

# Hedgehog Gossip Magazine

**Edition 03**



Awesome Krimpvarkies publishers



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## 2024....

What will 2024 bring for us? So far 2024 started of with a big bang! So many things happening at the Breeders Association, SAHBA. I must to tell you more about that! We are having heat waves, thunderstorms, shortage of electricity. It is back to work, back to school, and it seems that the December holidays are million years ago!

Let`s take a few minutes to relax and read our hedgehog gossip news.

Kick out your shoes, put on your reading glasses, close the door. Make time for yourself, and breathe.

If you need to take a break, take it on with the enthusiasm of a spikey escaping from his cage!

Quote of the month:

If only we can run the race of life like a hedgehog running on the wheel

Greetings, Lizl van Vreden

# SAHBA News

## **The year kick of on a very fast pace at South Africa`s Hedgehog Breeders Association.**

The Breeders Awards took place on the 26th of January. This is where our breeders get recognition every year. This year the competition was tough, as there is now more registered breeders than previously. The event was a huge success as we had a judge from overseas as well. Judith Duinekerken from The Hedgehog Program, The Netherlands graced us with her presence as a judge.

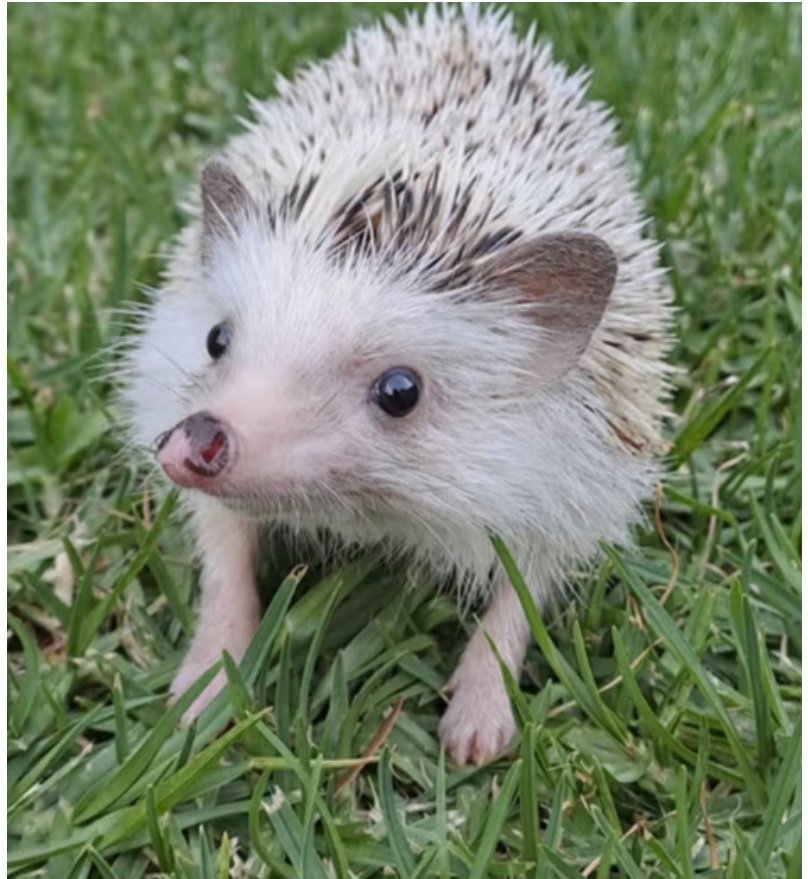
As a result of the awards, SAHBA was able to bring out a new edition of the SA Colour Chart. Our breeders were able to present new colour mutations.

The 2024 Breeders Course kicked off on the 1st of February with currently 4 students enrolled. Two of the students are a husband / wife team, the very first for us!

The 1st of March the Hedgehog 101 Course kicks off. This is a brand new course and very educational. As to date 7 students enrolled in this course. Our guess is that this course will grow in popularity as the word spread.

Please do visit the South Africa`s Hedgehog Breeders Association`s website for more info, look up our colour chart to see our hedgehogs. Read our Blog posts to understand exactly whats happening at the only hedgehog breeders registry in South Africa and Africa for that matter.

# *Rescue Story*



Ozzy- Not all animals ending in a dire situation are strays, petshop bought, or cross-breeds. No, sometimes it happens that humans also fails pedigreed animals. Ozzy are such a hedgehog. Born and bred in the hedgery of Awesome Krimpvarkies, Ozzy was booked early, before his eyes were open even. For the first year of his life, everything went very well. after that, his owner dropped of the scene and rehomed him without informing Lizl, his breeder. Although there was a contract in place for if such an event occur where the owner cant take care of the animal anymore.

Ozzy become a trade commodity in the town where he was. Each owner duly passes on his pedigreed documents and birth certificates. But only for the reason that it makes him more valuable! The breeder struggled to maintain contact with each new owner. Finally, another FB sales post, featuring Ozzy. This time with the help of Awesome Krimpvarkie members, Ozzy was bought up and are now brought to safety. Ozzy find his final and last home at Magriet Pretorius, good friend of Lizl, his breeder.

Ozzy`s story was such a heartfelt story, members who assisted in his rescue getting to know each other in person as well. See photo of Magriet and member Mel Botha. Mel was the one who collected Ozzy from the current owner. Magriet holding Ozzy. Second photo; Lizl visiting Ozzy



# Tienie Tenrec traveling the world



Fridays at Awesome Krimpvarkies are always an exciting day. Not only does it announce the weekend, but it kicks off with another chapter of the wonderful world of Tienie the little Tenrec. Tienie are the brainchild of Rika Zietsman, and with the wonderful imagination of writer Madelein Coetzee, Tienie is taking readers on an exciting journey around the world. While enroute on this world tour, readers get to learn more about tenrecs and their behaviour. Illustrations are done by the very creative Rika.

This book will be published later, currently we are enjoying every chapter of it. If you do not know about Tienie, make sure you join our WhatsApp group .

# RECIPE OF THE MONTH



## Hedgehog Quiche

### Ingredients:

- 5 x eggs
- ¼ green pepper cut in cubes
- 1 x sachet wetfood- any flavour, as long as it is not fish.
- Coconut oil

### Preparation:

Beat eggs good, mix wet food in, try not to mix in the gravy.

Add green pepper and mix good. Grease cupcake tin tray with coconut oil. Scoop teaspoons full in tray. One and a half teaspoon should be enough.

Bake in oven @ 180° for roughly 25 minutes. Enough for 24 servings. Can be frozen.

Contributor: Cherice Stevenson

# Hedgehog Tip of the day

Illnesses never comes at a normal hour. And very often also when vets offices are closed. In the case of an unknown illness or perhaps injury (dog bite wound), the best is always to practice a form of First Aid Treatment.

Now with hedgehogs that might be a prickly situation.

**Did you know that Hibernation treatment acts as a form as first aid?**

**Trauma Care:** If the hedgehog experienced trauma like an bite wound, hit by a car, fractured leg etc, you can keep the animal in a small container ( to restrict movement), you may try to stop bleeding if it is the case. If possible, keep the hog hydrated. If he / she does not want to drink water voluntary, use a syringe, if you can do it without causing further injuries. Also keep the animal warm. You can use a covered warm water bag for that purpose. By restricting movement, ensuring fluid intake and keeping him warm, you might just save his life. You can do this until you can get to a vet. If possible, you can always administer a bit of vitamins to the water.

This can be done for any other illnesses, but not for heat exhaustion. If it is an unknown illness where the animal does not eat, and you have to wait several days to see a vet, you need then to force feed the hedgehog.

**For heat exhaustion** you need to cool down the hedgehog's body temperature. For that we recommended that you slowly cool down his body. You can wipe his face, ears, feet with a wet cloth. Put an fan or air conditioning on in the room, but not directly on the hedgehog. If the hedgehog are conscious, you may let him walk in a bit of water to cool off. Ice packs in cages can help cools down cage temperature. If your hedgehog was unconscious as a result of heat exhaustion you need to get him examined by a vet after he has gained consciousness.

**Unknown illness;** Depending on long you have to wait to see a vet, you can practice hibernation attempt as a first aid method. If it will be a couple of days, you need to make sure the hedgehog are eating, perhaps you have to force feed him with a syringe. Soaked pellets works great, or Recovery Mousse from Royal Canine or Hills a/d. While waiting, Protexin (probiotic) added to food or water will assists with recovering process.



# Tenrec Tip of the day

## Nail Trimming.

Trimming nails are not always that easy. First of all, tenrecs have very sharp teeth and do not hesitate to use them! And they don't always want to be held still during this event.

As a tenrec owner, I am sure you are known to the fact that while they sleep, their bodily temperatures slows down, and they are quite cold and "stiff" when they wake up. As they start moving around, their pulse rate goes up, blood is pumping and within a few minutes they are awake and moving normal.

It might be to be of your advantage to trim your tenrecs nails in the middle of the day while they are asleep! If you are quick, you can do this before they wake up properly. While their movements are sluggish you can be finished before they realize what is happening.



# Hedgehog Story

## The hedgehog and the fox

Isaiah Berlin

A Fox, swimming across a river, was barely able to reach the bank, where he lay bruised and exhausted from his struggle with the swift current. Soon a swarm of blood-sucking flies settled on him; but he lay quietly, still too weak to run away from them.



A Hedgehog wanders by. "Let me drive the flies away," he said kindly.

"No, no!" exclaimed the Fox, "do not disturb them! They have taken all they can hold. If you drive them away, another greedy swarm will come and take the little blood I have left."

***Better to bear a lesser evil than to risk a greater in removing it.***

# The 19th specie...

## Eastern Hedgehog

New Species! The Eastern Forest Hedgehog, number 19 on the list of spiked hedgehogs.

Scientific name- *Mesechinus orientalis*.

In 2018 the first encounter was made with this new species. 28 November 2023 it was officially confirmed that researchers discovered a new species of hedgehogs in Eastern China. With his short quills, pointy nose and round ears on a quick glance, this hedgehog looks similar to a Lesser Tenrec! But DNA is confirmed, it is indeed a hedgehog and a new species.

Scientists initially thought it was a Hugh's Hedgehog due its dark appearance, but DNA proofed otherwise. Scientists collected 6 more hedgehogs, that originated from the scrublands and forests around Anhui and the neighboring province of Zhejiang.

Within the *Mesechinus* genus, also known as Steppe Hedgehogs, are 4 other hedgehog species.

- Gaoligong forest hedgehog *Mesechinus wangi*
- Daurian hedgehog- *Mesechinus dauuricus*
- Daurian hedgehog- *Mesechinus dauuricus*
- Hugh's hedgehog- *Mesechinus hughii*

### Did you know?

The Eastern Hedgehog is the only hedgehog species where the males has a different pelage colour than the female? the males are grey and the females are reddish brown. it is called sexually dimorphic.



**The end...**