

## Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society Annual Report for 2012

Again I'm going to combine the hedgehog figures article with the end of year report. So here goes.

Figures were once again up on previous years with over 579 hedgehogs taken in for care. This is an increase of just over 34% on last year - quite a lot considering we have less carers than we've had in previous years. I received data from 11 people, this is somewhat down on previous years and we really do need some more carers to help out on the front line.

As would be expected all the numbers are up, we released 358 (62%) hedgehogs back into the wild, which is quite a big increase on last year's 216 (50%). We overwintered 84 (15%) which is very similar to last year's 80 (19%), although with it being such a long winter this year it's meant a longer burden for our carers.

The male / female split was similar to previous years at 54% male to 46% female. The really good point is that we only lost 175 (30%) of our charges which, compared to 168 (38%) last year is quite an achievement.

The summer months were the busiest with the majority of cases coming in between June and October with a few less than last year during the quieter, winter months.

We've continued with our quest to educate the population of Durham and North Yorkshire and Cleveland on all things 'Hedgehog' by giving presentations to schools, libraries and adult groups, which have all been fun as well as earning us the odd donation.

Our fundraising could have done a little better, but again we lack the volunteers to go out and fundraise for us. We hope to visit Elmwood community Centre again this year for their summer carnival and anywhere else we can drum up the manpower for.

We've moved into the 21st century by creating a page on Facebook. Anyone already on there can find us by searching for 'Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society'. We would love to hear from you and see any pictures you would like to post, with a hedgehog theme of course.

Our memberships are up slightly, we currently have 102 members compared to 95 this time last year. We've also started sending out the newsletter by email. This is in line with many other organisations and has brought about quite a large saving in the cost of stamps. To post a newsletter to everyone 4 times a year would cost us over £200 which would be money better spent looking after hedgehogs, so a big thank you to those that get theirs by email. A slight drawback to the emailed newsletter is that people read it and forget about it and we still have 40 members still to renew this year - hence the paper copy for those concerned. If you've asked for your newsletter by email and it hasn't been arriving please let me know, they go out roughly March, June, September and December.

I would again like to thank everyone for their kind donations, both with membership renewals and on their own, I know I say it every year, but costs are going through the roof and our capital in the bank is going down. Every donation is very gratefully received. On the donation theme I would again like to congratulate Yvonne for being awarded a donation from the Hawsker Dog Club for the fourth year in a row, and of course a big thanks to the dog club for their continued generosity.

Chris Firth  
Chairman  
Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society.