

## Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society Annual Report for 2017

Welcome to this year's annual report and the collation of hedgehog figures for 2017.

As usual I'll start by trying to analyse the figures. A slight change in the way I've collected the figures this year is that I haven't included those from people that have their own named rescue centre or charity, especially those outside the main Cleveland area. This is to keep our CHPS figures accurate and not have data duplicated where it's passed on to national groups. I should mention that if anyone sends me figures I remove your name before passing on any information.

So, total hedgehogs taken in were 486, an increase of 52 on 2016 and the second busiest year we've had, only being beaten by 2012 when we had 579. The highest number taken in was 214 by Briony, as usual. Figures were collected from 8 carers, although I suspect other people cared for hedgehogs and haven't told me about them!

We released 317 (65%) back to the wild (an increase of 4% on last year) and 32 were kept over the long winter as they were not big enough to release before the weather turned. 72 (15%) were classed as babies and sadly 129 (27%) either died or were put to sleep by a vet, a drop of 2% from last year, which, of course, is good. There were 193 (40%) males and 146 (30%) females, these figures are a bit fuzzy as not everyone sexed the hedgehogs all the time, sometimes there are more important things to be getting on with than finding out what sex your patient is.

We took in hedgehogs every month of the year with February being the quietest (4 hogs) and October being the busiest (74 hogs), it looks like the Autumn orphans were to blame for that. All in all I would say we had a very successful year, a big well done to our carer network and the professionalism that our front line carers have used throughout.

*Now for the rest of the report.*

We continue to do talks and presentations for anyone who wants to listen to us which this year has included an Alzheimer's group, several schools, Durham Wildlife group at Washington, children's groups at libraries, Billingham town council fun day, a Beavers group and a Ladies group in Norton. We've already had several requests for talks for the coming year.

The society currently has 89 members an increase of 2 in the last year and our Facebook page continues to grow with 442 followers an increase of 143 on this time last year.

A few of our members have set up their own groups and been quite successful. One of the things to remember is that you learn as you go and as you get more experienced you will save more hedgehogs, but even when you are very experienced you can't save them all.

We've had continuing excellent support from Jacquie Patterson vets, even though they sometimes pass on rather a lot of hedgehogs all at once that they've received from other sources. Sadly not many other vets have been quite so supportive.

We've had several reports of bad advice from the RSPCA. This includes a suggestion from their switchboard that a hedgehog attacked by a dog should be tucked under a bush and left to its own devices. We continue to advise them where we can and hope that the message gets passed on to those concerned.

Although we encouraged the paying of subscriptions by Paypal a while ago, we are now hoping to migrate to paying by bank transfer as PayPal take a chunk of your money and we would rather have that in our bank than theirs. It is also possible to set up a standing order if you wish but please use your surname and membership number as the reference, so that we can see who has paid. Our bank account details are: account name: Clev Hedgehog Pres Soc, account number: 14592348, sort code 05-09-34 and subscriptions look at sticking at £10 for the foreseeable future.

I would like to sum up as usual by thanking everyone for their kind donations, both with membership renewals and on their own; we accept donations by PayPal, bank transfer, cheque or cash, we couldn't manage without you and we really do appreciate every penny you send us.

Chris Firth  
Chairman  
Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society.