

Notes

INTRODUCTION

1. Although male hedgehogs do tend to be larger, I can't tell the difference between male or female hogs by sight. Indeed, there is a joke about a hedgehog winning a running race because he had his wife stand in for him near the finish line. As detailed in chapter 2, I learned from my British participants to think of hogs (and other beings) as persons, hence using the pronouns "she or he," rather than "it."
2. While guardianship or stewardship are widely accepted translations, a number of scholars have pointed out that concepts such as *kaitiakitanga* lose much of their deep relational meaning when translated. In this instance, *kaitiakitanga* takes on a tone of hierarchy and separation between humans and the rest of the living world in its English translation that it does not have in Māori (Taylor 2017; Willing 2022).
3. As Price and Chao (2023) note, talking about other than human beings raises many challenges. While "nonhuman" problematically categorizes such beings as what they are not, terms such as more-than-human or other-than-human still center the "human" (Price and Chao 2023). While I still hope for better terms, in this book I tend to use "other-than-human" animal instead of just "animal" in order to remind myself and the readers that humans are of course, also animals. At times, following informants' usage, I do use the term 'animal' to refer to an other-than-human animal. On occasion I take the term critter from Donna Haraway, a term she has re-defined to refer to all animals (including humans), as well as plants, fungi, aliens, and cyborgs (2008: 330). Rather than suggesting organisms as being located within a hierarchy of creation, the term "critter" is intended to sit within a world fundamentally characterized by connection and contingency, acknowledging the ways in which all apparent organisms are shaped in radical concert with others.
4. The majority of hedgehog champions were signed up with Hedgehog Street, who coined the phrase "hedgehog champion." Several people I came to interview and spend time with were not official Hedgehog Street hedgehog champions, but had been inspired to similar actions through different means, including other conservation agencies as well as television shows, such as the BBC's *Spring Watch* and *Autumn Watch*.

CHAPTER 1

1. The group of islands in the southern Pacific Ocean known as “New Zealand” in English is most commonly referred to as Aotearoa in the Māori language. Aotearoa, which translates as “the land of the long white cloud,” originally referred only to the North Island. Today, however, the North Island is generally known as Te Ika a Maui, the fish of Maui, with the South Island—the island which grew me up—known as Te Waipounamu, with Aotearoa commonly used to refer to the entire country. In recognition of the nation’s bilingual status, the country is increasingly referred to as Aotearoa/New Zealand. This is the term I will be using throughout this book, except in instances when “New Zealand” is part of a proper name, such as the “New Zealand pied stilt.”
2. With such large numbers of hedgehogs in Aotearoa/New Zealand, a number of people have asked why not ship them “back” to the UK? A number of ecologists have informed me that, while such an introduction would offer the concern of introducing disease to the British population, the main reason against such an introduction is that the problem in the UK is not one of hedgehogs’ ability to breed, it’s of habitat availability. Struggling to support its own population, the environment of the UK would not be able to support an additional influx of kiwi hogs.
3. The category of “introduced predator” fits easily for only one of the three species, the stoat. Michael Morris has suggested that a more accurate descriptor of the three target animals is the “Big Two Predators and the Voracious Vegetarian,” with possums being the vegetarian (2020, 90). However, possums will eat eggs and nestling chicks. So, with rats, possums are more accurately classified as omnivores.
4. In Aotearoa/New Zealand, the term “kiwi” is used to refer to both the birds and the humans (the potentially clarifying term “kiwi bird” is never used), and whether it is birds or humans who are being referred to must be extrapolated by context (this is unlike the kiwi fruit which in New Zealand is always referred to with “fruit” in the name—thus, to eat a kiwi is a disturbing thought for most New Zealanders). That New Zealanders do not seem to mind being confused with members of the Apterygidae family perhaps suggests something of the close identification of human New Zealanders with this rare, flightless, bird.
5. At the same time as dominant conservation in Aotearoa/New Zealand has reinscribed a range of colonial approaches, there is also Māori leadership within dominant conservation practice. It also tends to have a progressive political leaning. While a number of scholars internationally have noted instances of parallels existing between the framing and treatment of invasive species in conservation biology and xenophobic attitudes toward—and actions against—human immigrant communities (e.g., Gould 1998; Purdy 2015; Subramaniam 2001), concerns about invasive species in Aotearoa/New Zealand do not have such associations (see Coates (2007) on such tendencies in the United States).
6. Māori leadership is present within dominant conservation practice in Aotearoa/New Zealand as well in moves away from and independent of dominant practices. Thus, contrasts should not be framed as dominant “versus” Māori approaches to conservation.

7. The residues of industry are scattered all over Central Dunedin backyards. Rumors suggest that lead levels in the area are among the worst in the country, with industrial pollution supplemented by the use of white lead in paint on homes until its use was banned in 1979. After hearing of this, I stopped eating herbs from my garden. The backyard critters, the rats and hedgehogs, insects, and bacteria, however, couldn't so easily avoid the pollution in this soil. I came to see my backyard as a tiny brownfields habitat; polluted, but still supporting life. While hedgehogs and rats seem to stand up well to this poison, I do wonder what impacts it has on them. Certainly, UK hedgehog studies suggest that poisons bioaccumulate in hogs (e.g., Dowding et al. 2010). Dwelling near humans might mean gaining access to some of our tasty wastes, but it also means taking a share in our poisons.
8. Despite these reassurances, I would actually end up contracting ringworm, likely from hedgehogs in the UK, as noted in chapter 5.
9. This (non) approach was also informed by Traci Warkentin's work on dolphin etiquette. Warkentin argues for the ethics of not touching or cornering dolphins during swim-with-the-dolphins experiences but, rather, letting the dolphins come to you, if they choose (Warkentin 2011).
10. I have been searching for a hedgehog equivalent of a canine play bow—a way in which to respectfully initiate play—but I am yet to find it, or even develop any idea of what hedgehog play might involve. Later, in my UK fieldwork, conversations with hedgehog rehabilitators, as well as my own experience, would suggest that hedgehogs don't really play. However, that their cousins, the African Pygmy Hedgehog, popular in the United States, China, Japan, and other countries seem to have some sense of play, raises questions about the limited opportunities I might have offered hogs to display such possibilities. What behaviors might European hedgehogs display if asked different questions (Despret 2015)?
11. Morgan would also later create a political party that would include Aotearoa/New Zealand becoming “predator free” as one of its main goals.
12. At the time of publication, Enhancing the Halo no longer exists. With the development of “predator free” groups throughout Wellington, as well as in other areas of the country, the Predator Free NZ Trust was established in 2013 to “connect and energize all New Zealanders towards a predator free New Zealand to enable our native species to thrive” (2023). As a national entity, it offers support and advice to all these community trapping groups. The Enhancing the Halo website (<http://halo.org.nz/>) now transfers directly to that of The Predator Free New Zealand Trust. While the Trust shares many goals with the work of the defunct Enhancing the Halo, it has a narrower focus on five species: rats, stoats, ferrets, weasels, and possums. Perhaps most notably, cats—a focus of much of Morgan's public campaigning—are not on the list of target species.
13. Hedgehog culling in Aotearoa/New Zealand mostly occurs through kill-trapping. Some 1080-related deaths may also occur, but it seems that 1080 poison (widely used to kill other pest mammals in Aotearoa/New Zealand) is not particularly damaging to hedgehogs; although repeated consumption of 1080, and/or of insects who have eaten the poison, may be a potential killer of hedgehogs (Berry 1999).
14. Personal communication, April 12, 2014.

CHAPTER 2

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1. A “back garden” in British English does not necessarily imply the sort of lush plantings that the US use of “garden” would suggest. While some were lush, many were simple, small places—although still vital to connect in terms of giving hedgehogs sufficient access to properties. While “backyard” is a reasonably good US approximation of “back garden,” in British English a “yard” sounds very expansive. Therefore, to stay true to local usage, I’ve kept the British use of “back garden” in the UK-based chapters. However, US readers can safely reinterpret the term as “backyard.” Although New Zealand English tends to be closer to British English than US English, on this matter, the US “backyard” is much more common phrasing than a “back garden” (with a “back garden” sounding quite formal as opposed to a yard). Thus, elsewhere in the text, I have used “backyard.”
2. While in Aotearoa/New Zealand there are no commercially available hedgehog foods, in the United Kingdom there are several brands. “Spikes” hedgehog food was the first (created in 1997) and is chicken-based. The Tesco brand “Right Food for Hedgehogs” as well as the “Love Hedgehogs” brand (created by the manufacturers of Spikes), contain mealworms and sunflower hearts that seem to make them less attractive to cats. Cat and dog foods are also put out for hedgehogs, and may be more nutritionally suitable than mealworms alone (due to the poor phosphorous/calcium balance of mealworms). However, feeding stations with elaborate chicanes are required in order to discourage cats and dogs from sharing these meals. As with bird feeding, a commonplace activity in the UK (the RSPB has recently estimated that fifty percent of UK residents put out food for birds), hedgehog foods are a significant source of nutrition for wild animals in the city. A recent campaign by Hedgehog Street in concert with the Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Horticultural Society has emphasized the importance of creating gardens that encourage beetles, suggesting that food could be put out just during lean times.

CHAPTER 3

1. This is, of course, also a reminder that while the city might be dangerous for hedgehogs, it is also a violent place—frequently intentionally so—for rats.
2. Although hedgehogs can be sexed if necessary (as a rehabilitator, I had learned the method of gently turning them over and bouncing them once or twice until their genitalia became apparent) it is, as noted in chapter 1, difficult to tell by sight (I never learned the skill). However, champions sometimes had a sense of their hogs as male or female was and, in such instances, I have followed their lead on pronoun use.

3. While “strimmers” are the more common expression in the UK, these devices for cutting the edges of lawns are known elsewhere as weed whackers or edge trimmers.
4. In this instance, I have retained the British terminology of “crisps,” as this is the terminology used in the news report. In US parlance, “crisps” are “chips” or, more specifically, “potato chips.”
5. It is also a 40-minute drive, but that feels like a hedgehog-disloyal way of reporting the distance and I did not have a car in the UK. As a side-effect of fieldwork, I developed a cautiousness about driving. Before leaving Aotearoa/New Zealand, Paul and I drove from Dunedin to Auckland (not quite the length of the country, but almost) and, as we went, did a count of hedgehogs killed on the road. After having several of my own hedgehog-like near-misses on roads, and finding there to be reasonable public transportation in the UK, I found myself getting around with a combination of trains, buses, and sometimes walking or cycling what now seem like extreme distances. There is, however, a long tradition of rambling in the UK, and my long walks and bike rides were typically met with amused encouragement.
6. Like the majority of champions I spoke with, Xuela referred to nonhuman critters as somebodies, not somethings.
7. In contrast to work that has argued for the existence of universally existing emotions among humans, the work of scholars such as Lisa Feldman Barrett have increasingly shown that there is great variation in how we identify feelings, both cross-culturally, but also depending on our own life histories (Barrett 2017; Guilmette 2020). Thus, rather than being a universally-existing phenomenon, “sadness” is instead an emotion that is identified and has effects within a particular social contexts. As is typical of psychological studies (although increasingly challenged), the studies listed within this chapter are all from “Western” industrialized nations. As always, more diverse approaches and studies are needed.
8. The Guardian newspaper is a British newspaper with a largely left-wing/progressive readership, it also tends to have a large number of stories about British wildlife, particularly hedgehogs (although conservative papers such as the Telegraph also have regular hedgehog coverage). I refer to it here both because it was my main source of news during that time and because of the tendency for a certain kind of left-leaning environmentally conscious type to read it.

CHAPTER 4

Small sections of chapter 4 have been reprinted from McLauchlan, Laura. 2021. “On becoming a massively distributed thing: Extricability, collectives and hedgehog death-by-plastic.” In *The Lives and Afterlives of Plastic*, edited by Farrelly, T and S. Taffel S. Canada: Athabasca University Press, under Creative Commons License (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)

1. British Hedgehog Preservation Society, personal communication.
2. Legally, the question of rehabilitators diagnosing and treating animals with previously acquired drugs is a gray area. It is particularly tricky in that none of the drugs given to hogs are actually licensed for them, so many of the protocols have been established by private rehabilitators; At the time of fieldwork, one well-respected rehabilitator was working with her vet to

create national standards for hedgehog drug administration, although no outcomes have been released. More recently, Hedgehog Street have begun a collaboration with Manchester University to try to create an impartial register of care regimes and establish national standards of best practice.

3. With young corvids, there is also the added worry of requiring an extended period of learning from parents. Several rehabilitators at the multispecies center expressed feeling very fraught about both not wanting the birds to imprint upon humans, but also worrying about the untutored youngsters who have grown up only in contact with other young corvids. One wild animal vet suggested costumes might be used, something like that described in bringing up whooping cranes (see van Dooren 2014b).
4. This comment has aged rather quickly. At the time (2015), large televisions were commonly assumed to be something one would want, with the lack of one suggesting that one was struggling. More recently, perhaps due to the emergence of internet streaming, television size seems to be less of a marker of social success.
5. Given live or dead (and dried) to birds, mealworms became a common treat for hedgehogs, too. However, during my time in the field, concern was growing about both hedgehogs becoming “addicted” to the larvae, as well as the high phosphorus and low calcium levels leading to a weakening in hedgehogs’ bones.
6. The effectiveness matters. There are few antibiotics that are available to wildlife, and Baytril, the most commonly prescribed is good (and thin, making it easy to inject), but doesn’t work for all hogs, or all conditions. Synulox is a broader spectrum antibiotic and seems to work well with most hogs. Marbocyl’s effectiveness was described to me by one rehabilitator as being like gold but, in the face of increasing antibiotic resistance for various conditions among wild animals, rehabilitators are under increasing pressure not to use it in order attempt to maintain it as an effective treatment.
7. *Pride*, a film about striking Thatcher-era Welsh miners and the unexpected support they received from a group of gay and lesbian activists, helps me to think this might just be a requirement of caring more generally. In one scene, an older miner, Dai, encourages Jonathan, the leader of the gay and lesbian group, that he needs to find a way to let some of it go, to find a pace that is sustainable despite the seemingly overwhelming call of the cause: “Don’t give it all to the fight. Save something for home” (Warchus 2014).
8. In a follow up email as I was getting permissions for this book, Roz noted that, after 15 years of working in animal rehab, she did actually leave her role, needing something that better reflected her worth. She now works for herself, using her remarkable skill with animals as a dog trainer and canine water therapist in Somerset.

CHAPTER 5

1. Cats are another known predator of birds but are not currently targeted in kill-trapping campaigns in Wellington city, although they are part of the Greater Wellington Regional Council’s 2019 “Pest Management Plan.”

2. Saddlebacks have been seen as a particular victory for Wellington as, prior to the arrival of a pair of breeding saddlebacks on the edge of the Wellington CBD in 2014, the species had been extinct on the mainland (outside of sanctuaries) for over 100 years. As a bird that largely feeds on the ground, they are particularly vulnerable to mustelid and cat predation (Hooson and Jamieson 2003; Swinnen 2017).
3. Throughout this chapter, I will be using “kiwi” to refer to the flightless bird of the family Apterygidae, not human New Zealanders. In New Zealand, the term “kiwi” is used to refer to both the birds and the humans (the potentially clarifying term “kiwi bird” is never used), and whether it is birds or humans who are being referred to must be extrapolated by context (this is unlike the kiwi fruit, which in New Zealand is always referred to with “fruit” in the name—thus, to eat a “kiwi” is a disturbing thought for most New Zealanders). That New Zealanders do not generally mind being confused with members of the Apterygidae family perhaps suggests something of the close identification of human New Zealanders with this rare, flightless bird. As an additional note, one that applies also to other Māori names, in te reo Māori (the Māori language), nouns are shown to be singular or plural based on the articles they are paired with, whether a plural article such as ngā or ērā (“the” or “those”) or singular, te or tērā (“the” or “that”). So that ngā tūi would mean “the tūi (plural)” and te tūi would mean “the (single) tūi.” Until the resurgence of Māori language in the 1970s and ‘80s, Māori words used in New Zealand English tended to be pluralized by the use of an “s”: “the tuis.” Increasingly, it is becoming more common to not add an “s” to pluralize Māori words, particularly in formal English, so that “the tūi” could mean the (particular) tūi or the (group of) tūi. Thus, the work of discerning whether a particular noun of Māori origin used in formal New Zealand English is a singular or plural word requires attention to context.
4. More recently, compassionate conservation approaches—particularly in Australia—have emphasized similar possibilities for a host of animals. These were not part of the conversation in Aotearoa/New Zealand during my fieldwork.
5. Aotearoa/New Zealand’s Department of Conservation (DoC) were the designers of these traps that come in three models: 150, 200, and 250. They are sold commercially both within the country and outside it.
6. The alignment between trapping and progressive politics in New Zealand is in some ways curious, as other groups that oppose animal killing in New Zealand, such as vegetarians or Save Animals from Exploitation (SAFE), are also often aligned with left-wing politics. As Potts and White have argued in their paper, “New Zealand vegetarians: At odds with their nation” (2008), many vegetarians in New Zealand struggled with what they saw as the country’s commodification of animals and felt that, related to this, they did not have an easy sense of belonging. However, many also felt that, while they might not fit with mainstream New Zealand identities, they were part of a story of progressive politics in New Zealand. Thus, they were able to find a place among the descendants of the New Zealand suffragists, the anti-whaling protestors, and the anti-nuclear activists—as critical thinkers determined to make an impact upon their country’s dominant meat-eating culture and its exploitation of nonhuman animals (Potts and White 2008, 350). However, vegetarians and “pest” trappers are by no means mutually exclusive groups. Animal

rights arguments are, at times, made for killing “predators” as, by doing so, one is potentially saving a vulnerable (usually) native animal from a painful, and potentially drawn-out, death.

7. New Zealand’s nuclear free commitment was recently partially rescinded when the US guided-missile destroyer USS Sampson was given permission to enter New Zealand waters in November 2016. This was the first US warship to be permitted into New Zealand waters since the restrictions were first set over thirty years prior, due to the US policy of neither confirming or denying the presence of nuclear weaponry or fuel reactors on warships.
8. In New Zealand English, “hard-case” typically means a mixture of witty, laid-back, and perhaps a little eccentric—almost always in a “do-it-yourself,” “number-eight-wire,” unconventionally ingenious yet practical sense.
9. I intend to expand on this cat tale at another time. For now, though, my experience of coming to care for cats has convinced me that, although more inner work might be required, developing new cares as an adult is entirely possible.
10. There are other groups around, such as the Feline Protection League and various anti-1080 groups. While such groups may be noted in media coverage, they tend to be reduced to sound bites. I am yet to see an in-depth interview on television or radio with such groups, or the publication of their articles in major newspapers. In interviews with members of such groups, they similarly noted being side-tracked from public debate.
11. Although, at the time of publication, the article was still available online, comments had been removed.

CHAPTER 6

1. As Davé notes, all contradictions are apparent, yet they are constructs that matter (2017; 2023).

CONCLUSION

1. However, Jamie Lorimer’s work suggests to me that, even in the absence of “cute” charms, there are those who will be drawn to predators—perhaps precisely for their predatory nature.

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Hedgehogs, Killing, and Kindness

The Contradictions of Care in Conservation Practice

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