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## Help A Hedgehog Hospital...Statement of Operation

### **Our mission statement:**

#### ***3H exists to:***

- R**escue Hedgehogs in Gloucestershire,
- R**ehabilitate them, and wherever possible,
- R**eturn them to the wild.

## **An overview of Help A Hedgehog Hospital**

### **Who are we, what do we do and how to we do it?**

Help a Hedgehog Hospital (3H) is a non-profit making organisation, founded by former Vet Nurse, Annie Parfitt in 2009. She is assisted by a core team of volunteers who provide administration, fundraising, hedgehog care, talks to the public, press liaison and attend local events to promote our work. Although expenses can be claimed e.g. travel costs for collecting and delivering hedgehogs to the hospital, most volunteers offer their services free of charge as their contribution to our work.

We are here to raise awareness of the endangered status of hedgehogs, educate and inform the public about their needs and welfare and provide specialist veterinary care and rehabilitation in conjunction with our local veterinary practises. Our carers have received training on the care and rehabilitation of Hedgehogs via a British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) approved course, delivered by Vale Wildlife Hospital near Tewkesbury, Glos. and are registered as carers with the BHPS (Registered charity number 362885). Hedgehogs are brought to us by members of the public, local veterinary practises with whom we have fostered good relations, and by other welfare organisations.

We are currently carrying out an extensive survey of Hedgehog numbers via a network of volunteer Hedgehog Wardens who cover the county. Using Google mapping, we aim to plot the distribution of hedgehogs in

A non-profit organisation providing Hedgehog Rescue and Rehabilitation for Stroud and the Five Valleys  
British Hedgehog Preservation Society (Registered Charity Number 326885) Registered Carer.

Gloucestershire to identify those areas where they are thriving, those where they are scarce and areas where hedgehogs have disappeared entirely. This will assist us in making decisions about areas suitable for reintroduction and possible release sites for hedgehogs that cannot be returned to the place where they were found. The latter may be due to environmental reasons or because the hedgehogs were orphaned and hand-reared and need to be released in an area where they can be monitored and fed until they learn how to fend for themselves. However, in the majority of cases all hedgehogs will be returned to the place where they were found when they are well enough to be released.

We emphasise very firmly to the public that hedgehogs are wild animals and easily stressed and as such, they are not pets and should always be returned to the wild. The only exception to this would be when a hedgehog is partially sighted or has suffered an amputation or other such impairment in which case it would be released into a secure garden where it would be allowed to roam free but will be monitored and fed. All such decisions are made on a case-by-case basis and with a veterinary opinion where necessary.

We operate a policy of euthanasia on welfare grounds under veterinary advice when necessary and we work within the relevant UK veterinary and welfare legislation. Animal welfare is our prime concern at all times.

### **Our primary ways of raising funds are:**

- The "Friends of Help a Hedgehog Hospital" group that offers subscriptions at adult, under 16 and family rates. Members receive a comprehensive membership pack and an adult or junior newsletter once a quarter with news and updates from the hospital and topical and seasonal information on hedgehog care.
- We attend local fetes, fairs, country shows and other events with our stand, to sell merchandise and promote hedgehog awareness.
- We offer talks to local groups and organisations in return for a small donation.
- Donations from the public who discover us via our website and social networking media such as our Facebook page.
- In the future, we may investigate the possibility of grant funding for specific projects such as setting up satellite facilities locally to take in hedgehogs if the hospital is full or dedicated pre-release acclimatisation sites.

### **Existing committee members and their role within 3H:**

- Annie Parfitt... Founder, Hospital manager and primary carer. Annie has ultimate responsibility for the running of 3H and any major policy decisions.
- Pauhla Whitaker... Chairperson, Fundraising and events co-ordinator, membership secretary, website enquiries, assistant carer
- Julien Crowther... Minutes Secretary, publicity, events volunteers rota co-ordinator, assistant carer
- John Crowther... Talks co-ordinator, records and data co-ordinator, assistant carer
- Maureen Reader... Treasurer, assistant carer
- Carole Deuten... Daytime emergency contact, assistant carer
- Mary Hinton... Tetbury area warden, volunteer co-ordinator, assistant carer
- Kate Goacher... Facebook and social media co-ordinator, assistant fundraiser
- Jo Bisley... Assistant carer, events and fundraising volunteer

The core team meet quarterly with extra meetings if required and are all in daily contact. We also utilise email and an internet message board and database to assist communication between members and enable access to up to date records, promotional material and so on.

We have an extensive list of volunteers who are prepared to help with emergency care, holiday cover, collecting hedgehogs e.t.c. several of who will be attending the carers' course. We have also set-up a network of hedgehog

Wardens covering most of the county. They act as a point of contact with the public at local level and have responsibility for collecting sightings of hedgehogs, both alive and dead to add to the Google map.

**In the event of 3H ceasing to operate:**

The ultimate responsibility for 3H rests with Annie Parfitt. Should she for any reason feel that it is no longer viable, that is has ceased to fulfil its objectives or that it has outgrown its original remit then she may decide to cease operation.

In that situation the following protocol would be considered in the order listed:

1. Ask the core team if all or some of them wish to carry on the hospital in another location with the same aims and objectives, in which case all remaining assets would be turned over to them.
2. Turn over all remaining assets to a new group who wish to run a similar operation in the county and whose aims and objectives are similar.
3. Turn over the remaining assets to an existing wildlife rescue that provides hedgehog care in the county of Gloucestershire
4. Turn over all remaining assets to The British Hedgehog Preservation Society for use as they think fit in the promotion of hedgehog welfare.

Annie Parfitt,  
Founder and Hospital Manager

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