Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society
Annual Report for 2018



Welcome to this year's annual report and the collation of hedgehog figures for 2018.

As usual I'll start by trying to analyse the figures. Our grand total this year was 459 hedgehogs cared for. This was our third busiest year after 2017 (486) and 2012 (579). However I only received figures from 8 people as so many of our carers have gone on to set up their own rescue centres and so no longer include their hedgehogs in our totals. As usual Briony had the most hedgehogs with 267 making this her busiest year ever! We had approximately 55% males compared to 45% females which is about normal. 52 (11%) were classed as babies and 28 (6%) were kept over the winter to be released in the spring. We released an impressive 284 (62%) healthy hedgehogs back into the wild but we sadly lost 111 (24%) that either died or were euthanised by a vet. It's always the sad part when we lose one but if they weren't poorly or abandoned we wouldn't have them in the first place, we can only do our best and at the very least they were warm and loved at the end.

We took in hedgehogs every month of the year again, the busiest month being July with 99 and the quietest being April with only 5. There were a surprising 57 in November and 15 admittances in December which we can only put down to the mild winter.

All in all I think it was a very successful year and our figures are probably above average. We only have 3 frontline carers and could really do with some more, hopefully after the Vale hedgehog course held here in last January we will be able to start passing some of the calls to new people as they get more experienced.

Now for the rest of the news. We've continued to give talks and presentations to schools, libraries and interested groups as well as attending open days at various events to spread the word and advise people on the care of hedgehogs.

Briony arranged for the Vale Wildlife Hospital to run one of their hedgehog care courses in our area in January, this was very well attended and will hopefully result in more carers being available in the future.

I would like to say a big thank you to Sainsbury's at Middle Warren in Hartlepool who made us their charity of the year and helped raise funds and awareness, Sue and Chris attended the shop in June to receive just over £2000 and have their photos taken to mark the occasion.



We've also been very lucky this year in that we received a donation of 4 hedgehog boxes from the students union volunteering project in Gateshead, several donations from companies such as Sandy at Stockton postal sorting office, PD Ports, Peterlee Town Council, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs social club, members doing a car boot sale, lots of stamped envelopes from Stuart Barfoot, Andrea and Paramount Global Services for printing our newsletters, as well as many members including a donation with their membership money. We have no funding other than these donations and memberships so we really do appreciate it when we receive these gifts.

As well as the usual vets bills, medical supplies and various foods that we have to pay for we've bought a specialist incubator and 2 nebulisers this year and we're looking at buying more equipment to make hedgehog care easier for our carers as well as more efficient and effective.

We received our first legacy this year, coming from Derek Joy who died in 2017, whilst we are sorry to lose another member we appreciate the £1000 he left us in his will.

We currently have 90 members which is 1 more than this time last year and we have 759 Facebook followers which is 317 more than this time last year.

As online banking becomes more popular you can pay you membership in this way, our bank account details are: account name: Clev Hedgehog Pres Soc, account number: 14592348, sort code 05-09-34 and subscriptions look at sticking at £10 for the foreseeable future. If you do pay online please send me an email to let me know as it takes quite a while for them to show up on bank statements. Memberships are always due on 1st March each year.

It just remains for me to say a big thank you especially to our carers and members for keeping us going into what will be our 28th year, we're never going to be a big organisation but I think what we do makes a difference. Please keep supporting us and following us in all we do.

Chris Firth
Chairman
Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society.