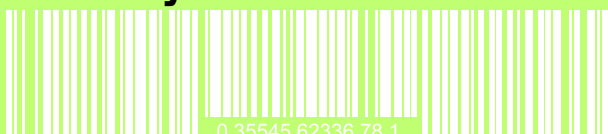


Hedgehog Gossip



May 2025 7th Edition



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Author`s Note

Here we go again... Winter in South Africa! One of the most dreadful seasons if you are a hedgehog owner! I think South African`s are really children of the sun.

We do have a few weirdo`s that strives in the winter, hahaha! But, winter can also mean warm stews, soups, making fire in the fireplace if you have one. Pancakes and “melkkos” ! I will focus on the food positives, and ignore the weight gain that comes along! Think off all those decadent creamy coffees, snuggling up with a good book.

Another positive is no tenrec cage cleaning! My cage are done and cleaned for the last time. With tenrecs asleep, I need to be on 24/7 alert for hedgehog hibernation attempts.

Such is life! Came the summer, we will complain about the heat.

My message today can thus be summed up as this:
Stay warm and stay fat, it will make abducting more difficult.
We will sort the fat out in the summer!



Greetings, Lizl

SAHBA News

With winter at hand, a lot of things comes to a halt at SAHBA. The last of the summer babies will be leaving their dens now. Breeders will have a breather in terms of baby raising and educating clients.

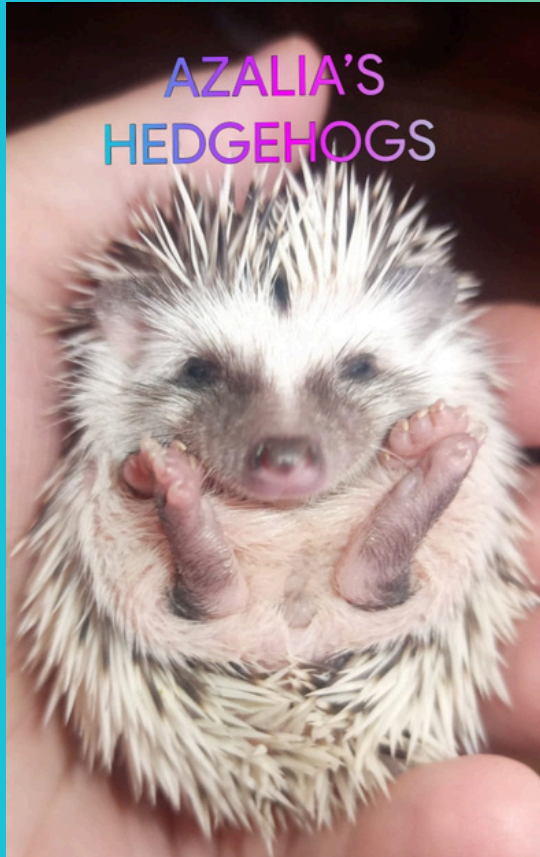
But, the behind the scenes, administrative and “construction” work starts now. Breeders must compile and submit their Summer breeding plans, fixing cages, upgrading their set-ups. Verifying pedigrees, see which females needs to go on retirement. We don't really rest, its just the outputs that change!

At SAHBA as a registering body, administrative duties mean revising courses, looking for improvements, reading up new science studies. All courses for 2025 are completed and our students did amazing!

Education fills a large part of the function of South Africa's Hedgehog Breeders Association.

SAHBA News

See the breeders photo's of babies that were born in 2025. Most of them all ready at their new homes





BAILEY'S HEDGEHOGS



**AZALIA'S
HEDGEHOGS**

Awesome Krimpvarkies
Two weeks old



*Awk Mystique Megara
Aurelia*



Mp's Hedgehogs



Mitchell's Hedgehogs



Mitchell's Hedgehogs

News from abroad

North American Quill Association

In the USA showing with hedgehogs is quite a big thing. Just as SAHBA has their annual breeders awards, they have shows. They go to all the states where it is legal to have hedgehogs. They attend exhibits, and even have seminars during these conventions. We do it a bit differently, we present long distance training.

Here is some of the photos shared so far this year from some of the conventions. Here you actually take your hedgehog and participate, where as at SAHBA we enter photos.

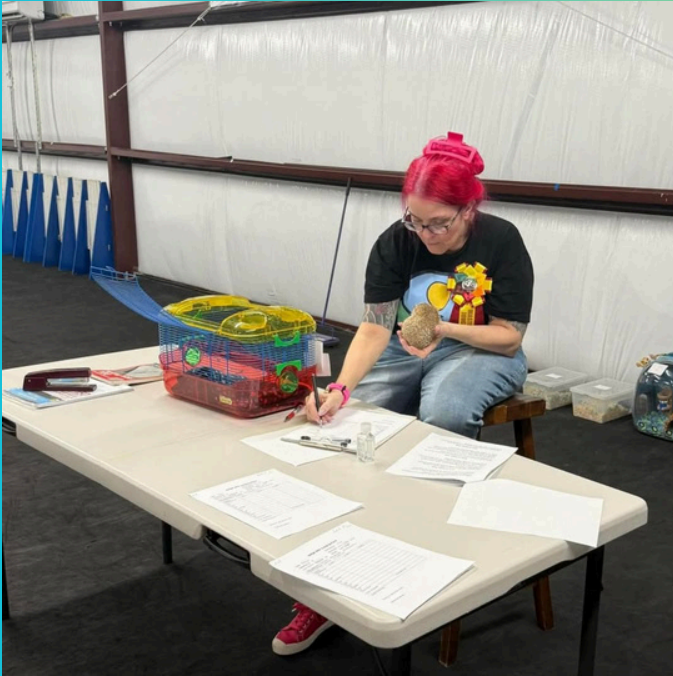


This little Long Ear's name is Dobby (Dobinator)- owner Brittany Nicholson

Some of this years winners



More photos of USA shows



Local hedgehog news



Southern African Hedgehog- Atelerix Frontalis

Our Southern African hedgehogs (indigenous) are entering their winter sleep now.

If you do found one during the winter wandering around, rather call wild life authorities to assist.

When a wild hedgehog are seen during the day it is often an indication of illness. Although it is possible that humans or other animals disturbed the hedgehog in his hibernating place, but it is best to get it checked out by professionals.

These hedgehogs are protected species and should never be kept as a pet. You find find yourself a hefty fine of R5000 and more if caught with one.

Contact numbers of wild life rescuers:

- Judy Grosse - 073 112 1131
- Leanne Hezlet- 082 582 2510
- Lizelle English- 084 555 5665
- Vaughan - 082 458 6431

Norm beating life`s storms

Norm... Not a normal hedgehog with a normal story!
Norm is named after Spiny Norman from Monty Python.

Norm had experienced a few challenges in her life due to incorrect care taking advice given by the breeder to Norms owner at the time. Norm had suffered from severe quill loss due to mites. Although she recovered quickly, her quills are still today a bit sparse comparing to other hedgehogs.

Luckily for her, her new owner is a fast learner and no quitter.

The next terrible blow was being diagnosed with cancer.

Here is Norm`s story. Name of owner not mentioned as for a housing sensitivity related matter.

Norm`s owner is an history lover and expert, and her Gotcha Day was on 6 June 2021. History fact: 6 June 1944 was the landing of Normandy! This makes her unusual name just more special!



Norms journey:

“On the evening of 24 February 2025 we found a lump on Norm's neck that had not been there the night before. Our hearts sank as it had all the hallmarks of cancer. We WhatsApped the vet and woke up to a message the next morning saying we could bring her in at 9h30. We rushed to the vet who confirmed our fears. Norm was taken in for her operation the same day and came home on 26 February 2025.

The operation had gone well and Norm was grumpy but happy to be home. We went for weekly checkups the next two weeks and a further lump was felt. Norm went in for a further operation to remove what the vet suspected was an infected lymph node, but turned out to be necrotic tissue.

Norm came home the day after and was happy to be home but still grumpy. Norm was healing well when early one Saturday we saw what seemed to be an infection and we rushed her to Fourways vet as her normal veterinarian was already closed for the day. She received antibiotics for what we thought was an infected stitch.



We went to our own vet, Bryanston Avian & Exotics veterinary on the Sunday during their emergency hours and the vet told us that Norm was biting herself likely due to displaced nerve pain. Norm was put on Gaba and antibiotics. She is now doing well but is still on Gaba as the vet noted that once hedgehogs start biting themselves it can be a hard habit to unlearn. Norm had now healed completely with the only sign of the operation and biting being the fact that the hair where they shaved her is still not fully back. However Norm is back to her old self running in her wheel, playing and cuddling happily.”

On 6 June Norm will celebrate her 4th year living happily with an amazing owner who would do anything for her spikey kids.



Recipe ideas

Running out of ideas on how to treat your hedgy?

Chicken Casserole

1 x cup chicken mince

1 x cup grated carrots

1 x cup peas

Cook everything in a frying pan, can use water or spray and cook.

Can be frozen

Contributor: Tokkie Lottering



Fun Facts!

Hedgehogs
poop a lot !!!!!
(Understatement)

"Array": A group
of hedgehogs is
called an array

Lactose
Intolerant:
Hedgehogs and
Tenrec`s are
lactose intolerant

Hedgehogs &
Tenrec`s cant
digest raw fibres

Hedgehogs are
amazing diggers,
but poor tree
climbers. Their
paws are made
for digging

Tenrec`s paws are made for
tree climbing. They sweat
through their paws, which
helps them to have a better
grip.

Harry the Hedgehog

Author
Dale Treadwell

Harry the Hedgehog woke up,
uncurled himself out of a ball and stretched.
He shook the remaining leaves from his spikes
and poked his little black nose outside his house
of leaves and twigs in the compost heap.
He was very hungry!



He began ambling around the garden and found a gooey snail which he gobbled up. He continued his rambling and found a fat caterpillar which he crunched and munched. He found a tasty, yummy, slimy slug...

SLURP!

Harry was full.

However, Harry had spent a long, cold winter asleep
and he was lonely...

He wanted a friend to talk to.

Harry squinted.
He looked across the garden and recognized Billy the Badger
standing near the garden pond.
Billy might be Harry's friend.
Billy the Badger is known to be rough and gruff.
But Harry tried anyway.

"Hello Billy, I am Harry the Hedgehog...
will you be my friend?" he asked gently.
"No, Harry, you are too small and I might squash you,"
replied Billy in a grumpy voice.
"You cannot be my friend."

It might not be such a good idea to have Billy the Badger as a friend.
He is a bit too burly and surly.
But Harry had spent a long, cold winter asleep and he was lonely.
He wanted a friend to talk to.



Harry walked under the oak tree and spotted Sammy the Grey Squirrel, scampering along the garden fence in search of nuts.

Sammy might be Harry's friend.

Sammy the Grey Squirrel is a bit bossy, though.

But Harry tried anyway.

"Hello Sammy, I am Harry the Hedgehog... will you be my friend?" he asked timidly.

"No Harry, you are too slow and you are not able to climb trees. You would never be able keep up with me," replied Sammy in a sharp, snappy voice. "You cannot be my friend."

It might not be such good idea to have Sammy the Squirrel as a friend.

He is a bit too bossy. Poor Harry! He had spent a long, cold winter asleep, and he was so lonely.

Harry spied the old wooden shed where Freddy the Fox was smelling, sniffing and searching the ground.

Freddy might be Harry's friend.

Freddy the Fox is known to be cunning and clever.

But Harry tried anyway.

"Hello Freddy, I am Harry the Hedgehog.

Will you be my friend?" asked Harry cautiously.

"Oh yes Harry, I am just about to have dinner, you can be my friend!"

Freddy the Fox replied, with a sly smile.

Freddy snarled and pounced at Harry.



Run Harry, run!

Harry ran and ran and ran – around the garden as fast as his little legs would carry him. Away from Freddy the Fox, who was very crafty, past Sammy the Grey Squirrel who was searching for nuts near the big oak tree, and past the garden pond where Billy the Badger was sniffing at a watering can.

Harry was out of breath. He rested beside a big log heap near the hawthorn hedge.

Poor Harry! He had spent a long, cold winter asleep and he was still very lonely. Where could he find a friend, who was not too rough, too bossy or too crafty?

He stared longingly through the nettle patch and saw Holly.

Holly was a beautiful hedgehog.

Harry was shy. But he tried anyway.

“Hello Holly, I am Harry the Hedgehog.

Will you be my friend?” asked Harry hesitantly.

Holly might be Harry’s friend.

Holly the Hedgehog smiled. “Of course I would love be your friend,”

Holly replied in a kind, quiet voice.

Harry had spent a long, cold winter asleep and he was not lonely any more. Now Harry and Holly love to ramble around the garden, past the pond, under the oak tree, and near the garden shed where they keep a close eye for Freddy the Fox!

They are happy gobbling up gooey snails,
crunching fat caterpillars and slurping yummy, slimy slugs.



Last note...

**DID YOU ENJOY OUR
GOSSIP NEWS?
LET US KNOW!
DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO
TELL? LET US KNOW!
AWESOMEKRIMPVARKIES@GMAIL.COM**

