Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society
Annual Report for 2023

Welcome to the Annual Report for 2023.

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

Since 1999 we've had over 10217 hedgehogs through our hands; I think that that's something to be extremely proud of.

In 2023 we had over 1244 hedgehogs through our hands; that's a massive 365 more than last year. Sadly 272 of these died within the first 24 hours; that's 22% of our total patients. They were either too poorly or too injured to survive and nothing we could have done would have saved them.

We released 677 (54%) back into the wild and over-wintered 105 (8%) which were released in the Spring of 2024. Of the hedgehogs brought in there were 93 babies, which is quite a substantial increase on previous years and is, of course, a much greater workload for our carers.

There were 634 males and 557 females, the boys always getting into more trouble than the girls; nothing new there then!

Again, sadly, there were 189 (15%) that died or were put to sleep by a vet. Some patients just don't respond to treatment or have illnesses that simply can't be cured.

We had hedgehogs brought in every month of the year, July being the busiest month with 184 patients, followed by June with 148. January was the quietest month with just 14 but a staggering 73 were admitted in December when you would of course expect them to be hibernating.

I had figures from 10 people, which is a record. As always, I suspect others looked after hedgehogs but didn't send me their figures. I also know that many people feed and put water out for them without needing to get more involved; thanks to all those who do that.

Now for the rest of the report.

We did fairly well for donations last year, not just financially but also in other areas. We had another large donation from PD Ports via Alison Smiles, a large donation from CF Fertilisers via Marie Bell, and all of our printing has been provided by Andrea at Paramount Global. The majority of our stamps and envelopes have been donated by Stuart Barfoot, but some stamps have also been donated by other members. Additionally we've had several donations from the PayPal Giving Fund. If you're involved in any of these contributions then please accept our heartfelt thanks.

We've had donations from people that bring us hedgehogs and also from others that send donations with their memberships; this is always a great help and we very much thank you. Many generous people have arranged car boot sales, knitted hedgehogs, made hedgehogs out of wood, made hedgehog nest boxes and given us a percentage of their profits from the sales of goods. Thank you to

everyone and if I've missed anyone then I hugely apologise; it's difficult keeping track of all the different donation sources, but they are ALL very greatly appreciated.

We have continued to raise hedgehog awareness over the year. Chris and Briony did a talk for Cubs and Scouts in Eaglescliffe, Amy ran an awareness day at Kirkleatham and Carole from the Stockton Hedgehog Shed runs regular awareness events in Norton. We don't just care for hedgehogs - we continually try to educate adults and children about them too by undertaking these talks and events whenever an opportunity arises.

We currently have 116 members which is a slight increase on last year and we have 3930 Facebook followers, which is over 1000 more than last year. Facebook goes from strength to strength and appears to be the fastest way for rescuers 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.

You're probably getting tired of me mentioning this, but we have a new bank account. The details are: Virgin / Yorkshire Bank, Account Name = Clev Hedgehog Pres Soc. Account Number = 74410459 and Sort Code = 05-02-00. If you get a message saying that the account can't be verified (or something similar) please check you have the numbers correct and continue anyway. This seems to happen quite often but always works eventually. If you have a standing order for subscriptions or donations, could you please look at changing to the new account as soon as possible as we incur bank charges on the old account but not the new one.

If you do pay online, please send me an email (chps98@yahoo.com) to let me know you've made a payment; I can then make absolutely sure that your money has not been lost within the banking system. If possible, please include your membership number as well as your surname in the reference as that will appear on our bank statements. We have several members who share last names so adding the Membership Number will help to avoid any confusion. Memberships fees are due on 1st March each year and are set to remain at £10.

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

Chris Firth
Chairman
Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society.