

Hedgehog Gossip



December 2025 9th Edition



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Author`s Note

December! Christmas is here. Its unbelievable how quickly the year had come to an end. We reached some milestones and we hit had some very low points.

For myself, in my personal life, I quit my job to support my husband who went on medical pension. From August my life was a whirlwind of setting into a new pace. No rest for the wicked over at Awesome Krimpvarkies headquarters!

Summer is breeding season, and with that comes the extra work. We added some new items to our catalogue, be sure not to miss the catalogue that will be shared early 2025. So, we are more busy than before retirement !

From the Awesome Krimpvarkies team I would like to wish you a blessed festive season !



Greetings, Lizl

SAHBA News



At SAHBA is never a day to rest. Breeders are preparing their entries for the Annual Awards that will take place in February 2026. Breeders can only enter babies born during the course of the year 2025.

This is the one event that breeders will have nail biting habit moments. SAHBA Awards is to award the breeders for their inputs towards improving African Pygmy hedgehogs lineages in South Africa. 2025 also celebrates the year where Lesser Tenrecs were formally accepted at SAHBA. Tenrec breeders will have their own Awards event.

Be sure not to miss out on the dates

Hedgehog Awards: 6 February 2026

Tenrec Awards: 14 February 2026

Changes at SAHBA:

- Rika Zietsman left as an registered breeder and Tenrec Board Member. She will be focusing on her pet courier business and being a private breeder.
- Lynda Mitchell was forced due to health matters to cut down on her breeding, but still remains a small time breeder and Board Member.
- Madelein Coetzee were appointed as Tenrec Board member. Madelein bring valuable skills and experience to the team.



SAHBA Breeders List

South Africa`s Hedgehog Breeders Association Contact List: 2025



Hedgehog Breeders

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

Northern Cape

- Jean Fölscher Prieska- 081 587 5963

KZN

- Lynda Mitchell Amanzimtoti- 076 136 7037

Tenrec Breeders

- Melanie Duvenhage- Krugersdorp- 071 191 7298
- Lizl van Vreden- Pullenshope- 072 090 3479
- Jean Folscher- Prieska - 081 587 5963
- Lynda Mitchell - Amanzimtoti- 076 136 7037

sabreeders4@gmail.com

**SAHBA
Registered
Breeders**

News from abroad



Prevalence of Lungworm Infections in Hedgehogs (*Erinaceus roumanicus*) in Greece and a Novel Therapeutic Approach for Treatment

In total, 56 hedgehogs that were found wandering in urban areas during June to August 2025 were admitted to ANIMA—The Hellenic Wildlife Care Association (Athens), a licensed wildlife hospital, which is officially authorized to perform veterinary procedures (license number YPEN/DDD/54344/1692).

During the first part of the study, all animals were sampled and examined individually for the presence of lungworms.

One hedgehog, which presented with nasal discharge, died, and necropsy and lung histopathology were performed. Adult parasites collected during the necropsy were identified.

Thereafter, 14 infected hedgehogs were randomly chosen from the parasitized ones and were included in the second part of the study to assess the efficacy of treatment with esafoxolaner, eprinomectin, and praziquantel (NexGard® Combo Boehringer Ingelheim, Ingelheim, Germany). NexGard® Combo was administered and animals were successfully treated.



Guessed the Greeks learned what we know for more than a year now.

News from abroad continue

While European hedgehogs numbers are dwindling, there are people out there busting themselves to make a difference. The UK has several rescue shelters, and more and more across Europe people are jumping in to make a difference.

- Judith Duinekerk from the Netherlands, The Hedgehog Program, building hedgehog domes in her hometown, and offering free online course for people across the globe to learn from her. The hedgehog domes are natural shelters where hedgehogs can safely hibernate, raise babies or escape heat during the summer. Build in such a way that it is eco friendly and predator safe.
- Dr. Massimo Vaketa from Italy runs a hedgehog only clinic, treating injured or sick hedgehogs and raising awareness.
- A French hedgehog shelter, LPO (Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux) involves creating a safe, predator-proof space for gardens, often using DIY wooden boxes or repurposed pallets, filled with leaves/straw, placed in quiet spots to encourage hibernation and nesting



Local hedgehog news



Southern African Hedgehog- Atelerix Frontalis

During the raining season the indigenous hedgehogs are often found in residential areas, it appears that our populations in some areas are increasing, which is good news. Unfortunately, some found under not so good situations.

Some of the hedgehog cases from this summer:

- Pullenshope, Mpumalanga- 2 males on separate occasions safely released.
- Phalaborwa Natural Heritage Foundation NPC, two hedgehogs were confiscated from two individuals trying to sell them off. They were charged for illegal trafficking of wild life.
- Secunda - 3 hedgehogs on separate occasions safely released
- Middelburg- two hedgehogs safely released, and a 3rd required vet treatment and handed over to Dullstroom Bird and Prey Sanctuary.
- South African Wild Life Rehabilitation Centre has their hands full every year, and this year was no exception, including new-born`s that were to be hand raised. They deal with the largest numbers of hedgehogs found in gardens every year.
- Naboomspruit- Wildheart, currently taking care of a juvenile hedgehog.
- Bushbuckridge- Individual found a hedgehog in his yard, didn`t know what type of animal it is, hit it with a spade and called SAHBA afterwards for assistance, sadly the hedgehog didn`t make it before help could arrived.

More local News

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South African
Wildlife Rehabilitation
Centre

Judy

073 112 1131

CONTACT NUMBERS BY AREA:

Pretoria: Leanne: 082 852 2510

West Rand: Georgina: 082 559 7105

South: Vaughan: 082 458 6431

East: Marise: 061 4414825

PLEASE

Call Us

- Your only initial job is to keep your rescue warm and safe.
- Call us to chat first
- No food
- No water

**WE ARE FULLY PERMITTED:
THIS INCLUDES THREATENED
OR PROTECTED SPECIES**

PERMITTED

Contact details of Wild Life Re-habbers if you come across indigenous wild life that requires help.



More local News

Christmas photos from Awesome Krimpvarkies members



Contributor: Tannie Leana



Contributor: Spokie



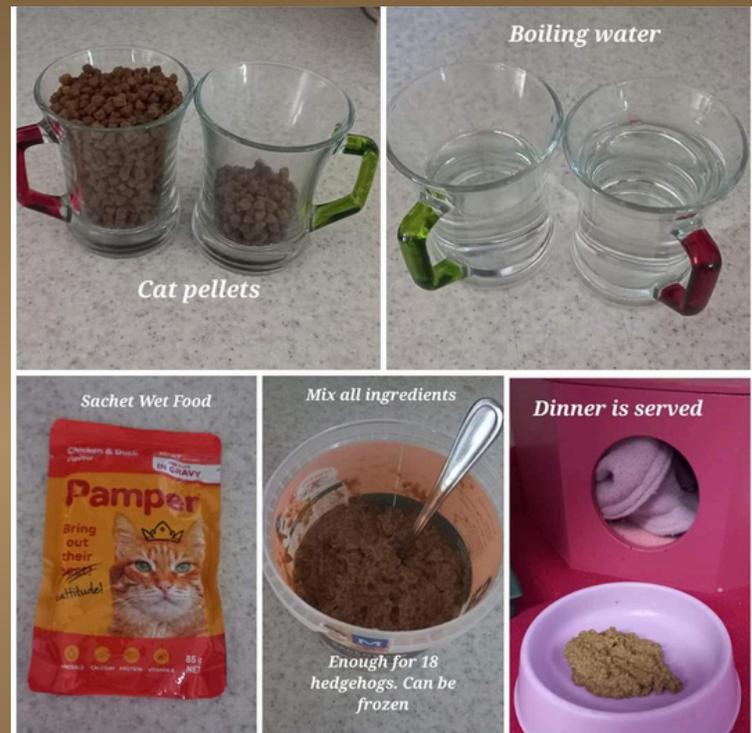
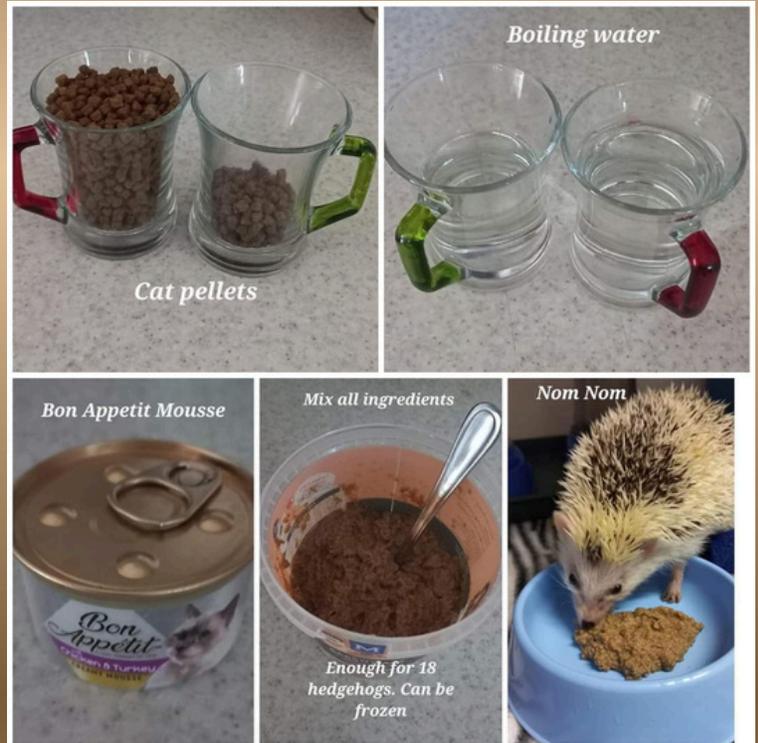
Contributor: Spokie



Contributor: Lizl

Recipe ideas

Running out of ideas on how to treat your hedgy?
Need to save money, or stretch treats?



Fun Facts!

Hedgehogs only has one set of teeth during their life, which erupts at around 21 days of age.

Male tenrec's scent marking can be quite a smelly affair. Did you know the more you clean the cage the more the male will feel the need to mark the cage

Tenrec babies can leave the den as early as 35 days after birth.

Thorvald, a European Hedgehog, was confirmed to be 16 years old by counting growth rings in his jawbone.

Hedgehogs memory are triggered by things such as smell, taste, sound and things formed out of habit

Wild hedgehogs will often return to the same area each year.

A Pool Fit for a Hedgehog

Summer was here, and it was a hot one! Cora the hedgehog was out foraging for food, trying to stay cool. She saw her friend Heather by her den. Heather was splashing around in her little pool outside.

“Hi Heather!” Cora called. “When did you get a pool?”

“Hi Cora! I just got it yesterday, it’s really helping cool me down. Would you like to join me?” Heather replied.

“I would love to, thanks!” They talked for a long while, and Cora had a lot of questions for Heather about the pool.

She asked who Heather bought it from, if it was expensive, and if Heather thought she was going to use it a lot this summer.



The Pool

“I saw a commercial for the pool company, and the commercial got me thinking about how nice a pool would be. I looked at reviews to see if other people liked their pools, and if the company did a good job.

When I saw that the company did a good job, and that their price was similar to other companies, I decided to buy one! I would definitely recommend them to you. I think I’m going to love having a pool on hot days like this one!” Heather told Cora.



Cora thanked Heather for letting her cool off, and continued to look for food. As she was looking for food and munching on delicious insects, she could not stop thinking about the pool. It did get awfully hot in the summertime, and water was hard to come by on the hot days. She decided to do some research of her own before making a decision.



She looked up hedgehog-sized pools, and the company Heather talked about was the first listing. She read the prices and the reviews other hedgehogs left about the company and the pools. It looked like they did a great job, and she even watched a video of the commercial Heather had seen! Then Cora looked up other companies. They all looked similar, but since Heather had a good experience with this company, Cora decided to go with the same one.



A week later, Cora was happily splashing in her own pool!
Heather walked by, and Cora thanked her for the
recommendation. It was one of the best summers yet!



Pip the Tenrec

Deep in the dry, spiny forests of southwestern Madagascar, a lesser hedgehog tenrec named Pip uncurled from his cozy day-den in a hollow baobab tree. The sun had just dipped below the horizon, and Pip's long, sensitive whiskers were already twitching in the cooling night air



Pip was on a mission for his favorite treat: fat, juicy earthworms. He was a master of the forest floor, using his long, pointed snout to probe deep into the leaf litter.

The Big Find: Beneath a rotting log, Pip hit the jackpot. He felt a faint vibration—a worm! He began to dig with his sharp, hooked claws, his cream-and-brown spines bristling with excitement.

Pip the Tenrec continuous

The Surprise Guest: Just as he was about to snag his prize, a second pair of whiskers poked out from the other side of the log. It was Zaza, another lesser tenrec. Pip puffed up his spines, ready to roll into a defensive ball. I am not sharing this he thought.

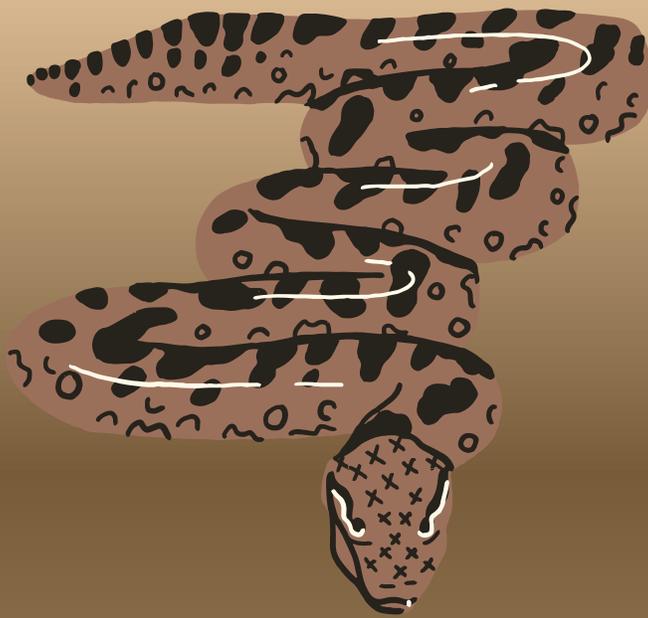
But then, she introduced herself with a shy smile. And he thought by himself, having a friend would actually be nice!



After their midnight feast, the air felt unusually humid. Though they usually inhabit arid regions, they wandered toward a small "gallery forest" where a hidden stream flowed. There is a sand bed next to it, and the two rolled in the sand. They scratching awkwardly but effectively, they scrubbed off all the dry skin and itchy spots.

Pip the Tenrec continuous

After their bath, Pip and Zaza climbed into the gnarled branches of an octopus tree to hunt for beetles. As they navigated the thorny limbs, Pip's sensitive whiskers brushed against something that wasn't a branch—it was cold, smooth, and patterned with dark diamonds.



A Madagascar tree boa was coiled silently in the shadows, its lidless eyes reflecting the faint starlight. Sensing the threat, Pip and Zaza didn't flee; instead, they instantly rolled into tight, impenetrable balls. Their specialized back muscles pulled their spiny coats over their soft bellies, turning them into two prickly "burrs" clinging to the bark.

The boa flicked its tongue, tasting the air.

One experimental nudge from the snake's snout met Pip's upright, needle-sharp spines, causing the predator to recoil.

Pip the Tenrec continuous

Seeing the snake hesitate, Zaza slightly uncurled and performed a classic tenrec maneuver: head-bucking. She lunged her spiky forehead toward the snake's nose while letting out a sharp, puffing hiss.

The Great Escape: Realizing these "snacks" were more trouble than they were worth in size, the boa slithered upward toward easier prey. Pip and Zaza waited until the vibrations faded, then used their hooked claws to scramble head-first down the trunk—a climbing skill true hedgehogs don't possess—and find shelter underneath a hollowed tree trunk.

The two tenrecs fell asleep exhausted after their ordeal

After spending such an eventful night, they become friends for life.



Last note...

**DID YOU ENJOY OUR
GOSSIP NEWS?**

LET US KNOW!

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

AWESOMEKRIMPVARKIES@GMAIL.COM

