

# Hedgehog Gossip



*Krummel The  
Womaniser*

**September 2025 8th Edition**



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# Author`s Note

Spring! Finally the winter is over. I thank God for a relatively mild winter, my husband who pays our electricity. (I didn't had one hibernation attempt this winter.) And lastly thank you to Eskom, no loadshedding! Maybe that's why the winter was not so bad for me, I don't know.

We celebrated winter with soups and stews, and our hedgehog friends showed off their hedgehog socks, check out page 9.

We end the winter with a Cultural Food photo competition. I digged into food origins and realized for the first time, that every dish has a story. The origins, the reason why we are making certain things a certain way. Overall, just appreciate our heritage and culture in South Africa. This winter I also took the time to put down Miss Ellie's story on paper. I wanted to do it for years, but never got around, and its quite an emotional story, not something you quickly rambles off.

Tell me how was your winter?



Greetings, Lizl

# SAHBA News

Breeding season is open again, and some breeders already welcomed their first babies of the season.

At SAHBA breeders withheld females from having babies during the winter. This is done for valid reasons. Females have their resting period during winter, and breeders don't want to risk the juveniles health with possible hibernation attempts.

Breeders has strict regulations to adhere to. This is to have the breeds interest at heart, to improve on lineages, to ensure healthier hedgehogs.

This is quite difficult to achieve as possible genetic health problems often only appear after the age of 2 years. It is very important to understand that even pedigreed hedgehogs can have a health problem and it is not always genetically linked.

The same as healthy humans having a baby with a serious condition. But breeders do their best to prevent it. If a breeder suspect that a breeding hedgehog might have health issues, the hedgehog immediately gets removed from the breeding program.

And, also true that not all rescues have health matters. Very often a rescued animal is a perfectly healthy animal that ended up in a wrong place.

# SAHBA Breeders List

## South Africa`s Hedgehog Breeders Association Contact List: 2025



### **Mpumalanga**

- Lizl van Vreden- Highveld- 072 090 3479
- Taylor Bailey Iori- Lowveld- 060 847 4959

### **Gauteng**

- Magriet Pretorius Vanderbijlpark- 066 004 5575
- Gloreen Karsten Pretoria- 066 024 8397
- Melanie Duvenhage- Krugersdorp- 071 191 7298-  
Tenrecs only

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### **Northern Cape**

- Jean Fölscher Prieska- 081 587 5963

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### **North West**

- Rika Zietsman Christiana- 078 004 3039

sabreeders4@gmail.com

**SAHBA  
Registered  
Breeders**

# News from abroad

Hedgehogs to be relocated to Scotland.

Hedgehogs becoming a prickly problem.

The Western Isles are a chain of islands located off the northwest coast of Scotland, collectively known as the Outer Hebrides. European hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) were introduced in 1974 to South Uist. They had spread out over the islands. By the 1990's they had spread across South Uist and Benbecula, and by the early 2000's reached North Uist.

They are not native to the islands and have become a conservation problem for native ground laying birds. The hedgehogs prey on the eggs and chicks. Causing for significant population declines in bird species.



# Hedgehogs relocating continue

A previous initiative - the Uist Wader Project (UWP) - has managed to keep North Uist hedgehog-free, but a lack of funding meant removals on South Uist and Benbecula could not continue.

A new project - Saving Uist Nature (SUN) - would trap hedgehogs in South Uist and Benbecula and release them on mainland Scotland. SUN has secured nearly £100,000 (R2 374,898.00) towards removing every hedgehog from these islands.

European hedgehogs are endangered, and by relocating them, not only will it secure the future of the birds but also benefitting the hedgehogs population.



# Local hedgehog news



**Southern African Hedgehog- Atelerix Frontalis**

Our Southern African hedgehogs ( indigenous ) are getting out of hibernation, and should be on the move now.

Wild hedgehogs first need after winter will be food. They often seek out human residential areas for food and water. If hedgehogs frequent your property, make sure you put out water bowls for them, food, a little bit of cat food. Do not catch them just because they appear tamed, that`s just their nature. They will eat and drink and move on.

If there is a safety risk for them being on your property, please call wild life rehabbers for assistance.

When a wild hedgehog are seen during the day it is often an indication of illness. **From October on it will be crucial not to remove a wild hedgehog from where you found the animal. It might be a female with babies.**

These hedgehogs are protected species and should never be kept as a pet. You may 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

# More local News

*At Awesome  
Krimpvarkies, we  
love our  
hedgehogs and  
we love socks!*





# Local News Continue

## Cultural Food Competition.

On the Awesome Krimpvarkies WhatsApp Group we had a photo competition with the theme Cultural Food. The aim was to present a dish that contesters identify culturally with. Using their hedgehogs or tenrecs to present the dishes. Contestants had their hands full! From “models” who refuses to participate in this madness to “models” who wanted to do a taste testing first!

Winner!



SA: Braaivleis & Pap

Runner-Up



English High Tea



SA: Walky Talkies  
3<sup>rd</sup> Price Winner

# Local News Continue Cultural Food Competition.



SA Bobotie



India Soji



USA Cheeseburger



SA Milk tart

# Local News Continue

## Cultural Food Competition.



USA Banana loaf



SA Milk tart



Phillipines Chicken Stirfry with spaghetti



SA Bobotie



SA Koeksisters

# Local News Continue Cultural Food Competition.



SA Bobotie



Dutch: Pea Soup & homemade bread



Hungary Brain Toast



SA Boerewors & Potato Salad



SA Braaibroodjie

# Hedgehog escape Sangoma !

One of our members, Tiaan, went through a horrible ordeal recently. They moved to a new house and were over delighted with the new set-up he had the luxury of converting a garage into an animal room. The door of the garage still needed some fixing as it couldn't locked. So it happened that a day labourer, that assisted around the yard noticed that. He slipped in, stole some tools and the hedgehog called Lexi!

The easy part for the police was to catch the perpetrator as his residential address were known.

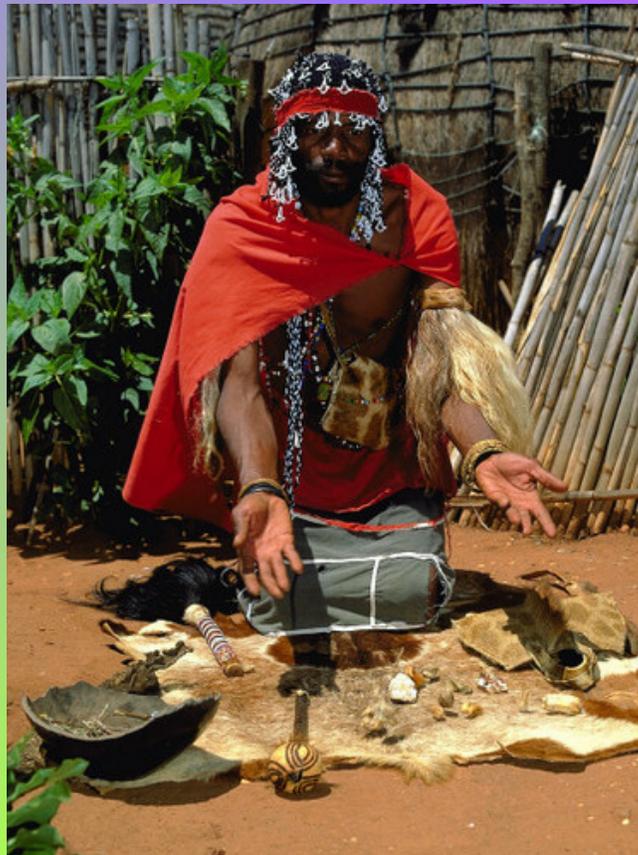
They recovered the stolen tools and arrested him the same day. To Tiaan's horror, the police were not so very much concerned about his hedgehog. Their aim was to catch the thief, retrieve stolen tools, case closed.

At that point nobody knew he is a trainee (called a twaza) to become a traditional healer (sangoma). Sangoma's practicing witchcraft and make muti (medicine) of animal organs, fat and skin. They believe that hedgehogs are powerful animals for warding off evil spirits and pay high prices to lay their hands on a hedgehog.



## Lexi`s story continuing

Tiaan had to harass the police to further interview the accused regarding the hedgehog. After a search on his phone, and further questioning, the accused stated that he is a sangoma. The police then take Tiaan`s concerns seriously. They went back to the thief`s house and do a proper search. In the fridge they found numerous animal parts and a butchered hedgehog. Tiaan was called to identify the hedgehog. To his horror he saw a hedgehog looking just like his beloved Lexi. He couldn`t stomach the sight of the hedgehog and the various butchered animal parts and went home mortified. He didn`t stay to look further or more in detail at the grotesque scene.



## Lexi`s story continuing

After a few sleepless nights, the police contacted him. They located another premise of the sangoma and there was a hedgehog. Tiaan went, and this time he was a little bit more mentally prepared of what can be found. The animals kept at the second location was all alive. And there she was! Lexi was still alive! Very hungry and thirsty but alive!

If Tiaan didn't persisted, not only Lexi, but all those other animals were destined for a terrible fate. They later learned that there is a woman who sells the sangoma hedgehogs.

The good part is that this guy was not "qualified" according to traditional healer's "standards" and all-ready sold muti to members of public. The charges against him includes not only theft but also endangering of public health. At that stage it was not clear if animal cruelty were included in the charges

**Lexi, or rather  
Lucky Lexi!**



# Recipe ideas

Running out of ideas on how to treat your hedgy?

## Fruit Salad

1 x banana

¼ cup watermelon

½ Apple (cut finely or grated)

Can be replaced with paw paw, pear, strawberries etc

Contributor: Lizl van Vreden



Yes, hedgehogs can eat fruits! It is recommended not to give more than once a week for high sugar content

# Fun Facts!

Faster than you think: a hedgehog can run at a surprising top speed of 5 mph for short bursts

Tenrecs are believed to have evolved from a single species that colonized Madagascar between 42 and 25 million years ago

Tenrecs use Spatial Memory to navigate back to their den

Resistance to venom: Hedgehogs have a natural immunity to certain snake venoms

Slugs and snails often carry the lungworm parasite, which can be dangerous for hedgehogs

The intelligence of a hedgehog is to that of a hamster, they may learn certain behaviors through positive reinforcement or conditioning but only at a very basic level

# The Fast Lane

A little hedgehog is taking her road safety test. She is nervous and alone on a busy road. What happens when a big bus comes around the corner?

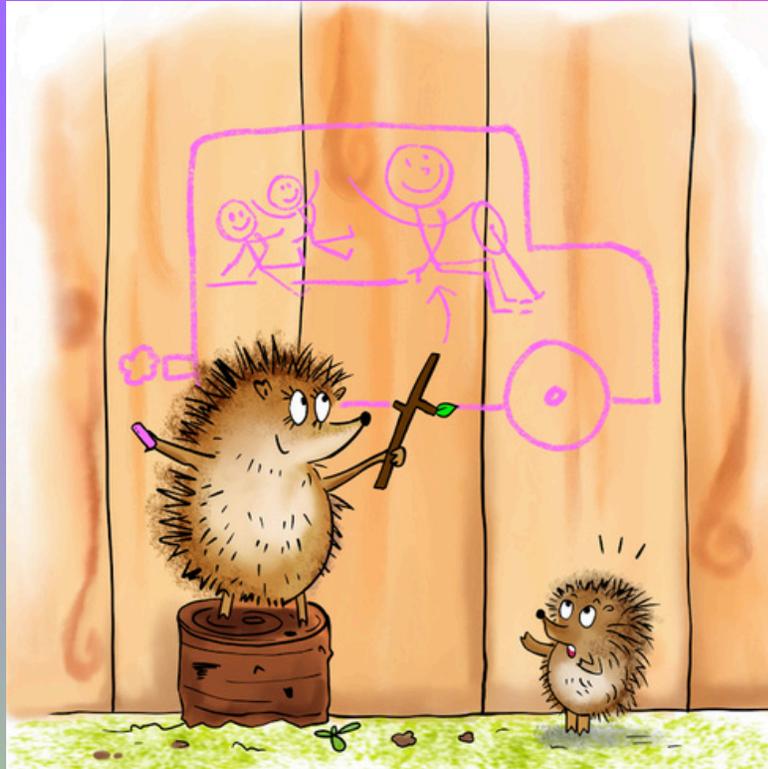
Upon a busy roadside edge,  
Beside a green and bushy hedge,  
A little hedgehog stood in fear,  
For it had reached the time of year,  
To learn her hedgehog highway codes,  
And practice crossing busy roads.

“I don't know why,” she said at last,  
“These things are moving quite so fast,”  
“These things are cars, my dear,” said mum.  
“They move the humans on their bum,  
To every single part of town.  
They like to travel sitting down.”



# The Fast lane

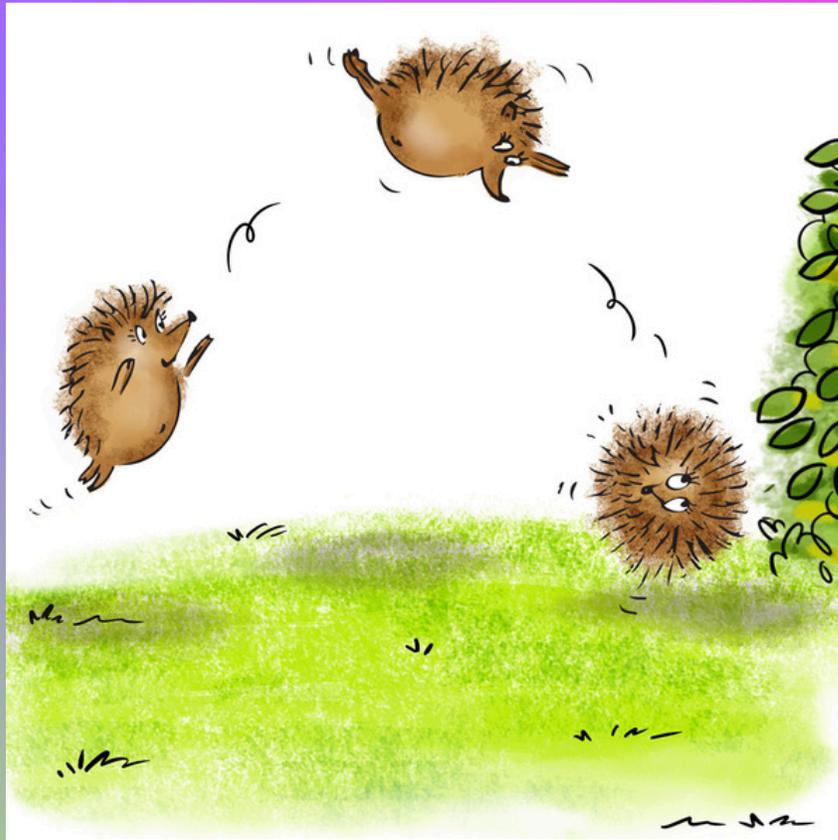
The little hedgehog looked bemused,  
And said to mum, “But I'm confused.  
If they have legs, why choose to roll?  
Wouldn't they enjoy a stroll?”



“I don't know, dear. It's what they do.  
So I am here to guide you through,  
Your hedgehog highway code exam,  
And stop you turning into jam.”

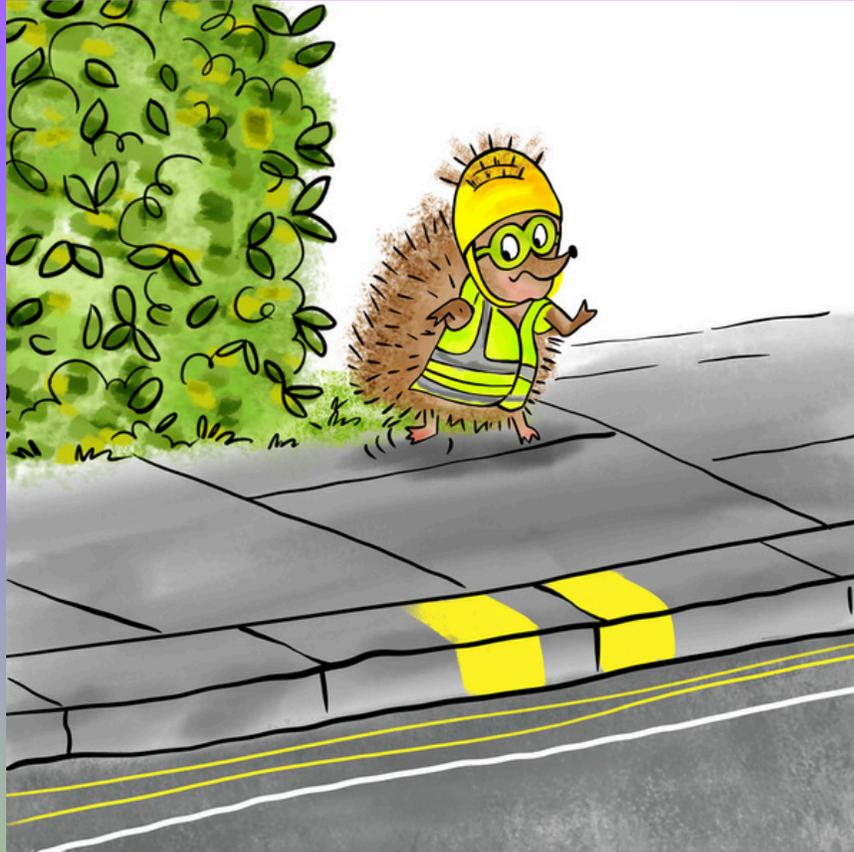
The mother promptly turned around,  
And picked some items off the ground,  
Then said, “Before we start the test,  
Put on this yellow safety vest.  
Make sure your helmet's fastened tight,  
And place your goggles on just right.”

The little hog put on the gear,  
Then mother said, "OK, my dear,  
There is one thing you need to see,  
That's shown to every hog trainee.  
Watch closely, now, and please sit still,  
While I perform the safety drill."



Her mother counted back from five,  
Then plunged into a headfirst dive,  
And elegantly broke her fall,  
By scrunching in a tiny ball.  
She said, "If you get into strife,  
This safety roll will save your life.  
It's saved the skin of many hogs,  
From motorcars and beastly dogs.

OK, you're ready now," said mum.  
"Your time to cross the road has come."  
The little hog stepped from the hedge,  
And gingerly approached the edge.



Her heart now pounding in her chest,  
Behind her little yellow vest,  
She looked upon the busy road,  
Where lots of nasty traffic flowed.  
Then, letting out a tiny fart,  
She crouched into a sprinting start.

Her mum cried, "On your marks, get set..."

To this the little spiked brunette,  
Raised up her bum into the air,  
And, for a moment, kept it there,  
Until her mother shouted, “Run!”

And her first road cross had begun.

As she began this risky race,  
She thought, “I'll set a zippy pace!”  
But hedgehogs don't move fast at all.  
Their top speed is a measly crawl.



So while she felt herself go fast,  
At least three lengthy minutes passed,  
And to her horror-struck dismay,  
She hadn't even reached halfway.  
By this point she had dodged a truck,  
And almost got completely stuck,  
Inside a bag of mouldy snacks.  
She thought, “I better make some tracks!”

The little hog ploughed on with grit,  
And managed to avoid a hit.  
Until a double decker bus, —  
Driven by a man named Gus—  
Sped full-tilt around the bend,  
At which point she could not pretend.  
“It's been,” she thought, “a decent run,  
But now I fear my days are done.  
Before I even count to three,  
I think I'll see the end of me!”



Her mother cried, “Don't just stand still,  
It's time to do your safety drill!”  
The little hedgehog sprung alive,  
And in a flash performed a dive,  
With elegance, panache and flair,  
That shot her forward in the air.  
She tucked her head into her chest,  
—which tightened up her safety vest—  
hen curled up neatly in a small,  
And little yellow cannonball.



She generated such a speed,  
I'm pleased to say that she was freed,  
From ending like a flattened toad,  
Upon this very busy road.  
“Mummy look,” she said with pride,  
“I've made it to the other side!”  
Her mum then hoisted up the mast,  
A big green flag that said YOU'VE PASSED!



Credits: Story by Super books

# Last note...

**DID YOU ENJOY OUR  
GOSSIP NEWS?**

**LET US KNOW!**

**DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO  
TELL? LET US KNOW!**

**AWESOMEKRIMPVARKIES@GMAIL.COM**

