

# Curriculum vitae for Sophie Lund Rasmussen

## Personal information

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Nationality: Danish.

[Website \(in English\)](#)

[Website \(in Danish\)](#)

[Campaign website for “Danmarks Pindsvin”- the hedgehog conservation campaign I run with WWF Denmark](#)

[Facebook page about my research](#)

[YouTube Channel Dr Hedgehog](#)

[ResearchGate](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Research profile](#)



## Education

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January 2016- August 2019: **PhD in Biology, Institute of Biology, University of Southern Denmark and Naturama.**

Thesis title: *The Danish Hedgehog Project: How Humans Influence Hedgehogs and How Hedgehogs May Affect Humans When Living Closely Together.*

Supervisors: Associate professor Owen R. Jones and Senior scientist Thomas B. Berg.

Maternity leave from September 2017-September 2018 and additional maternity leave from September 2019- September 2020.

June- November 2014: Further education within science communication at the Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen and Skovskolen, Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen.

January 2014: Received certification in **PRINCE 2 project management**.

September 2010- April 2013: **M.Sc. in Biology, Institute of Biology, University of Copenhagen.**

Thesis title: *Personality, Survivability and Spatial Behaviour of Juvenile Hedgehogs: a Comparison between Rehabilitated and Wild Individuals.* Grade: 12 (A\*).

August 2012: Received certification in Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations, **FELASA category B.**

September 2007- July 2010: **B.Sc. in Biology, Institute of Biology, University of Copenhagen.**

Thesis title: *The Activity Levels and Time Budgets of the Lion Tamarins in Copenhagen Zoo.* Grade: 12 (A\*).

2004-2006: Student at Near Eastern Archaeology, University of Copenhagen.

*My specialisation is conservation biology (hedgehog ecology), behavioural ecology, interdisciplinary collaborations, citizen science, science communication, fundraising and project management.*

## Work experience

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**January 2024:** Hosted the [International Conference for Hedgehog Rehabilitators](#), for hedgehog professionals (researchers, NGO's, carers, vets, veterinary nurses) with 200 delegates from 14 countries.

**September 2023:** A documentary is being produced for Danish National Television about my research.

**June 2023:** Responsible expert initiating and leading the conservation campaign “Danmarks Pindsvin” in collaboration with WWF Denmark ([www.danmarkspindsvin.dk](http://www.danmarkspindsvin.dk)). On the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 we hosted the first national hedgehog count in Denmark. We engaged 15,000 people and 33,500 hedgehogs were counted.

**September 2021 onwards:** Carlsberg Junior Research Fellow at Linacre College and Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), University of Oxford. Affiliated researcher at Department of Chemistry and Bioscience, Aalborg University (sick leave from January 2022- September 2022).

**September 2020-September 2021:** Postdoctoral fellow at Department of Chemistry and Bioscience, Aalborg University and associated research fellow at WildCRU University of Oxford.

**September 2020:** Organiser and fundraiser of an international conference for hedgehog rehabilitators with 80 participants from 12 European countries and 300 watching live streaming on the 19<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2020, [www.hedgehogconference.com](http://www.hedgehogconference.com). I secured £30000 to cover free tickets and accommodation.

**September 2020-present:** Scientific consultant and mastermind for Danish National Television (DR) for the production of [“Ramasjang redder pindsvinene”](#). A campaign with a range of different [media products](#) encouraging the children of Denmark to save the hedgehogs, broadcasted by the national television channel called “Ramasjang” for children on DR (equivalent to CBBC in the UK).

**January 2016- June 2019:** PhD student at University of Southern Denmark. I innovated and designed the PhD project, raised funds and established all the multidisciplinary collaborations. Experience gained within: Research, project management (my project involved 50 research staff and >400 volunteers), citizen science, multidisciplinary collaboration, fundraising, lecturing/teaching, supervision of student projects, science communication (>300 features/interviews in the media).

**Autumn 2018- April 2020:** Scientific consultant for Mastiff TV for a production of nature documentaries for Danish National Television (DR) called [“Vilde, Vidunderlige Danmark”](#) about Danish wildlife.

**Ongoing from 2016:** Lecturer/communicator at Naturama, Modern Natural History, for children and adults.

**Ongoing from 2016:** External lecturer in Conservation Biology, DIS Study Abroad in Scandinavia.

**Ongoing from 2016:** Board member at the Danish Mammal Society.

**September 2014-September 2015:** Project leader and initiator on a research project about the ecology of juvenile hedgehogs in suburban habitats for the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Animal Protection Denmark and University of Copenhagen.

**May 2015:** Event planning, teaching, designing hedgehog expo at Taastrup Library and Ishøj Nature Center.

**Ongoing 2014-2016:** Lecturer to Danish highschool students as part of a science communication project “Viden på Vej” run by Natural History Museum of Copenhagen.

**August 2014-October 2014:** Research assistant at Centre for Macroecology, Evolution and Climate, University of Copenhagen. Radio tracking and home range calculations of great spotted woodpeckers.

**July-August 2014:** Research assistant at WildCRU, Oxford University. Data analysis, statistics, setting up a framework for data analyses in a research project on community based natural resource management (nature conservation) in Tanzania.

**May-June 2014:** Research assistant at Stockholm University, contributing with expertise of hand-raising wolf and dog puppies and behavioural observations in a research project on wolf and dog behaviour.

**2013:** Project-employed zoologist at the Animal Protection Denmark designing and writing rehabilitation manuals for their wildlife rehabilitation centers.

**2010-2012:** Volunteering wildlife rehabilitator at the Animal Protection Denmark’s wildlife rehabilitation centers caring for orphans and sick, adult wildlife of a wide range of species.

**2007:** Studied to become a veterinary nurse. I gained experience and knowledge working with animals (handling of wild/scared animals, anaesthetizing, surgical stitching, microchipping, tube-feeding etc.).

**2004-2007:** Participation in archaeological excavations in Denmark, Jordan and Syria.

## Teaching experience at university level

During my PhD I co-taught the following courses at Institute of Biology, University of Southern Denmark:

- Autumn semester 2016 and Autumn semester 2018: [BB512 Population and Evolution \(5 ECTS\)](#)
- Spring semester 2017: [FF501 First year project \(10 ECTS\)](#)
- Winter 2016 semester and Winter 2017 semester: [FF503 Chemistry, Biology and Molecular Biology – the Empiric Experimental Science \(20 ECTS\)](#), the biology part
- Autumn semester 2016: [BB529 Introduction to Biodemography](#)

Co-supervisor for PhD student Katie Davies at Nottingham Trent University (from 2021).

Co-supervisor for BSc student Bettina Schröder at Copenhagen University 2022.

External examiner/PhD opponent for Dr Lauren Moore at Nottingham Trent University, August 2023.

## Fundraising

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I have received grants and laboratory services from:

1. Statens Serum Institut
2. Aalborg University
3. 15. Juni Fonden
4. Naturama
5. University of Southern Denmark
6. Beckett-Fonden
7. Bodil Pedersen Fonden
8. British Hedgehog Preservation Society
9. Dyrenes Beskyttelse
10. Svalens Fond
11. Carlsberg Foundation
12. Jens Anker Andersen Fonden
13. Fonden til Værn for Værgeløse Dyr
14. Iwan Kliem-Larsens Mindelegat
15. Ingeniør K. A. Rohde og hustrus Legat
16. Aalborg Zoo Conservation Foundation
17. Otto Bruun Foundation
18. Lars Eduard Troelstrup and wife Else Troelstrup Foundation
19. Christen Møller Sørensen and wife Marie Christine Sørensen's Foundation
20. Headmistress Sigrid Hansen's Scholarship
21. Editor Otto Pedersen's Memorial Fund
22. QATO Fonden
23. Linacre College JRF Grant
24. Pindsvinevennerne i Danmark
25. Husqvarna
26. Hedevig Quiding's Grant
27. Lucy Halsall Foundation
28. STIHL
29. Junior Research Fellow Grant, Linacre College
30. Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark, The Danish Environmental Protection Agency's Pesticide Research Programme (2020)
31. Nordea Foundation

## Conference contributions

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- **Upcoming:** Invited keynote speaker, German Society for Mammalian Biology, Munich, Germany, September 2024 (keynote presentation)
- Gruter Institute Conference, The Royal Society, London, UK, March 2024 (presentation)
- Big Bang Conference, Odense, Denmark, March 2024 (presentation)
- *Caring for British Wildlife Conference*, Secret World Wildlife Rescue, Bristol, UK, February 2024 (presentation).
- *International Conference for Hedgehog Rehabilitators*, Hartpury University, January 2024. I was the organiser and presented two papers and hosted a workshop.
- *Hedgehog Research Group meeting*, November 2023, hosted by People's Trust for Endangered Species
- *British Veterinary Zoological Society* conference 2023, Birmingham, November 2023 (presentation)
- *Behaviour*, Bielefeld Germany, August 2023. Hosting a symposium: "AB: Applying animal behaviour research for wildlife conservation purposes" and presenting a paper.
- *Mammal Society*, Nottingham Trent University, August 2023 (presentation).
- *SETAC* (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry), Europe 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Dublin, May 2023 (poster).
- *European Hedgehog Research Group Meeting* in Prague, online, January 2022 (three presentations).
- *British Veterinary Zoological Society* conference 2021, online, September 2021 (presentation).
- *First International Scientific Conference for Rehabilitators of European Hedgehogs*, Billund, Denmark, September 2020. Conference organiser, host and presenting two papers.
- *Hedgehog Rehabilitation: Sharing Best Practice*, Hartpury University, hosted by British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, sponsored by British Hedgehog Preservation Society and RSPCA, February 2020 (two presentations)
- *European Hedgehog Research Group Meeting*, Royal Parks, London, February 2019 (two presentations).
- *European Hedgehog Expert Meeting*, Leibniz Institute, Berlin, November 2016 (presentation).
- *Behaviour* 2013, Newcastle, England, July 2013 (poster).
- *The 11<sup>th</sup> International Mammological Congress*, Belfast, Ireland, July 2013 (presentation)
- *Animal Protection Denmark's wildlife rehabilitation symposiums*, Korsør and Middelfart, Denmark, October 2013, March 2014, September 2016, November 2019, April 2023 (presentations and workshops)
- *British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's* symposium, Manchester, England, 2013 (presentation)
- *Diabetes Update 2013*, Copenhagen, Denmark (presentation).

## Fieldwork experience

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- Birds, observation and ringing of birds at Gedser Bird Observation Center 2009-10.
- Lion tamarins in Copenhagen Zoo, behavioural observations, Copenhagen University in 2010.
- Leverets and adult brown hares before/after release at Roskilde Wildlife Center, 2011.
- Radio tracking of red-backed shrikes in the forest of Gribskov, Centre for Macroecology, Evolution and Climate, Copenhagen University 2011-12.
- Wild and rehabilitated hedgehogs in Denmark. Radio tracking, social behaviour and personality, home ranges. Behavioural Ecology Group, Copenhagen University 2012-15.
- Cockatiels, vocal signalling. Behavioural Ecology Group, Copenhagen University 2013.

- Hand raising, monitoring and testing the social behaviour of wolf and dog pups at Tovetorp field station, Stockholm University, Sweden 2014.
- Radio tracking and home range calculations of great spotted woodpeckers, Centre for Macroecology, Evolution and Climate, Copenhagen University, 2014.
- Hedgehogs and robotic lawn mowers from 2020 onwards.

## Prizes and other relevant experience

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Nominated for the [most important research discovery in Denmark in 2023](#).

The articles I co-authored, published in [Nature](#) in 2022, [Animals](#) 2023 and [Science](#) 2023, were among the top 1% of research articles with the highest outreach after publication out of 300.000+ papers analysed (source: Altmetric).

University of Oxford has produced an “Impact Film” about me and my work, serving to promote the important research conducted at the university. Available [here](#).

I invited as a speaker, and was named a potential future Nobel laureate at the [Videnskabsfestival 2023](#) (science festival) hosted by [Politiken](#).

Member of the IUCN Small Mammal Specialist Group since 2023.

Assessor for the IUCN Red List status for the European hedgehog in Europe. Will be published in 2024.

The conservation campaign “Danmarks Pindsvin” I run in collaboration with WWF Denmark was acknowledged in the Danish Prime Minister’s [opening address](#) at the Parliament on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2023.

Co-creator of an international database (and record keeping system for hedgehog carers) launched in 2024.

Expert consultant for the planning of the National Conservation Strategy for Hedgehogs in Britain 2023, hosted by People’s Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS).

2022-2024: Editor of "[Applied Hedgehog Conservation Research](#)", a special issue of *ANIMALS*.

Received Hedevig Quinding’s Grant (honorary grant) in 2021 for my efforts to make a difference for the hedgehogs.

College Advisor at Linacre College, University of Oxford.

Received the **Carlsberg Foundation Visiting Fellowship at the University of Oxford** in 2020.

Scientific consultant on European hedgehogs for the Danish Nature Agency, preparing the guidelines and rules for the practice of hedgehog rehabilitation in Denmark.

Finalist in the **PhD Cup 2020** (you can watch it [here](#), I am on around 18 minutes into the show).

My [publication](#) was among the **most downloaded** in Ecology and Evolution 2018-19.

**2<sup>nd</sup> place winner** in a [scientific photo competition](#) 2019 hosted by the Danish National Research Foundation and [Videnskab.dk](#), communicating science through pictures. Watch the video presentation [here](#).

I was nominated for the award **“Animal Friend of the Year”** in 2016, hosted by the Animal Protection Denmark, Dyrenes Beskyttelse, in the category “Animal Hero”, based on my research to improve conservation of hedgehogs in Denmark, as well as my ability to communicate and engage the public in my research.

**Peer reviews for:** Ecology & Evolution; Forests; PLOS ONE; European Journal of Wildlife Research; Journal of Vertebrate Biology; Genes; Citizen Science: Theory and Practice; Conservation; Mammalian Biology; Mammal Research; Sustainability; International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health; Journal of Helminthology; Diversity; Transboundary and Emerging Diseases; Animals; Environmental Science and Pollution Research; and the Open Veterinary Journal. *Currently 19 journals.*

**Science communication:** Vast experience as a science communicator/lecturer to many different audiences ranging from university students, scientific staff, nature centres, museums, libraries, kindergartens, wildlife rehabilitators, primary schools, high schools, allotment associations, medical staff, tv and radio programmes.

**Media training:** 2070+ features about my research in the [Danish](#) and [international](#) media in 44 countries, ranging from newspapers, [children’s television programmes](#), podcasts, radio broadcasts to television news and shows, including several portrait articles about me and my research (e.g. [A](#), [B](#), [C](#), [D](#)). A full list is provided in my “List of publications”.