

Hoggie News

from

The Lancashire Hedgehog Care Trust
Registered Charity No. 1092285 Patron Nick Park CBE

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



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Yet another baby boom!

As this year's 'baby season' continues, more orphans than ever have been rescued following either nest disturbance or when something has happened to the 'Mum' and the babies have been left to fend for themselves.

These little four week old babies we've called Bart and Lisa were rescued after being found collapsed and lying in an overgrown area of garden which was about to be cleared with a strimmer. Both had advanced fly-strike and were covered with fly eggs, most of which by now had hatched into maggots. Although these babies had been seen out and about during the daytime for two days, unfortunately the owner of the garden was unaware that something was wrong and they needed rescuing. Many hours were spent picking off literally hundreds of fly eggs and maggots by hand. Both babies were also suffering from enteritis and severe dehydration, so were placed in an incubator and given only subcutaneous drip fluids for the first twenty four hours. I am happy to report that both babies are making excellent progress, and after being syringe fed for two days they are now able to feed themselves. It is so satisfying after spending many hours trying to treat and help a hedgehog when finally you begin to see an improvement.

Any hedgehog - adult or baby, if seen out during the daytime needs to be picked up immediately, placed in a high-sided box and covered with a towel and kept warm. Advice should then be sought from the Rescue Centre.

If left for any length of time like Bart and Lisa were, then they will become the victims of fly-strike, particularly throughout the summer months. Flies and bluebottles lay their eggs on the hedgehog and these very soon hatch into maggots which then proceed to eat the hedgehog. Both of these babies will remain in our care until they weigh at least 450gms and then they will be released back into the wild. In the last month alone we have rehabilitated 47 babies back into the wild, now fit and healthy juveniles.



Bart and Lisa exhausted following their ordeal.

Sam the Koala dies

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of little Sam the Koala. We featured Sam in the March issue through contact with one of our members Yvonne who lives in Victoria, Australia. Sam's image was seen around the world following the devastating bushfires in Victoria.

Kevin Rudd, Australia's PM said "Sam was a symbol of Victoria's resilience after the bushfires, and her death is tragic".

A devastated David Tree, the volunteer fire-fighter who featured in the iconic image of Sam, giving her a drink of water after he had found her exhausted in the burnt out bush said "she meant so much—she highlighted the plight and the vulnerability of Australian wildlife around the world".



Sam receiving treatment at a wildlife shelter following the bushfires.

Rodney finds a new home!

Rodney, the rescued African Pygmy hedgehog we featured in the last issue has now been found a new home in Cheshire with Amy and Chris. We are so pleased that someone came forward with experience of caring for this type of hedgehog, and I know that little Rodney will be well taken care of and be spoilt rotten. He is seen here taking a look around his new five star luxury accommodation! Lucky Rodders!



BABY HEDGEHOGS MELT FIREMEN'S HEARTS!



We attended a fundraising event at Carleton Green School Fair on 11th July. The children were delighted to see the baby hedgehogs. However, these three tough firemen showed their softer side when they saw babies Itchy and Scratchy! We have had to enlist their help on several occasions when rescuing a hedgehog stuck down a drain!

Thank you to Paula and to Sharon for volunteering their time to help with the collection and transportation of hedgehogs and in checking out potential enclosed gardens as homes for disabled hedgehogs. Thank you also to everyone that has donated items for the charity shop.

If anyone local is having a car boot stall, please consider donating to us any sellable items that you have left instead of taking them to the tip as so many people do. This will help us to raise much-needed funds. Thank you.

NEW TRUSTEE



We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Trustee – Terry Bates.

Terry has been a loyal supporter of our charity for many years and with his keen interest in wild-life will be a valuable asset. We are very pleased that he has accepted our invitation and welcome him as part of our team.

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Slick's slippery ordeal by Sandra Duckworth

Over the years there's been much to see,
So now nothing really surprises me.
But one day when I heard this load roar,
I thought to myself – here we go – one more!

A motorbike suddenly appeared on my drive,
A leather clad 'Hell's Angel' was astride.
"What now"? I thought, as I opened the door
To a big burly bloke around six foot four.

He took off his helmet and to my surprise,
Big tears were welling up in his eyes.
He unzipped his jacket and then had a fumble,
And proceeded to hand me this little bundle.

"I was doing an oil change" he started to say,
I opened the wrappings and to my dismay,
An oil-covered hedgehog was curled up inside,
"The poor little things fallen in" he cried.

"I'd left some old oil in a tin on the floor,
I got a right shock when I opened the door.
That will teach me in future to clear stuff away,
Instead of just leaving it until the next day".

He'd been swimming around and couldn't get out,
Probably been in it all night, no doubt.
I looked at this hog in a real sorry mess,
It's prospects looked bleak, I had to confess.

"Don't worry" I replied, "I will give it a try",
"I feel awful" he said, still a tear in his eye.
"Here's a fiver- please just do what you can",
So it was off for the Fairy Liquid I ran!

It took me forever to get him cleaned up,
In a warm incubator he was then tucked.
He was really quite poorly – it was touch and go,
But soon a slight improvement he'd show!

So 'Slick' had been saved from a very sticky end,
And I'm pleased to report he is now on the mend.
So not all 'Hell's Angels' are hard and tough,
This one was a big softie, right enough!

Welcome to our newest members Sue Cook and Rachael Calldine.

We are always in need of fleece blankets, cat food, newspapers, washing powder and black bin bags. We are also collecting items for when we are in the charity shop again. We need clothing, shoes, handbags and books (in any condition). Also sellable household items and bric a brac. 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.