Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society
Annual Report for 2022

Welcome to the annual report for 2022.

Although the society was formed in 1992, we didn't start keeping records until 1999 and they were very sparse at best. It was in 2004 that we started keeping better and more detailed records and since then we've been pretty thorough.

Since 1999 we've had over 9000 hedgehogs through our hands, that's something to be pretty proud of I think but for now let's look at 2022.

In total we had over 879 to look after, that's an increase on last year's 829 and another record for us. Briony, Sue and Amy all had over 200 each with another 6 carers handling the rest. Although I know there were more people caring for hedgehogs, I only received figures from these 9, thank you for that.

466 (53%) of hogs were released back to the wild while 59 (7%) were over wintered and sadly 329 (37%) died or were put to sleep by a vet. There were 48 (5%) that we classed as babies which was slightly up on last year. Overall, 56% were males and 44% females compared to last years 50/50 split. Over the years it's always been the males that tend to get into trouble more than the females! Our busiest month was August with 183 patients and the quietest was February with only 8.

When I collect the figures for 2023, I'm including a new category for those that don't survive the first 24 hours. This includes the ones that are so badly injured that they have to be put straight to sleep and those that are so far gone by the time we get them that they don't stand a chance. At the moment these are included in the totals above and I don't think it gives a true reflection on the number that we save and makes our fatality figures look worse than they should be. If someone brings us a hedgehog at deaths door then it shouldn't count against us if it dies within the hour.

Now for the rest of the report.

It is with sadness that I have to announce the passing of 2 of our members. Joyce Kaiser had been looking after hedgehogs in Hartlepool since the 80's and even when she moved to a care home was still giving out advice. Also, Michael (Mitch) Wilson from Hartlepool who was a carer and great supporter of our group. Both will be sadly missed

We did well for donations this last year, not just of money but in other areas. We had another large donation from PD Ports via Alison Smiles, all of our printing has been done by Andrea at Paramount Global. The majority of our stamps and envelopes have been donated by Stuart Barfoot, some stamps have been donated by other members, this all helps. We've

had continuing donations from Amazon Smile totalling over £360 but sadly this scheme has now ended as of February this year. Thank you to all that shopped using Amazon Smile I was surprised how much we got from them. We've had several donations from the PayPal Giving Fund the latest in April 2023 of £160 giving an all-time total of £628, I still don't know where these come from but if you're involved, then thank you.

We continued to raise awareness over the year, Sue and Briony did a talk at a school in Hartlepool, Sue & Chris did a talk for 14th Hartlepool Brownies and Chris did several talks at Oakdene Primary School in Billingham.

We've taken part in several surveys to help university students with their Wildlife Conservation dissertations. We often get emails asking us to complete these surveys and always respond.

We currently have 113 members which is a slight rise and we have 2904 Facebook followers. Facebook goes from strength to strength and appears to be the fastest way to get advice and help. Please bear with our front-line carers as they can be busy and stressed at the times of year when we need them most.

Finally.

As online banking continues to be popular you can make a donation or 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.

All that remains is for me to thank everyone involved in all the parts of the organisation for everything they've done for us, we couldn't manage without you.

Chris Firth
Chairman
Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society.