

# 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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## Seeking corporate sponsorship

Over the years we have constantly strived to provide the best facilities possible where sick and injured wildlife can be treated using modern techniques and equipment. The Centre provides this valuable and much-needed service not just for the local area, but for most of North West Lancashire.

Over time we have built up a lot of public support, and this can clearly be seen particularly in the Hospital Unit, where everything has been purchased either by donations made from kind members of the public or through our own fundraising efforts.

We are now looking for corporate sponsorship on any aspect of our work ranging from the sponsorship of:

- **Intensive care incubators and recovery cages**
- **The Charity's vehicle**
- **The printing costs of information and educational leaflets**
- **The charity's website**
- **The Hospital's webcam and associated equipment**

By supporting our work you will not only be making a direct contribution to the survival of our local wildlife, but you would also be helping to promote your company's environmental image, which these days is so important.

In return for your support, there would be an acknowledgement of your company on our website with a link to your site. There would also be a sponsorship plaque on public display in the Hospital Unit and wherever we attended fundraising events throughout the year. We could also have your company's logo printed on our T-shirts.

If you, or your company would like to support a successful local wildlife charity then please get in touch and we can discuss the various options further.

As another year draws to a close, we would like to thank everyone who has supported our work throughout 2009. Without you all we simply could not survive as a charity.

Thank you to everyone who brings newspapers, tins of cat food for the hedgehogs and items for us to sell in the Charity Shop. To **Karen** at Thornton Community News for continuing to support our work which has helped tremendously in raising the profile of our charity. To **Ann** at Division Lane RSPCA for the donations of cat food, and to **Sharon Browell** and **Ann Wainwright** from Cats Paws for their donations of cat food. To **John Langtree**, **Myra Tucker** and **Cleveys TV** for their constant support and to **Bill** at **Palmer Ave Garage**. To everyone fostering a hedgehog for me throughout the winter months, and lastly to all who has sent in a donation for the hedgehogs Christmas Dinner!

*In order to conserve funds we will not be sending out Christmas cards this year, but we would like to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.*



### In memory of Syd Lee

We are very grateful to Judith Lee who contacted us following the sad death of her husband Syd.



Her wonderfully kind donation (made in memory of Syd) has enabled us to purchase another Intensive Care Incubator. Many thanks Judith.



**If you have a hedgehog regularly visiting your garden, please leave out a dish of meat-based cat food and a dish of water in the evening. This would be much appreciated by a hungry hedgehog, as there is very little of their natural food around at this time of the year.**

## Soggy the Hoggie

written by Sandra Duckworth

A hedgehog came in the other day,  
But this time, not quite in the usual way.  
A little old lady had rung up her Vet  
For any information that she could get  
Regarding a hedgehog she had just found  
In her garden, aimlessly wandering around.

Of all things she'd given him 'greens' to eat!  
The Vet advised "No! he'd be best with cat meat".  
"If you have a box then just put him in there  
And then I suggest that you ring Hedgehog Care".  
"Give him some water" he added, this she did,  
But not in the way that the Vet intended!

She then rang us up and brought him straight round  
To our Hedgehog Hospital, where we found.....  
The poor little thing wading up to his middle,  
It looked like he'd just done a king-size piddle!  
He was paddling around the best that he could,  
His predicament was not looking too good.

Instead of just providing a drink for him  
She'd put water in the box, then dunked him in!  
Taking the Vet quite literally it was clear  
(Maybe she was deaf and she didn't quite hear!)  
Being brought in this way I've never before seen,  
But looking on the bright side - at least he was clean!

We got him warmed up and then kept a close eye,  
With some care and attention he'd hopefully get by.  
And sure enough after a week or two's care,  
He was released in a garden, and made his home there.  
With Soggy it turned out to be a good ending,  
Just one more hedgehog that needed some mending.

My patience occasionally does wear quite thin  
With the state of some patients I get brought in.  
So if sometimes I appear to be quietly 'fumin',  
Don't get the hump as I am only human.  
If only some people would use common sense,  
Then maybe I might not appear quite so tense!

## *Little 'Harry' the Autumn juvenile*



This is 'Harry' – a tiny Autumn juvenile brought to us weighing just 62gms. He was rescued after being found alone in a barn in the Singleton area. When I first examined him, I thought Harry's development appeared to be very

stunted. Although he was at least five/six weeks old, he seemed to be unable to feed himself and so had to be syringe-fed every three hours. He weighed less than half of what he should for his age, had huge ears and big bulging black eyes, making him look more like a mouse than a hedgehog! We also discovered he had a broken ankle, but being so tiny the Vet said there was nothing that could be done for him, and although it might be kinder to put him to sleep he agreed to allow him a week to see if there would be any improvement.

I couldn't bear to see this little one dragging his leg around for another week. Hedgehogs are very resilient creatures and seem able to cope with horrendous injuries, but nevertheless it must have been very painful for him. So we tried making a tiny splint out of cotton buds and elastoplast, but that didn't work. We tried a self-adhesive bandage, but that didn't work either. Finally in desperation, we strapped it up the best we could with porous adhesive tape and then wrapped the tape around his little body to give the leg support. He certainly wouldn't win any beauty contest looking like that, but if it did the job.....

One week later as I very carefully removed the tape, I could hardly believe my eyes! Whatever we had done seemed to have worked as Harry began weight bearing on the leg and then walking normally! It's magic moments like these that makes my work so worthwhile.

Harry will remain under our care until Spring which allows us plenty of time to assess his capabilities as to whether or not he will be able to survive on his own back in the wild.

### *Welcome to our newest members:*

Peter and Lynn Higgins, P. Armitage, Cathy Dobbing, Shaun Elliott, Sandra Ridings, Angela Black, Norma Stuart, Sharon Browell, Sue Cookson and Pauline Taylor.



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**The winners of the 2009 Xmas draw which took place on Dec 1st are as follows:**

**1st Prize**—Susan Rigby—Xmas food hamper

**2nd prize**—Malcolm Crowther—Bottle Bells Whiskey

**3rd Prize**— D. Sommers—Bottle Harveys Sherry

**Congratulations to everyone!**

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

If your copy of "Hoggie News" has a cross below, it means that your membership subscription is due for renewal. 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.