As I'm helping all my
'patients',
The very best I can.



A very special thank you goes to John
Isles and Sue, and to Helen and Liz
McGuirk for their kind donations made to
help keep the Rescue Centre running.

Also to everyone at the Physic Club for
their support.



A picture taken of Terry's fox, an 'old girl' who regularly pops in his garden for tea and sometimes early breakfast. She has been seen on numerous occasions eating her meal with as many as four hedgehogs, and doesn't seem to bother them at all.

Thank you's

To **Sandra Duckworth**, for coming to my aid when I was desperately trying to feed eight newborn babies on my own and the hospital unit was full to bursting at the same time. To **John Langtree** for his much appreciated continuing support, to **Terry Bates** for his regular donations of cat food and to the **Shepherd family** for bringing us many items for the charity shop, and for keeping us going in paper towels and shredded paper which has been invaluable.

A warm welcome to our newest members: Emma Stevens, Jennifer Rodgers, Jacqui Green, John Isles, Derren and Lewis Kershaw, Val Unsworth and Miss R. Lucas.

Fleece items urgently needed please—blankets, jackets etc to cut up to make little blankets as bedding for the hedgehogs.



This litter of three babies aged around four weeks were rescued from a busy industrial estate in Blackpool, after being found wandering around during the daytime with no sign of 'Mum'. They were rescued in the nick of time as they would certainly have been run over. These babies are quite special as one is a blonde albino which is very rare.

All three were initially quite poorly with enteritis and dehydration. They are being treated with antibiotics and for the first twenty four hours were given drip fluids only. The albino cannot be released and will remain in our care whilst her two siblings will eventually be released back into the wild.

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.

The autumn orphans and juveniles will soon be flooding in—ones too small to make it on their own through the winter. Feeding them all through the autumn and winter months is extremely costly, so please if you can spare a tin or two of meat-based cat food for them it would be very much appreciated. 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.