

Hoggie News

from

The Lancashire Hedgehog Care Trust
Registered Charity No. 1092285

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



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WHAT A YEAR!

Hedgehog 'teens' in need of help!

Please be on the lookout for small hedgehogs that may be still visiting your garden.

These 'teenage' hedgehogs, known as 'autumn juveniles' are too small to survive hibernation. They are from litters that were born late in the season.

If these juveniles do not put on enough weight before the cold weather starts then they will die.

We have had some really cold weather recently, however I am still receiving calls from people that are seeing small hedgehogs out and about in the daytime, desperately searching for food when there is very little of their natural food around. If you see one in your garden, pick it up and bring it indoors (use an old towel to pick it up) and place it in a high-sided box on a well wrapped hot water bottle. Cover the hedgehog with a towel to keep the heat in. The hot water bottle needs to be kept warm as if it is allowed to go cold it will draw heat away from the hedgehog. Offer some meat-based cat food and water and ring your nearest Rescue Centre for advice.

I HAVE TO SAY, THIS YEAR HAS BEEN LIKE NO OTHER IN MANY WAYS. FROM JUNE/JULY AS YOU ALL KNOW, WE WERE INUNDATED WITH SMALL JUVENILE HEDGEHOGS AS THEY STRUGGLED TO COPE WITH THE COLD, WET WEATHER THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER MONTHS. THEIR NUMBERS TRIPLED ON PREVIOUS YEARS. IT SEEMED NO SOONER HAD THEY LEFT THE NURSERY NEST AND BECOME INDEPENDANT, THEY WERE IN TROUBLE. MANY THAT WERE RESCUED CAME TO US COLLAPSED, COLD AND WET THROUGH, SOME WITH PNEUMONIA. I SUSPECT THAT THIS WILL BE A NATIONWIDE THING AND NOT JUST HERE, SO HEDGEHOG NUMBERS WILL HAVE TAKEN ANOTHER HIT THIS YEAR WITH MANY YOUNGSTERS NOT SURVIVING.

IT DIDN'T STOP THERE. BY SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER THE HOSPITAL UNIT WAS ALREADY CRAMMED FULL YET AGAIN OF YOUNG, UNDERWEIGHT HEDGEHOGS, ALL DESTINED TO REMAIN IN OUR CARE THROUGHOUT THE WINTER MONTHS. WE NOW HAD A PROBLEM. NONE COULD BE RELEASED BEFORE SPRING AND WE COULDN'T TAKE IN ANY MORE. ANY HEDGEHOGS NEEDING HELP WHICH WERE OUT OF THE IMMEDIATE AREA WERE REFERED TO THEIR NEXT NEAREST RESCUE CENTRE. A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE BEING VERY BRAVE IN 'HAVING A GO' THEMSELVES AND MANY HAVE GIVEN UP THEIR LOUNGES, KITCHENS, CONSERVATORIES AND SHEDS TO HOUSE A LITTLE BUNDLE OF PRICKLES. HATS OFF TO THESE PEOPLE FOR TRYING AND AT LEAST GIVING THESE HEDGEHOGS A CHANCE WHERE THEY WOULD HAVE HAD NONE. I HAVE BEEN GIVING ADVICE ON HOW TO CARE FOR THEM OVER THE PHONE AND WHEN NECESSARY POSTING DOSES OF THE APPROPRIATE MEDICATION FOR THEM TO ADMINISTER TO THEIR HOG. FINGERS CROSSED, MOST OF THESE HEDGEHOGS ARE DOING WELL AND WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO ALL THOSE PEOPLE THAT ARE DOING ALL THEY CAN TO GET 'THEIR' HEDGEHOG THROUGH THE WINTER.

Update on the Rescue Centre remaining open

Since the last issue, we have tried to publicise our struggle to stay open as much as possible via radio, local press and the internet. The credit crunch, winter fuel bills and the cost of Xmas is hitting people hard at the moment. This only makes it more poignant when someone steps forward with an offer of regular help and support. We are so very grateful to all those people who are now pledging a monthly donation. Also to everyone that has brought us tins of cat food, fleece blankets and newspapers for the hedgehogs.

We are now over three quarters of the way to securing enough pledges of support to give us the necessary regular monthly income for the Centre to remain open. Although we are not quite there yet, we do have the funding in place to at least see all the current 'residents' through to their release back into the wild in Spring.

Thanks to everyone's help, the future is looking much brighter than it did three months ago, and with a little more support I know we can get there. If you know of anyone that may be interested in giving support to our Charity, please get in touch. Thank you.

Our grateful thanks go to:

John Langtree for donation received.
Jackie Beare and **Grace Servais** from Switzerland for their donation received.
Caroline Sloane for donation received.
Nicola Brotherton and **Leanne Wilson** for sending us their brilliant 'Hedgeie Xmas Hamper'.
Monica Ogden from Manchester for bringing a carload of goodies for the hedgehogs following our appeal which was publicised in the RSPCA Xmas newsletter.
The staff and pupils of **Great Arley Special School** in Thornton for donating the money that they would have spent on sending Xmas cards.
Pupils from Arretton St George's School, Isle of Wight for raising £144 by having a non-uniform day, selling badges and baking cakes. Well done Lime Tree Class!
Myra Tucker for the parcel of fleeces.

Due to temporary technical difficulties we are unable to host the Forum on the website at the moment. We hope to have it up and running again very soon and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

If anyone needs urgent advice on a hedgehog, please either ring me on 01253 899404 or email me at info@hedgehogcare.co.uk



Our two day Xmas fundraising event in the Teanlowe Centre, Poulton on 22nd/23rd November. Thank you to everyone that came along and gave us their support.

Thank you to Karen at Thornton Community News for offering to publicise our need for more support in the local free booklet and at the local community office. This has generated a lot of interest from the people in the Thornton area and for which we are very grateful. Also thank you to Karen for sponsoring little 'Thornton's' care over the winter months. His story is as follows:



This tiny baby hedgehog weighing less than 100gms was rescued after being found alone in a local cemetery in mid-afternoon. There was no sign of his mum or the nest where he had come from. We noticed he was dragging one of his back legs when he walked and so he was taken to see the Vet who unfortunately diagnosed a badly broken ankle joint which was beyond repair. There was no option but to remove the leg and the operation was carried out that afternoon.

Never before had we had a hedgehog so young go through such major surgery. But he survived the anaesthetic and was brought back to the Rescue Centre later that day to be given very special post-operative care. There were a worrying couple of days when we thought we might lose him, but now he is making good progress, eating well and coping exceptionally well with his disability.

A big thank you to Sherry, Jenny, Christine and Claire for nominating our charity to receive the proceeds of a fundraising event they organised as part of their coursework at The Blackpool and Fylde College on 4th December. Well done girls, you did us proud!

The winners of the Xmas draw are as follows:

- Mrs F. Hankinson—Xmas Hamper
- E. Fishwick—Bottle Whiskey
- Sian Wilkinson—Hedgehog Rucksack
- Jordan McRay—Large plush hedgehog



Congratulations to all!

Thank you to everyone that sent in Xmas cards and donations for the hedgehogs. We very much appreciate it. We hope you all understand that this year instead of sending out cards to everyone, we have saved these funds to be put to better use.

An infection on my hand has meant I have only been able to use one hand for several weeks now. This has made it rather difficult to say the least when faced with cleaning out up to ten cages every day and trying to single-handedly administer treatments to un-cooperative hedgehogs determined not to uncurl.

So a special thank you goes to Sandra for coming round every morning for weeks to help me with cleaning out etc—even on Xmas Day!

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Our next week in the Methodist Church Charity Shop in Poulton is February 21st—27th. Saleable items such as bric-a-brac, books, clothing, DVD'S, videos etc are urgently needed please.

Thank you to everyone at the Greenmount Medical Centre in Bury for items contributed.

Finally, a very Happy New Year to all our readers from everyone at Lancashire Hedgehog Care.

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.