



BRACKLEY HOGWATCH - 07528 119416

A community conservation project dedicated to growing a strong hedgehog population in Brackley and the surrounding five-mile radius - Registered Charity No. 1188770

NOVEMBER HOG BLOG #5

November was full of fluctuating weather, ranging from snow and ice, unseasonably warm days and nights, torrential rain causing flooding in places, high winds and a gloom that seemed to linger over this region for ever! Nevertheless, regardless of the inclement weather, there was an abundance of hedgehog sightings, echoed nationwide, as many hogs have yet to hibernate. Particularly disconcerting were the number of sightings of nursing mothers with their very young hoglets in tow. Climate change is having a massive impact on wildlife and our much milder winters mean that hedgehogs are having later litters and often do not hibernate at

all but just have short periods where they will go into a deeper sleep, waking again when the temperatures go up resulting in them venturing out for a snack.

This is why it is vitally important to continue supplementary feeding during the winter months as a hedgehog's natural foods will be in short supply and any hog out foraging will welcome a meal and some fresh water to drink. This simple deed could save a hedgehog's life and is very easy to do.

To that end we posted on our FB page a reminder about feeding, and were staggered that we received over 2.8K likes, from all over the world! Lots of people posted photographs of their (still)

visiting hogs, others asked for advice – which we gladly gave – but the subject of what to feed differed widely from country to country, sometimes with conflicting advice being given.

Here in the UK the BHPS (British Hedgehog Preservation Society) recommend good quality meaty hedgehog food, meaty cat or dog food and/or dry kitten biscuits - ensuring that meat is the first listed ingredient and fresh water in a shallow bowl. Foods **NOT** to feed include bread, milk, raw meat/eggs, dried fruit/grapes, mealworms, sunflower seeds and hearts and peanuts (whole or crushed).

Brackley Hogwatch wholeheartedly follow this guidance and recommend, if you feed hogs, you do too.

GOOD FOOD FOR HEDGEHOGS

- Fresh Water
- Meaty Dog/Cat food (jelly or gravy with meat as the first ingredient)
- Kitten Biscuits
- Branded Hedgehog Food



BAD FOOD - DO NOT FEED

- Bread and Milk
- Raw Meat/Offal
- Raw Eggs
- Dried Fruit/Grapes
- Mealworms
- Peanuts (whole or crushed)
- Sunflower Seeds and Hearts

Sadly, hedgehog rescues throughout the country are full and when a space becomes available is quickly filled with a new patient. We have experienced the same problem this month as we can only take in so many sick hogs or orphaned hoglets at any one time. Turning hogs away is extremely distressing for us as our mission is to save as many as we possibly can. But to increase the amount of hogs we can rescue means **WE NEED MORE** rescuers in Brackley. Rescuers need to be based from their own home and have plenty of free TIME, a suitable SPACE to keep hedgehogs (such as a shed that can be converted) and be able to DRIVE (to finders, vets, courses etc). Brackley Hogwatch will sponsor your training at Vale Wildlife Hospital and will help to fund food and medicines.

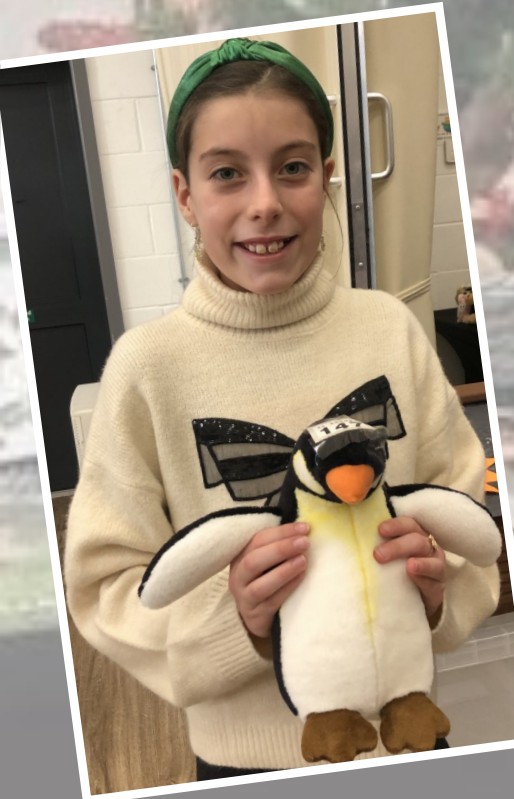
Previous animal care experience would be useful but not essential. **Please get in touch for more information if you are interested in becoming a rescuer by calling 07528 119416.**

Please note that even when we are full and unable to admit a hog, we have continued to support finders and direct them, in most cases, to a rescue with availability. We have also received several calls from people out of our five-mile radius but once again, advice has been given and the contact details of other rescues passed on.



In the run-up to Christmas, fundraising has been in full swing this month and we have had some very successful events resulting in over £800 being raised which will help with veterinary costs, medicine and food. Thanks go to our amazing fundraising volunteers for giving up their free time to run these stalls and a huge thank-you to everyone who supported us by visiting and purchasing from them. The children's cuddly toy raffle was particularly successful and lots of cuddly toys have gone home with delighted children (*see below*).

Brackley Hogwatch would like to give a big shout out to David Williams for very generously building and donating bespoke hedgehog houses for us to raffle. These really are the crème de la crème of hedgehog dwellings and make wonderful cosy safe nests for a hog to sleep and even hibernate in. Thank-you David.



This month, we have received lots of donations from our Amazon Wish List for which we are truly grateful, as are the hungry hogs in our care . Without the generosity of you, the public, we would not be able to continue to save these wonderful creatures.

Hedgehogs that no longer need medical care but which are still too small to hibernate, are placed with a foster carer for over-wintering. Once spring arrives, they will then be released back into the wild. With the shortest day of the year fast approaching, spring really is a lovely thought!

Enjoy the run-up to Christmas and please don't forget to continue putting food and fresh water out for any visiting hogs. We'd love to see your photos too so please do post them on our FB page.



DONATIONS – would be gratefully received as we rely entirely on local fundraising and donations. These can be made in several ways:

By BankTransfer: Account name: Brackley Hogwatch sort code: 30 96 26 Account: 77712468

By Paypal: @Brackley Hogwatch or hogwatch@outlook.com

By Card: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/Brackleyhogwatch>

Cash/cheque donations made payable to Brackley Hogwatch c/o Julie Wade 29 Newbery Drive, Brackley NN13 6NN

Amazon wish List: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3I8R6PWJ5920E...>