

# Breeder Contract Agreement



The following agreement is between Lindsey Taylor, hereafter referred to as "Breeder" and \_\_\_\_\_, hereafter referred to as "Buyer" for the sale and purchase of animal.

NAME / ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER: \_\_\_\_\_  
SIRE & DAM: \_\_\_\_\_

This hedgehog will become the property of the Buyer upon fulfillment of the following contract. This hedgehog will be provided with fresh food, water, shelter, veterinary care when needed (yearly wellness checks should be done) and adequate climate control at all times. The Breeder has informed the Buyer of proper climate control. \_\_\_\_\_

Buyer agrees to operate with Ethical Standards as Outlined with HBA Code of Ethics and has provided the new owner with a copy of these standards (see page 3 and 4) \_\_\_\_\_

The Breeder will AT ANY TIME take this hedgehog back if asked to do so by the Buyer, at no cost.  
\_\_\_\_\_

This Hedgehog has been sold to this buyer with Breeding rights. New owner understands the risks that can happen during breeding and the original breeder of the animal is not liable for any damages that occur while the animal is in the care of the new buyer. \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder does not offer any guarantee for color or temperament. \_\_\_\_\_

Rehoming/ Resell policy All babies produced by this animal will belong to the buyer to rehome in an ethical manner. We ask that when your animals retire from your breeding program, they are to be rehomed into a pet home only in order to preserve the diversity of our lines. \_\_\_\_\_

If you choose to sell any babies produced by this animal to other programs for breeding purposes, please do so selectively so they do not end up in an unethical program. \_\_\_\_\_

Upon Completion of this Contract the buyer will receive the Pedigree Documents for the purchased animals. Please allow up to 24 hours. \_\_\_\_\_

Buyer understands all of the above, and agrees to these terms.

Buyer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Health Guarantee

This animal is known to possess a clear genetic background free of defects. No offspring produced by the animal's parents have any genetic issues reported. If any offspring produced by this animal possess genetic disorders, we ask that you notify us and disclose the lineage of at least 5 generations in the offspring where the defect was found in order to help us evaluate our breeding animals. This includes WHS in this animal or offspring with confirmed necropsy. \_\_\_\_\_

Cancers/ tumors: Buyer understands that Breeder does not offer any warranty for any cancer or tumor related deaths/illnesses. Should this hedgehog develop or die of a cancer or tumor related illness, Buyer is to contact Breeder so that Breeder may use the information when evaluating breeding stock. \_\_\_\_\_

Buyer protection guarantee: Breeder assumes no financial responsibility for any veterinary costs associated with this hedgehog once this hedgehog has left the care of the Breeder and has been in the possession of the Buyer or transporter. The animal MUST be seen by a vet, and all vet records must be provided to the breeder if any health issues arise within the first 14 days. Breeder will pay for the cost of medications if Breeder was proven to be at fault for the animal becoming sick (example: URI). Or a healthy replacement is offered in exchange, and Breeder will take back and treat the sick hedgehog. If the hedgehog dies within the first 14 days, a necropsy report must be provided to the breeder to determine the cause of death in order to receive a replacement. Buyer assumes all costs associated with the necropsy report. \_\_\_\_\_

Health Guarantee does not apply to any health issues or complications that may occur during breeding, birthing, nor nursing. \_\_\_\_\_

I understand the risk of exposure to illnesses and stress caused to animals on transport and understand that once a hedgehog leaves the care of the breeder they can not be held liable for any illnesses that may have occurred while on transport. As The buyer, I agree to notify the breeder of any issues that I experience as a result of transport in a private manner. \_\_\_\_\_

We, the Breeder and the Buyer, do hereby acknowledge this to be a binding contract. We agree to fully abide by its terms and conditions.

Buyer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Code of Ethics

by: HBA = Hedgehog Breeders Alliance

### "Breed to Improve"

Responsible breeders do not breed unless they are convinced that their knowledge, experience, and devotion to their hedgehogs will result in a mating that will produce an exceptional litter of babies, with qualities that are as near as possible to the ideal for hedgehogs. They breed to preserve and to enhance the characteristics that make their hedgehogs unique. They breed to improve health, longevity and exceptional personalities.

I will breed discriminately and only if I am sure I can find appropriate homes for my baby hedgehogs. I will place babies in homes that I believe will provide a lifelong commitment of love, care and appreciation, including adequate vet care.

### **Any hedgehog sold, will be sold under the following conditions:**

1. Breeder guarantees that the hedgehog is in good health and condition at the time of sale.
2. Breeder will encourage the new owner to have the hedgehog examined by their own vet within a few days of purchase to ensure good condition and health. Breeder will include names of vets in the area that will see and assist in the treatment of hedgehogs.
3. Breeder will inform the new owner of possible inherent health issues known to affect hedgehogs.
4. Breeder agrees to complete USDA Aphis Form 7020 (Record of Acquisition, Disposition or Transport of Animals) or other USDA approved forms if they are a USDA licensed breeder in the USA.
5. All Breeder members are required to register their hedgehogs (this includes all hedgehogs in the care of the breeder) within two months of becoming members.  
Breeder will provide registration form and/or pedigree information to the new owner.
6. Breeder will encourage the new owner to contact them with questions regarding their new hedgehog, and breeder agrees to respond in a timely manner. Breeder will provide their phone number and e-mail for questions and follow up support.
7. Breeder agrees to use HBA provided forms for the deposit/sales agreements and care sheets. If breeder has their own forms, they may be used with approval of the Board.
8. Breeder will give a supply of food with each baby sold, with instructions how to feed and how to change foods if desired.
9. Breeder agrees to take the baby back should they need to find a home for the hedge; breeder will emphasize to the new owner that the breeder is to be contacted first to provide a new home.
10. Breeder will sell their hedgehogs with a health guarantee and a WHS warranty. Breeder will adhere to both the guarantee and warranty. Any animal bred by the Breeder, which proven by necropsy to have WHS is to be guaranteed and replaced, free of charge, by the Breeder. If a necropsy is not provided, the replacement of the animal will be governed by the Breeder's individual replacement policy. Breeder will notify Buyer of his or her individual replacement policy (as well as the HBA Minimum Standard) before purchase as an item included in Buyer's purchase agreement. Breeder will supply Buyer with a copy of the guarantee, which will be signed and dated by both parties at the time of purchase.
11. Breeder has the right to refuse a sale if in any doubt the hedgehog will have a good and safe home.
12. Breeder will help the new owners consider the best way of identifying their hedgehog which can include registering with the registry or by micro-chipping.
13. The seller shall provide the purchaser with an IHR Registry transfer form, duly completed and signed by the seller.
14. Breeder agrees that no female will be bred under the age of 6 months.
15. Breeder will not willingly breed any hedgehog with a known genetic defect/disorder. Breeder will inform the new owner of any genetic defects/disorders that appear in the lineage of their hedgehog after the sale.
16. Breeder will not release a baby under the age of 6 weeks. Breeder will ensure that the baby is eating, drinking and gaining weight before being released to the new owner.
17. Breeder agrees not to breed ill animals, nor sell ill animals.

- 18.** Breeder agrees to separate weanlings by the age of 7 weeks, except with special needs cases, so they do not breed with mother or siblings. Males will be housed separately from females.
- 19.** Breeder will treat for parasites when needed and seek vet assistance if they are unsure if parasites are present. Breeder will not knowingly sell a hedgehog harboring parasites.
- 20.** Breeder will examine each hedgehog carefully and recognize its flaws. If you decide to continue with the breeding process, look for a mate that will eliminate or balance those flaws.
- 21.** Inbreeding is breeding two very closely related hedgehogs; mother-son, father-daughter, brother-sister. Inbreeding is NOT condoned by the HBA. It is not wise to inbreed because genetic flaws are more likely to surface since the gene pool is not diversified. What often causes genetic defects is recessive genes lurking in the hedgehog's backgrounds. Breeding closely related animals brings a greater chance for these defective genes to pair off and express themselves. Any weaknesses, faults, deformities, etc, are likely to show up. An example would be WHS. The disease can be magnified in hedgehogs who have it in their family and are inbred. A genetic flaw can also be "bred out". This is when a hedgehog who has a defect in its family continues to breed with other hedgehogs who are known not to have the flaw. Reputable breeders DO NOT inbreed and it should NOT be done. Line-breeding is a tool breeder use to develop, isolate and set specific desirable traits into succeeding generations. Breeding two hedgehogs that share relatives several generations back, but DO NOT share the same mother, father or grandparents is considered line-breeding. Therefore, breeding a male hedgehog and a female hedgehog that share a great-great-great grandfather would be considered line-breeding. This is done to preserve some of the aspects of the line. It is not inbreeding and reputable breeders are very careful to closely study the hedgehog's pedigrees to make the best possible match. One must remember that line-breeding is a program that produces animals from a single line of descent from a common or a few common outstanding ancestors. The goal is not to reproduce the quality of the ancestors but to try and maintain as many of their good qualities as possible while improving their deficiencies by refining the genetics of the line. Ultimately line-breeding is a simple concept that can be extremely complicated as a breeding tool. It should not be practiced unless you know exactly what you are doing. Reputable breeders do however linebreed occasionally.
- 22.** It is recommended that breeders do not sell to any Commercial wholesale or retail pet dealers. IF the breeder does sell to the commercial or retail market, it is required that the store or dealer be USDA licensed (if in the US). NO hedgehog will be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind, or sold via internet auction or private auction. A breeder selling to any commercial or retail dealer will share the info regarding that dealer, name, address and USDA number to the committee for distribution of appropriate HBA care sheet.
- 23.** Breeders must not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise hedgehog nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of the hedgehog.
- 24.** Retirees shall either be kept by the breeder and cared for properly or given to an experienced, knowledgeable person who is willing to care for any geriatric problems which may arise.
- 25.** As an ethical breeder, I will seek the advice and experience of others. I will be willing to continue educating myself about hedgehog breeding.

## **2007 - Hedgehog Breeders Alliance**