



Hoggie News

from

The Lancashire Hedgehog Care Trust

Registered Charity No. 1092285

Patron: Nick Park CBE



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



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LANCASHIRE HEDGEHOG CARE HELPS LAUNCH ROYAL MAIL'S LATEST SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS

We must say a huge thank you to Gaby and Jim Weatherhead from Hampshire, who responded to my plea for help and very kindly donated much of their valuable time and expertise to set up spreadsheets for the Charity's accounts.

This will now save us so much time and make the accounts much easier to do. A huge thank you to both of you and especially for going so out of your way to help. We very much appreciate all you have done.



"Thank you"

S.O.S. Is there anyone that could help me put together a DVD about the Rescue Centre (photos and music) so it could be played at fundraising events. If you can help please get in touch.



On 13th April, Royal Mail are launching their latest set of special stamps. The fourth set in Royal Mail's new nature series 'Action for Species' concentrates on ten mammals that are now listed as endangered in the UK. — these are: Humpback Whale, Wildcat, Brown Long-eared bat, Polecat, Sperm Whale, Water Vole, Greater Horseshoe Bat, Otter, Dormouse and Hedgehog.

We were delighted when we heard that hedgehogs were to feature on one of the new stamps. These special stamps combine a series of beautiful images together with a powerful conservation message and will reach millions of Royal Mail customers every day.

In order to publicise it locally, Royal Mail representatives paid us a visit to take a look at the work we do and also to do a photo shoot with the special stamps together with some of our current residents, and as you can see 'Becky' our albino hedgehog stole the show!

Hog Cam is here!

It has taken us quite a while to set up and with many problems along the way, but now finally the hospital unit is 'live 24/7' on the internet. Big Brother eat your heart out!

We have installed two webcams—one locked off to show the viewers inside the hospital unit and the other one hopefully will zoom in to show the current occupants we have in the incubators.

It hasn't been an easy thing to do. Our main priority was that we did not disturb our nocturnal patients. But on the other hand the viewers needed to be able to see them, otherwise there would be no point in doing it. With this in mind, we installed light-sensitive webcams together with low level lighting. This gives the viewer the impression that the hospital unit and incubators are in bright light, when in actual fact there is only one 7 watt low energy light on when it is dark, which does not disturb the hedgehogs at all!

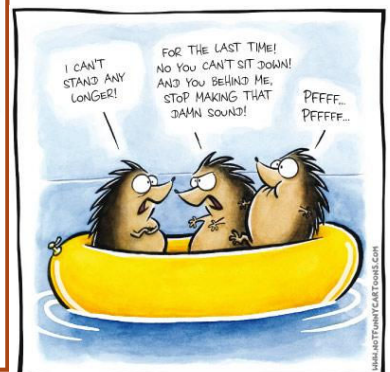
To view, simply go to the website at www.hedgehogcare.co.uk and click on Hog Cam in the menu bar. Enjoy viewing, and if anyone sees anything interesting we would very much like to know!



Smile!

You're on Hog Cam!

A huge thank you to our first sponsor **Appliances Direct**, one of the UK's largest online appliance stores who have very kindly donated a tumble dryer in return for an advert on our website. Through the winter months it is always very difficult to dry the many fleece blankets which we use for the hedgehogs bedding. Thanks to Appliances Direct, the tumble drier now makes life so much easier!



Xmas twins 'Holly' and 'Ivy'

I got a call from a lady in the Broughton area of Preston just before Christmas to say she had seen a baby hedgehog in her garden struggling to get around in the recent heavy snowfall. Later that evening she had seen another one and so both were rescued and brought to us for care. These two babies who we called 'Holly' and 'Ivy' each weighed less than 200gms and stood no chance at all of surviving on their own in the wild. Both were totally exhausted, hypothermic and on the brink of collapse. They were put into a warm incubator and given warmed subcutaneous fluids to help counteract the effects of the trauma they had been through.

They recovered well from their ordeal and by mid January they both weighed a healthy 375gms. The time had come to separate them and so Ivy was transferred to another incubator leaving Holly on her own. As they get older, hedgehogs normally do not like each other's company as they are solitary animals.

The following night I was watching Holly from the warmth and comfort of my office using one of the recently installed webcams (which is very handy as I can now keep an eye on things while working at my desk). I noticed that she appeared to be getting more and more stressed, constantly circling in the incubator almost as though she was looking for something. This was quite out of character and not normal behaviour for her — could it be that she was looking for Ivy? There was only one way to find out and that was to put Ivy back in with her. It worked! Holly was now quite content snuggled up with her sibling. No more pacing and circling, it had all stopped.



Update on twins: Two weeks later we did finally manage to separate them and both have now been fostered out prior to their release in a few weeks time.

We are so very grateful to all the kind people that have volunteered to foster a healthy hedgehog for us until Spring. This helps us a lot as it frees up space for another sick or injured hedgehog needing our help.

Thank you to John Langtree, Andrew Dolgoplov and also Yvonne Ashman from Australia for their continuing support. Also to everyone that is kind enough to bring newspapers and cat food for the hedgehogs and items for the shop.

Welcome to our newest members:

P. and R. Broadbent and B. Cumberland.

THE LANCASHIRE HEDGEHOG CARE TRUST

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Fundraising dates

The Plant Place, Fleetwood Rd, Thornton - 1st and 2nd May.

Burnside Garden Centre, New Lane, Thornton - 29th and 30th May.

Tesco Supermarket, Marton - Saturday June 5th.

Carleton Green School— Saturday 10th July.

Please do come along and support us and meet 'Spike' the hedgehog—our new mascot!

Can you help?

We are always looking for ways to save money, which in turn makes more money available to be able to care for and treat rescued hedgehogs. Sending Hoggie News to you via email would considerably reduce our costs and although we have asked before, not many people seem to want their newsletter by email. **(Did you know - it costs nearly £100 each time to print and send the newsletter out!)**

If you would like to help please send me your email address and then check your inbox for the next edition of Hoggie News. *(Please note—your email address will not be passed on to any other persons)*



It has been hard work over the winter months keeping all these hungry little hedgehogs warm and well fed. Many were rescued hedgehogs too small to hibernate as they did not have the body fat to sustain them throughout the winter months. Without help they would have simply died. The cost involved in overwintering just one hedgehog from October through to March is approximately £95. This includes the costs of food, heating, medical care and initial intensive treatment for lungworm and other internal and external parasites. This all puts a strain on our already limited funds.

This week we have 'soft-released' the first batch of 18 over-wintered hoggies while the weather is reasonably mild. Most of these were juveniles rescued in Oct / Nov last year weighing little more than 200gms. Non would have survived over winter without help and after five months of dining on top notch cuisine, most of these hedgehogs now weighed in at a healthy 1.5 kg, which is bordering on positively 'obese' in hedgehog terms! It was all organised with military precision. There were boxes coming and going all day as foster carers each took 2 hedgehogs to be released into their gardens. Food is being left out every evening, so I am confident they should all be OK.

During February we were still getting small hedgehogs coming in weighing little over 250gms. How they managed to survive at all through the exceptionally cold weather we had this winter is a miracle. The latest to arrive was 'Wobbles'. She was rushed to us after being found collapsed by the roadside. With no reserves left at all, she was literally at death's door. She barely weighed 200gms and was shaking uncontrollably from the effects of severe hypothermia and dehydration. Following the administration of replacement drip fluids for 24 hours and with the help of an intensive care incubator, I am pleased to say little Wobbles has survived. Two weeks later and she is responding to treatment, eating well, putting on weight and will hopefully go for release at the end of April.

Thank you to Lynn Sudbury for the special gift on Mother's Day 'from the hedgehogs' which I will always treasure.

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.