Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society
Annual Report for 2019



Welcome to our annual report and hedgehog figures for 2019.

As usual I'll start with the figures. This was our busiest year ever in 28 years of looking after hedgehogs! We took in 613 hogs which is 34 more than in 2012 which was the next busiest year and a great increase on last years 459. I only received figures from 7 (very busy) people so I'm guessing there are more out there that I don't know about. Our busiest person by far was Briony taking in 327, that's quite a feat.

All rescues around the country have reported being busy and they also report a high mortality rate this year, no one seems to know why and if any research shows us why I'll be sure to pass it on. We released 306 (50%) back to the wild, 42 (7%) were over wintered and around 189 (31%) either died or were put to sleep by a vet.

We had 61 (10%) that we would class as babies and of those that were sexed there were 195 male and 207 female. July was again the busiest month with 119 arrivals and we took in hedgehogs every month of the year – although only 1 in February. Autumn was very busy again with 68 in October, 76 in November and 20 in December. I know that the percentages don't always add up to 100% but not everyone keeps their records the same way and I have to do the best with what I have.

For the past few years we've only had 3 front line carers and I was hoping that after the Vale Course last year we would have a few more. I know that others are building up their confidence and 2 in particular have sent in good figures. I don't want to mention them by name as they may wish to remain anonymous. At this point I would like to thank all those involved in the care of our hedgehogs, this is the bottom line of what we do and it's you that are doing the hard work putting in the graft as well as giving up your time and social life.

Now for the rest of the report. We continued to spread the word regarding hedgehog welfare and attended events at Saltburn, the wildlife explorer day at Ormesby Hall, Peterlee Summer Carnival, Bewley Primary School in Billingham, Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club, Billingham Library, U3A Gardening group, Oxbridge Nursery and St Gabriels School as well as others I can't remember (sorry). At some of these we just has a table with information and someone to talk to and at others we gave one of our presentations. We were always met with enthusiasm and lots of interesting questions.

Our fundraising wasn't quite as good as the previous year but we didn't do too badly with donations from the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), St Gabriels School Middlesbrough, donations of cat food and kitchen rolls from Asda at Portrack, more stamped envelopes from



Stuart Barfoot and not forgetting Andrea at Paramount Global who did all of our printing for us. Then of course all of the donations our members include with their membership money and some that send us a little gift at Christmas. For all of these we are eternally grateful as we couldn't manage without you.

We didn't buy any large equipment this year but vets bills continue to be a drain on resources and of course the food required to keep 613 hedgehogs going makes for quite a substantial bill. Then of course there's the specialist foods and supplements for poorly and baby hedgehogs, this is where your money goes folks, and believe me it's very welcome, thank you.

We currently have 86 members, that's 4 less than this time last year. I still find it strange that in all of our years we have always had between 80 and 100 members. We have 1042 Facebook followers and this continues to be a good source of information (sadly not always correct), but also a forum where people can discuss ideas and treatments.

As online banking continues to be popular you can pay your membership in this way if you wish, 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 (chps98@yahoo.com) 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.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to all of those that have helped us throughout the year, from the front line carers taking in all those hedgehogs, the 2nd line carers that get the hedgehogs passed on to them, the clerical team doing all the paperwork, those standing behind tables at events, those giving the presentations at schools and the like, those that stay members year after year and of course those that have donated to the society, be it money, goods or services. Thank you to each end every one of you, we couldn't function without you.

Chris Firth
Chairman
Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society.