

## **JERSEY HEDGEHOG PRESERVATION GROUP 2023 REPORTS**

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

2023

The older one becomes, the harder it is to do what was once straightforward and easy. Running a hedgehog rescue centre is no easy task, but the Jersey Hedgehog Preservation Group's tireless proponents and our group of volunteers have managed to overcome countless obstacles for over 30 years. During that time we have returned thousands of hedgehogs back to the wild, fitter and healthier than when they arrived. We have campaigned for better practice in countryside management activities to reduce impacts on wildlife and have developed information leaflets to help people to consider wildlife whilst working. Our campaign for hedgehog highways benefits all wildlife and we hope that through our wider activities, people are brought to appreciate the wonderful nature that literally lives on our doorsteps.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, our members, volunteers, fund raisers and our knitters, we manage to raise sufficient funds every year to pay for the medicines, veterinary care, hay and materials, food and operating costs required to care for these sick and injured animals. Thanks to the generosity of various funding groups, and we are especially grateful to the Roy Overland Trust for their generous funding for the past several years, we manage to create a small surplus of funds, which we reinvest to generate a modest operating income.

Times change however, and we are currently facing issues with staffing the rescue centre. We have sought volunteers to take on some of the work, but it is a big commitment to volunteer the significant amount of time required to take on some of the responsibilities of running the Group, despite the training and hands on experience we can provide we have not found anyone able to take on this task.

Consequently, we consider it necessary to seek to employ someone to take on the responsibilities for caring for our poorly hogs and to help to run our small charity. We are able to use our income for paying towards a proportion of employment expenses, but our funds and income do not support the full time employee required for this task. The Jersey Hedgehog Preservation Group is currently approaching funders to seek £25,000 a year, for three years, to enable us to employ a full time animal carer, enabling the Steering Group to focus more on fundraising and improving our administration and governance to ensure the long term future of the charity.

Hedgehog numbers continue to decline in the UK and we believe that the same decline is happening in Jersey. Wildlife populations in general, across the world, continue to fall and the conservation of nature has never been more important. The changes in our weather from climate impacts brings drier summers, with little food and water for wild animals, and warmer, wetter winters, through which it is difficult for hedgehogs to hibernate and when they are awake, there is little food for them. The fate of our hedgehogs is tied up with the fate of many of our island's small mammals. The Jersey Hedgehog Preservation Group will continue to work to conserve hedgehogs and by doing this, support all manner of wildlife in our countryside.

If you are aware of any Charitable Trusts or funding organisations who may be able to help us to raise funds to pay for a full time Animal Carer, we would love to hear from you. If you are considering leaving a charitable bequest in your will, I hope that you might consider the Jersey Hedgehog Preservation Group as a beneficiary.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Expenses were higher than usual in 2023 partly due to the impact of higher prices for items such as food as well as some one off items including the £2,000 bursary for the hedgehog study, a new website that was required when our licence expired on the old domain and replacement of a laptop for the Secretary. Thankfully due to our members continued generous support, the fundraising events, sales of catnip hogs and the increased bank interest rates on our savings we were able to

finish the year with surplus income. This is vital for achieving our goal of employing a full time care worker in the coming year. Unfortunately, our investment portfolio is still showing an unrealised loss of over £27,000 caused by the high inflation rates seen over the last couple of years, however, there has been some recovery in its value as inflation fell through the year

### **DONATIONS AND FUND RAISING ON OUR BEHALF IN 2023**

The Roy Overland Charitable Trust have granted us another £3,800 this year to pay for veterinary expenses and medicines, we are extremely grateful to their Trustees.

Many thanks to the Mortgage Shop who raised £100 in their collecting tin over the last year.

**Crafty Ouens** and raised £173.50 for us during December

Many thanks to **Denize Keywood** who gave us £200 from her sales of jam, Christmas cakes and knitted items.

**Co-op Account:** Many thanks to all of you who have used our number **325001** when you shopped at the Co-op. Our dividend the year was £290.55 so thank you all.

**Donations in kind:** New Era and Archway vets gave us lots of food. Many thanks to everyone who gave us gifts of food and other supplies.

### **FUNDRAISING in 2023**

**Collecting tins in the Central Market:** We were invited to put 4 collecting tins round the fountain in the Central Market for 2 weeks in April/May and raised £123. Many thanks to all who donated.

**Car Boot at Le Rocquier:** On 12<sup>th</sup> August, Monique had a car boot stall and raised £189.

**Samares Country Fair** on August Bank Holiday Monday raised £498.

**The Kindness Festival** in St Aubins on 9<sup>th</sup> September raised £221

**The Pride Parade in the People's Park** on 16<sup>th</sup> September raised £151.

**Association of Jersey Charities Christmas Fair** at the Town Hall - Monique raised £65 on a very quiet day.

Many thanks to Mon, Andy, Phil, Jenny and Fiona for all their hard work manning these stalls and to the generous people who donated goods for sale.

**SALES OF CATNIP HOGS:** Special thanks to the vets' receptionists at New Era, Leodis, Archway and Allpets and to the staff at Animal Kingdom and Le Marquand Bros for selling loads of woolly catnip hedgehogs raising the magnificent sum of £4264 during 2023. Thanks to Pam for all the work she does collecting woolly hogs from the knitters and keeping them supplied with wool, sewing up and stuffing the hogs and distributing them to the outlets for sale and then counting and banking the money raised and making special giant hogs to order, she raised £157 at Christmas. All this would not be possible without our hard working knitters: June Schollhammer, Ann Ellis, Viv Francis, Jenny Peacock, Natalie Solomon, Yvonne O'Loughlin, Sarah Cooper, Gladys Dunell, Michelle Whiteman, Caroline Whittingham, Margaret and Pam. Annie de Carteret in Guernsey who has knitted for us for many years has had to give up due to arthritis. We have to report the sad news that Liz Foyle passed away during the Autumn of 2023, she has been a very prolific knitter for many years.



**SCHOOL VISITS** During the Autumn Term Monya visited JCP, Happy Hatchlings Nursery, Plat Douet School, Trinity School, St George's School, Beaulieu and Mont Nicolle School and raised a total of £190 from selling woolly hogs. Many thanks to her and to all the children who supported us.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023**

**STEERING GROUP:** Soraya Zadal has taken over the role of Secretary from Dru who will continue as Membership Secretary – if you elect them to these roles!

**Volunteers:** Thanks to Monique, Anne, Stine, Amanda, Pat, Phil, Gill, Soraya, Susie, Jane, Jessica, Matt and Henry for their help with care and ambulance work. Thanks to Jo our afternoon ambulance driver and to Fiona for always being available on the end of the phone when needed

urgently to go and pick up or release a hedgehog. Thanks to Lucy who worked very hard and filled in for absences during her short time with us. Welcome to new carers Julie and Gale who started work just before Christmas. Four Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award girls Rosie, Lucy, Myla and Norah started their 3 months' volunteering in December.

**STRIMMER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN** Gill, Soraya and Amanda embarked on a renewed strimmer awareness campaign, the media responded very positively and gave us lots of publicity. Contract gardening firms were also reminded. Shops and vets have flyers for their customers.

### **HEDGEHOG DISTRIBUTION SURVEY 2022**

Gill Morgan's report is available on our website. Many thanks to her and to Matt Reynolds for his mathematical skills.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/64592095b01dc268e2ba8320/t/646a215cca016367e306c752/1684676957330/Survey+Report+2022-2023+with+stats+and+maps.pdf>

### **JSPCA AFFILIATION**

We entered into a new agreement with the JSPCA that they will care for hedgehogs until they are ready to go into an outside enclosure, when they will be transferred to us for the final stage of care before release. During 2023 15 hedgehogs were passed to us for care. 6 died, 7 were released and 2 remained in care at the year end, 3 from 2022 were released in 2023. Their ambulance drivers will collect any hedgehog after 8pm and take it to New Era Vets if it is injured. They also go to the JEP for us and bring us van loads of newspapers which is very kind of them. They have also offered to put any hedgehog to sleep for us.

**HOG BOXES** The States of Jersey Prison Service made us lots of feeding and nest boxes, and Jim made us some more of his special tunnel boxes which are great for patios and hard surfaces as they have wooden floors.

**MATT'S RADIO TRACKING STUDY:** As part of his MSc, Matt Reynolds who had been working with us for 6 months, carried out a short study of 4 hedgehogs in the East of the Island. His diary and his entire thesis can be found on our website:

<https://www.jerseyhedgehogs.co.uk/news/matts-radiotracking-adventure>. Scroll down the page for the link to the thesis.

**NEW WEBSITE:** Thanks to Tom Declat Design we have a new website, most of the things you want to know about hedgehogs are in there. <https://www.jerseyhedgehogs.co.uk/>

### **CARE REPORT 2023**

#### **ADMISSIONS DURING 2023**

The annual totals for 2023 cared for at White Lodge are 490 admissions, 254 releases and 256 deaths. Monique admitted 55 hedgehogs with 26 releases and 21 deaths. At the end of the year there were 57 hogs at White Lodge and 13 with Monique. This represents a survival rate of 64%. 158 babies under 250g were admitted during 2023 and 107 juveniles which weighed more than 250g on admission.

### **INJURIES:**

**Strimmer Wounds:** From January to November we saw or heard of 24 hedgehogs with wounds caused by strimmers or other tools, 22 were put to sleep or died, just 2 were successfully released. This does not include others who were taken straight to the vets or the JSPCA and put to sleep and for whom we have no record.

**RTA's** Several hedgehogs found in the road have died shortly after admission, some passed blood others showed no sign of injury, but we can only assume that they suffered internal injuries from being hit by a car.

**Head Trauma:** 2 adults were found displaying neurological symptoms they could have been hit by cars, both have made good recoveries and been released.

**Pinned leg:** Vet Ian Cox found a hog dragging a hind leg and took him into New Era, where his colleague Peter Haworth pinned the fracture successfully. Sadly a few days later the hog died of a sudden haemorrhage from his anus, we do not know the reason for this.

**Splinted leg:** A baby was found in the road dragging a hind leg which was splinted and bandaged by the vets. The fracture healed in time and the hedgehog was released.

**Puncture wounds from a garden fork:** A female was found with a deep penetrating wound to her side which missed her abdomen but hit her left knee and shattered it. The vets had to amputate the leg and sew up her side. The amputation site then broke down so she had to go back to be stitched up again. She was eventually released back with her finder. Another hog with 2 deep holes under his chin was too badly damaged to be saved.

**Leg amputations:** An old hog who had her leg amputated, did not recover from the operation. The JSPCA took a young hog to New Era vets with a shattered hind leg which had to be amputated. He died later in the outside pen. Another hog had a dislocated hip and the leg was amputated as it would not stay in place, but he died a few days later.

**Pelvic fractures:** We admitted 2 pelvic fractures on the same afternoon, one was worse than the other, her pelvis was bent inwards and she passed blood and didn't eat so was put to sleep, but the other with a simple fracture and no displacement to her pelvis made good progress, and was released, it is a long healing process taking 4-6 weeks cage rest. Another hog suffered a pelvic fracture and a broken neck of his femur and injury to the other hind leg so he was put to sleep.

**Suspected rat poison:** 2 hogs came in passing blood and were treated with vitamin K one was released but the other died.

**Abscesses:** A mature hog with 2 large abscesses was treated by the vets, made good progress and was released. Another with a very extensive abscess did not recover well and was eventually put to sleep.

**Mower:** A unlucky youngster was nesting in leaves under a ride-on mower which was moved from an open shed and crushed him, he was put to sleep.

**Dogs:** 2 hedgehogs were dug out by dogs with no ill effects.

Thanks to New Era Vets and the JSPCA for their help with these injured and very sick hogs.

## **TRAPPED HOGS:**

**Pools, reservoir and a pond:** 4 hedgehogs were rescued from swimming pools and 2 from garden ponds.

A hedgehog was trapped in the reeds in the reservoir at Woodside Farm, the reeds were so thick and the walls so steep, all we could do was put a large escape ramp of plastic mesh by the reeds, the hedgehog should have been able to get out easily.

**Netting:** 7 hedgehogs were trapped in netting of various types, 2 who had been caught in very fine net did not survive.

**Wire Fences:** 4 hedgehogs were rescued from mesh or metal fences and released after a spell in care.

**Plastic curtain ring:** A very small hoglet was found with his head trapped in a plastic curtain ring. Fiona managed to remove the ring with her big snips before bringing the hoglet to us. He was released.

**Trapped down steps** 5 youngsters were trapped down steps.

**Sunken patios and enclosed gardens:** 15 hogs were rescued from sunken patios, enclosed gardens or walled areas. Monique is looking after one mature male whose claws will never regrow.

**Drains/holes/trench:** 3 hogs were rescued from drains, and 3 from holes, one on a building site another was dug for a fence post and the third was a construction hole for an extension to a house. An adult was rescued from a trench outside L'Horizon with no lasting ill effects.

**Buckets:** A hoglet was rescued from a bucket of water by a wall, he had fallen off the wall. He was later released. A young hog fell off some steps into a deep bucket of garden refuse and had to wait till the people came back from holiday to be rescued. He did not survive.

**Pipe on building site:** A youngster was rescued from a pipe on a construction site on the

Esplanade, we don't know how long he had been there or how he got there. He did not survive.

**Inside houses:** A mature hog was found under a sofa in Columbus Street and released on the outskirts of town, sadly she was run over the first night after release. A youngster was found under a coffee table in a house in St Luke's Crescent and was released. A female was also found under a sofa on a very hot day and subsequently released.

**Garages:** 2 hedgehogs were found trapped inside garages and released.

### **HOGLETS:**

**Disturbed nests:** 6 babes were rescued by a man who was strimming, mum was nowhere to be seen, only 2 have survived. Monique looked after a little one which was born in a shed, the householder moved the mum and babe to a specially made hog house when he discovered a dead sibling in his shed, but mum did not stay around to rear the one remaining hoglet who was found outside the nest box covered in fly eggs. He made good progress after a very shaky start in life and was released in 2024.

**Neonatal deaths:** A hedgehog who had been in care with Monique for 34 days gave birth on 1<sup>st</sup> May, this is very early for Jersey, she had not been well, the babies looked very small and she did not rear them. A hog who gave birth on a concrete path was brought to Dru with 5 newborns, one was already dead and the other 4 were stone cold, they were all dead the next morning. Mum was later released. A female found on the beach by the Gunsite gave birth to 4 babes in our outside pen, all were dead, she had made no attempt to look after them due to the stress of being in captivity.

**GOOD RESCUES:** On 31<sup>st</sup> May a kind man found 3 babies on the pavement opposite B&Q, he waited near them, rescuing one from the main road which was very busy at the time, so they were very lucky to have been saved. They were about 3 weeks old on admission and were later released. On 2 consecutive days, 2 ladies on bikes rescued 2 tiny hoglets from the road near the Methodist Church in St Ouen's, the first one was brought in a saucepan, kindly donated by a passing motorist who was on the way to the dump! The second was taken to St Peter's Garden Centre where the rescuer worked and collected by Fiona soon after. Similarly, 2 hoglets were rescued very near to each other in Fern Valley on consecutive days by different people. They were full of attitude and this helped them survive! A brave little hedgehog walked into the human ambulance station to ask for help in the autumn, so our hedgehog ambulance driver, Jo, was summoned to collect him!

**Ear tag and other returns 2023** – There have been very few returns this year.

During the year 2023 85 ear tags were applied, of these 53 were released later in the year, one tag fell out before release and 2 died in care. 29 remained in care at the end of the year. 3 hogs tagged in 2023 returned later in the year, one was re-released, one died and one remained in care at the year end. 26 hogs tagged in 2022 were over wintered and released in 2023. One was put to sleep in 2023.

6 hogs from 2022 returned to care in 2023 - 4 of these were re-released and 2 died on their second visit.

2 hedgehogs tagged in 2021 returned in 2023 one was put to sleep and the other died.

**Nail varnish marks** – hogs can sometimes be identified by location and remaining nail varnish marks. During 2023, 4 hogs returned with nail varnish markings still visible, 3 were re-released and one died on its second visit.



