

Hedgehog Gossip

Awesome
Krimpvarkies..
4 Generations

Grandma Marselie

Mom Marilyn



Grt Grandma Sassy

Baby Merida

Breeder: Lizl van
Vreden

February 2025 6th Edition



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Index

- Author`s Note Page 3
- SAHBA News Page 4
- SNews from abroad Page 5
- Local News- Page 7
- Local Tenrecs Page 8
- Recipe of the month- Page 9
- Fun Facts - Page 10
- Our people`s success stories Page 11
- Hare and the Hedgehog Page 12
- Last Note Page 16

Author`s Note

Hello dear spikey friends.

Its been a while since we had a bit of gossip. Where is life taking us, if months can pass by so quickly? I feel guilty of neglecting a lot of things, especially my hedgehog friends.

I was conflicted about the front cover and decided to bring honors to little Merida. You may have heard the story, apologies if it is a repeat.

I was awaiting a very long time to have a photo shoot with 4 generations captured in one photo.

Last year November the opportunity were there. Marilyn had a litter and darling Merida grazed us with her presence. On the Sunday I took the babies out for a bonding session. As I walk with them in my hands, my sandals got stuck and i tripped. Little Merida fall flat on her stomach. Little bit of poop and a small amount of blood came out. I was horrified!

But, other than that, she responded well. I waited a few days and then took this photo. I think only a breeder can explain this feeling, the pride, the love is overwhelming. To tell you how I felt to be able to accomplished this is impossible,I don`t have the vocabulary to describe this.

Two days after I took the photo I found Merida dead in the cage.

That was devastating! I have cried so much, and to give the anxiously awaiting client the news was even worse. This lineage is so precious and dear to me, and Lynette, Merida`s owner had from day one felt the same about this baby as me. This was one of the darkest times for me as a breeder. It felt like she hanged on for the sake of the photo.

Breeding is really not always sunshine and roses. Sometimes fate comes along and beat you down to the ground with a tragedy. I guess it is the getting up that matters hey? This page is way to short to express all the feelings.

Greetings, Lizl

SAHBA News

- 1) There is a third edition out of the Hedgehog Colour Chart, and SAHBA breeders are making sure that South Africa also get the rare and beautiful colours other countries have. Make sure you get a copy!!
- 2) The very first Tenrec Course is currently taking place. Started off on the 3rd of February. SAHBA were honored to have a doctor from Hungary that attended it. SAHBA is getting on the map finally.
- 3) The Hedgehog 101 starts on 1 March. Second time this course gets to be presented.
- 4) SAHBA were asked by the Bushveld Biodiversity Research Centre to compile a breeding and release program for indigenous hedgehogs (Southern African Hedgehogs) What a privilege!



The Southern African Hedgehogs of the Research Centre

News from abroad

Extracted from articles posted by BBC News.

Last year we posted about the blonde hedgehogs of Alderney. These European hedgehogs that are a blonde color can only be found in Alderney and the Scottish island North Ronaldsay.



Recently there were an alarming number of hedgehogs being sick or dying, and the causes at first seemed to be a mystery. Through the autumn months an increasing number of hedgehogs had been found with a significant number of ticks along with breathing, neurological, skin and insufficient weight problems.

The Alderney Animal Welfare Society ask residents to collect poop samples, and it was found that the illnesses were caused by parasites. The parasite infestation were more severe, brought on by wet weather. Alderney has no foxes or badgers, the biggest threats to their hedgehogs are large birds and traffic.

More news from abroad



Alberta the hedgehog

Alberta the blonde hedgehog created a stir of emotion after being found struck by a strimmer and infested with fleas in Wiltshire.

ITV West Country reported that she was rescued by staff from RSPCA Oak and Furrows near Cricklade and needed weeks of rehabilitation and treatment to restore her to good health.

"She was absolutely drenched from heavy rain storms with blunted spines near her head, suggesting a very close call with a strimmer," said a member of staff.

Alberta has now been released into neighbouring woodland

A strimmer is a hedge and grass trimmer, similar that a wead-eater

Local hedgehog news



Mural of a huge hedgehog by artist Dekor One 7 February in Johannesburg, South Africa

This photo of the woman walking past the mural were selection for the first week's of February`s best photos from across the African continent and beyond.

How cool is that? Did you know we had such a mural in South Africa?

Local Tenrecs



Katinka, owner Lizl



Axl, from Madelein



Lady, owner Chrisley



Grumpy. owner Lydia



Pippie



Lynda's dangerous raptor



Can you try to do colour identification on these tennies?

Recipe ideas

Running out of ideas on how to treat your hedgy?

1 x cup raw mince meat

1 x cup grated carrots

1 x raw egg

2 x spoons mash potatoes / or cooked sweet potato.

Mix all ingredients together, form little meatballs and baked on a greased oven plate.

Can be frozen.



Fun Facts!

Tenrec`s teeth are considered primitive. Their molars form a V-shape, it is called Zalambdodonto. One of the reasons why tenrecs are regarded as living fossils.

The common tenrec has 36 nipples, the most of any mammal species

There are 19 different species of hedgehogs in the world

Hedgehogs have a natural immunity to snake venom

Krimpvarkies word so genoem omdat hulle “krimp” in `n bolletjie, en die “varkie” vir die geluide wat hulle maak.

Hedgehogs are named after the garden hedges they live in and the pig-like grunt sounds they make- European Hedgehogs

Our members successes

This is a new feature that we hope will continue in our community. Sharing our members successes.

First one to feature in our magazine is Rika Zietsman with her new venture of Dori's pet courier business.

Exotic pet owners can now be rest assured, that anything from hog to snake, and all creepy crawlies will be in safe hands, as Rika herself is the owner of a few slithery pets. We are proud to say, she is a member of Awesome Krimpvarkies.

Well done and safe travels!



DORI'S PET COURIER
* 078 004 3039 *

Pet Courier

26 February

- # Christiana
- # Jan Kemp
- # Hartswater
- # Kuruman
- # Kathu
- # Kuruman
- # Vryburg
- # Delarey
- # Ottosdal
- # Hartbeesfontein
- # Klerksdorp
- # Potchefstroom
- # Johannesburg
- # Boksburg
- # Benoni
- # Randburg

27 February

- # Randburg
- # Potchefstroom
- # Stilfontein
- # Klerksdorp
- # Wolmaranstad
- # Bloemhof
- # Christiana
- # Kimberly

WHAT WE OFFER :

- * best prices
- * love, safety, care
- * live location
- * whatsapp group
- * regular updates
- * road plan before we start the trip

We do :

- Gauteng
- NorthWest
- Northern Cape
- Eastern Cape
- Mpumalanga
- FreeState

We are :

Rika : 078 004 3039
Deon : 061 537 1655

**Contact: 078 004 3039/
061 537 1655**

Hare and the Hedgehog

Author

Retold by Elaine Ridge

Many years ago there was a hare that could run faster than any other animal on the farm. He was very, very proud that he could run so fast. He could not help reminding the other animals what a fine runner he was.

“I am faster than the wind,” he boasted again and again to his friend, Hedgehog. One morning Hare and Hedgehog met at the gate leading to a field on the farm. It did not take Hare long to boast, “I am the best runner in the world. I am faster than the wind.”



“I don’t think so,” said Hedgehog firmly. “I think even I could run faster than you.”

“A slowcoach like you?” Hare laughed nastily. “You don’t have a hope of running faster than me.”

Hedgehog thought for a bit. Then he spoke quietly, “All right. Let’s see who’s faster. We can race against each other tomorrow. We will run from this gate to the bottom of the field and back again.”

“Fine,” said Hare. “I won’t even have to run to beat you, old Short Legs.”

“You’ll see,” said Hedgehog. “You don’t have to have long legs to win a race, you know. I’ll meet you at this gate tomorrow, just after sunrise. I will win the race. You must promise me that when I do you will never call me Short Legs or Slowcoach again.”

Hedgehog told his older brother about the race, “Oh dear,” said his brother, “you have made a terrible mistake. Whatever made you take on something so impossible? Hare is faster than the wind. Now he will be able to call you Slowcoach and Short Legs for the rest of your life.”
“Don’t worry,” said Hedgehog. “I have a plan. A very clever plan. If you help me, we can teach Hare a lesson. He will have to stop boasting – and he will never be able to call me Slowcoach or Short Legs again!”

The next day Hedgehog got to the gate long before Hare. As usual, it took Hedgehog a long time to get there, but he was waiting with a smile on his face when Hare bounded up just before the sun peeped over the hill.

“Good morning, Short Legs. Are you sure you still want to race me? You know you haven’t the slightest chance of winning. Are you ready to be beaten? Remember, I can run faster than the wind,” said Hare.

Hare was so sure that he was going to win that he had even been thinking up some new names to call Hedgehog after the race. This was going to be fun.

Hedgehog just smiled quietly. He stood calmly waiting at the starting line. “Let’s just make sure of the rules,” he said. “We’re going to race to the bottom of the field, and then back to this gate, right?”

“Yes,” said Hare. Then he shouted, “Ready! Steady! Go!” and bounded away as fast as he could.

As he got near to the bottom of the field, he couldn’t help chuckling to himself. “Hedgehog is probably still trying to get started. Oh, he is such a slowcoach.”



Imagine his surprise, then, when Hedgehog popped up cheerfully at the bottom of the field and cried out, “Got here before you!”

Hare stopped for a moment. Then he turned and ran back faster than he had ever run before. He didn’t usually puff and pant, but he was puffing and panting and sweating by the time he touched the gate.

He looked over his shoulder. There was no sign of Hedgehog. This time, he was sure he had won. Then a happy voice came from the other side of the gate. “Once again, I got here before you!” It was impossible!

But there was Hedgehog, smiling sweetly at him.

But how had Hedgehog managed to beat Hare? The truth is that he didn’t run at all. When Hare set off for the bottom of the field, Hedgehog hid near the gate. His brother was already hiding at the bottom of the field.

When Hare reached the bottom of the field, it was the brother who popped up and said, “Got here before you!” Hare was so surprised that he didn’t even notice that it was a different hedgehog.

When Hare reached the finish, puffing and panting and sweating, all Hedgehog had to do was to come quietly out of his hiding place and say, “Once again, I got here before you!”

Hare never boasted again – at least not to Hedgehog. He became a much nicer friend. He never called Hedgehog nasty names again. And he never found out how Hedgehog had won the race.

Sneaky or wise?



Last note

Thank you for taking the time to read our Hedgehog Gossip. If you haven't read the first 5 editions, you can look it up on our website, [Awesome Krimovarkies](#).

Hope you enjoyed it! Its a wet day and week, keep safe, and keep your spikeys warm.

Did you join our FB Page yet?
Our WhatsApp Group?

If not, we would love to have you part of our community, just drop us a message.

Do you have a story to tell? Please contact us on 072 090 3479 or email us your story awesomekrimpvarkies@gmail.com

Last note...

DID YOU ENJOY OUR
GOSSIP NEWS?
LET US KNOW!
DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO
TELL? LET US KNOW!
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