

Curriculum vitae for Sophie Lund Rasmussen

Personal information

Nationality: Danish.

[Website \(in English\)](http://www.drhedgehog.org): www.drhedgehog.org

[Website \(in Danish\)](http://www.drpindsvin.dk): www.drpindsvin.dk

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

[Campaign website](#) for “Hedgehog Conservation Ireland”- the hedgehog conservation campaign I founded and run with Alan Bell, Amy Haigh and Elaine O’Riordan

[Facebook page about my research](#)

[YouTube Channel Dr Hedgehog](#)

[ResearchGate](#)

[LinkedIn](#)



Education

From May 2026 onwards: Course: **Universitetspædagogikum** (The Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Programme), University of Copenhagen, Denmark

2019: Course: Getting started on your teaching (**Introduction to University Pedagogy**), University of Southern Denmark

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.

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: BSc Student in 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.

Academic positions:

September 2025 onwards: Assistant Professor at Natural History Museum Denmark, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

September 2025 onwards: Research Associate/Visiting Researcher at WildCRU, University of Oxford

September 2023-September 2025: Postdoctoral Fellow at WildCRU, University of Oxford

September 2023 onwards: Research Fellow at Linacre College, Oxford

September 2021- June 2025: Affiliated Researcher at Department of Chemistry and Bioscience, Aalborg University, Denmark

September 2021-September 2023: Carlsberg Junior Research Fellow (Postdoctoral Fellow) at Linacre College and Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), University of Oxford (sick leave from January 2022- September 2022).

September 2020-September 2021: Postdoctoral Fellow at Department of Chemistry and Bioscience, Aalborg University and Research Associate at Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), University of Oxford.

Work experience

Policy engagement:

February 2026: Responsible expert initiating and leading the national conservation campaign “Hedgehog Conservation Ireland” (<https://www.hedgehogsireland.com>) which launched on the 20th of February 2026.

November 2024: I was the keynote speaker at a session at the European Parliament dedicated to the protection of the European hedgehog. I have since formed collaborations with MEPs and we are planning to create an EU Conservation Strategy for the European hedgehog.

October 2024: I was one of two experts invited to write the assessment report leading to the IUCN Red List status change to “Near Threatened” for Europe (and global range) for the European hedgehog.

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

2022 ongoing: Scientific expert consultant on European hedgehogs for the Danish Nature Agency, preparing the guidelines and rules for the practice of hedgehog rehabilitation in Denmark, and I was involved in the process of changing the legislation to require licenses for individuals practising hedgehog rehabilitation.

Conference hosting:

January 2026: Hosted my international hedgehog conference for the third time ([International Conference for Hedgehog Professionals](#)) in Copenhagen, Denmark, with 200 in-person delegates from 22 countries and 526 online participants. I raised £ 30,000 to reduce ticket prices and provide excellent services.

January 2024: Hosted my international hedgehog conference for the second time, with 200 delegates from 14 countries, at Hartpury University, UK.

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 19th- 20th of September 2020 (during COVID). I secured £30,000 to cover free tickets and accommodation.

Other relevant work experience:

September 2025-January 2026: Expert consultant on hedgehogs for the nature documentary BBC Wild London, featuring Sir David Attenborough.

September 2023 onwards: A documentary is being produced for Danish National Television about my research, by Peter Alsted and ELK Film. The documentary is funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation.

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: Volunteer 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: Volunteer research assistant at WildCRU, Oxford University. Data analysis, setting up a framework for data analyses in a research project on community based natural resource management.

May-June 2014: Volunteer 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 and Jordan.

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](#)
- May 2025: Invited guest lecturer at the course [Danmarks Fauna](#), University of Copenhagen.

Co-supervisor for PhD students: Katie Davies, Nottingham Trent University, UK (2022-2025) & Abinesh Muthaiya, Pondicherry University, India (from 2024).

Co-supervisor for the following BSc students at University of Copenhagen: Bettina Schröder (2022), Simone Lorenzen (2025), Rebecca Bay (2025), Fie Kuhn (2026) and Malou Garmund (2026).

Co-supervisor for MSc students: Petter Sjöström at Karlstad University (from 2025) and Ann Wairimu Kinyanjui, Statens Serum Institut and Roskilde University (RUC), Denmark (2024-2025).

External examiner/PhD opponent for: Dr Lauren Moore at Nottingham Trent University, UK, August 2023. Dr Kristýna Eliášová at Charles University, Prague, October 2025. Dr Ilaria Prandi at University of Torino, Italy, September 2025.

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. Novo Nordisk Foundation
18. Otto Bruun Foundation
19. Lars Eduard Troelstrup and wife Else Troelstrup Foundation
20. Christen Møller Sørensen and wife Marie Christine Sørensen's Foundation
21. Headmistress Sigrid Hansen's Scholarship
22. Editor Otto Pedersen's Memorial Fund
23. QATO Fonden
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
32. Zoo de La Flèche for Nature

Conference contributions

- *Hedgehog Research Group*, ZSL, London, February 2026 (invited, presentation)
- *International Conference for Hedgehog Professionals*, Copenhagen, January 2026, I was the organiser and presented three papers and hosted a workshop
- *Animal Protection Denmark's wildlife symposium*, November 2025 (invited, presentation)
- *Gruter Institute Conference*, San Francisco, February 2025 (invited, presentation)
- *Hedgehog Research Group*, ZSL, London, February 2025 (pre-recorded presentation)
- Invited keynote speaker: European Parliament, Brussels, session: "*Tackling the decline of the European hedgehog in the EU*", November 2024
- *London Vet Show*, British Veterinary Association, November 2024 (invited, presentation)
- Invited keynote speaker: *German Society for Mammalian Biology*, Munich, Germany, September 2024 (keynote presentation)
- *Gruter Institute Conference*, The Royal Society, London, UK, March 2024 (invited, presentation)
- *Big Bang Conference*, Odense, Denmark, March 2024 (invited, presentation)
- *Caring for British Wildlife Conference*, Secret World Wildlife Rescue, Bristol, UK, February 2024 (invited, 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 (symposium host and presentation)
- *Mammal Society*, Nottingham Trent University, August 2023 (presentation)
- *SETAC* (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry), Europe 33rd 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 (conference organiser and two presentations)
- *Hedgehog Rehabilitation: Sharing Best Practice*, Hartpury University, hosted by British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, sponsored by British Hedgehog Preservation Society and RSPCA, February 2020 (two invited 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 11th 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

- Birds, observation and ringing of birds at Gedser Bird Observation Center 2009-10
- Lion tamarins in Copenhagen Zoo, behavioural observations, Copenhagen University in 2010
- 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, University of Oxford
- Hedgehog microbiomes, collection of faecal samples from the Outer Hebrides, University of Oxford
- Hedgehog hearing 2024-2025, University of Oxford and Natural History Museum Denmark

Prizes and other relevant experience

I won the [Best Paper Award](#) in the journal *Animals*, MDPI out of 3867 publications in 2023.

University of Oxford has produced two promotion videos featuring me and my work: an [Impact Film](#) about my research on hedgehogs and robotic lawn mowers, and a [Policy Engagement](#) video illustrating how I gain political influence at the European Parliament and for the IUCN Red List, through my research and status.

The German Mammal Society named me the [leading expert on European hedgehogs](#) (p. 9) when they invited me as their keynote speaker in September 2024.

I was invited as a keynote speaker for a session at the [European Parliament](#), hosted by MEP Sebastian Everding, dedicated to mitigating the decline of the European hedgehog.

My first-authored research on ancient DNA was selected by [Archaeology Magazine](#) as one of the nine studies revolutionising the field of aDNA.

My last-authored research published in *Science* was 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).

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

A documentary film is being produced by ELK Film and Peter Alsted about my work, funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation. Will be released in 2027. Another documentary film, portraying the lives of my husband and myself as researchers and our interdisciplinary research, is being prepared by Frederik Sonne.

Member of the IUCN Small Mammal Specialist Group since 2023.

Assessor for the [IUCN Red List status for the European hedgehog in Europe](#), published in October 2024.

I was invited to give a [TEDx talk](#) at the TEDxAalborg event on the 8th of April 2025.

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 3rd of October 2023.

Co-creator of [WildlifeRecords](#), an international database (and record keeping system for hedgehog carers) launched in 2026.

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).

Member of the advisory board for the Uist Native Wildlife Project, conducting research and advising on the capture and translocation of the hedgehogs residing on the Outer Hebrides, RSPB Scotland and Nature Scot.

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 and Research Fellow at Linacre College, University of Oxford.

Received the [Carlsberg Foundation Visiting Fellowship at the University of Oxford](#) in 2020 and the [Carlsberg Foundation Reintegration Scholarship](#) in 2024.

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.

2nd 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: *21 journals*. 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, Veterinary Research Communications and Environmental Science and Pollution Research.

Science communication:

Lectures: Vast experience (>250 lectures) as a science communicator/lecturer to many different audiences ranging from The European Parliament to university students, scientific staff, nature centres, museums, libraries, kindergartens, wildlife rehabilitators, primary schools, high schools, AOF, Folkeuniversitet, Danmarks Naturfredningsforening, allotment associations, medical staff, tv and radio programmes. I gave a series of 40 lectures at primary schools in 2024-25 as part of the Denmark's Pindsvin campaign. In total, I gave 71 public lectures from September 2024 to September 2025.

Peer reviewed publications: 22, out of which 16 are first-authored and 2 are last-authored, one published in Nature and one in Science. Furthermore, one last-authored (non-peer reviewed) Correspondence published in Nature.

Podcasts: Currently 18 podcasts (please see my publication list for details).

Nature documentaries: I am either featured in, or contributed as a scientific consultant on hedgehogs, in 5 nature documentaries, e.g. BBC Wild London, with 2 more in production (see my publication list for details).

Popular scientific articles: Currently 37 features (please see my publication list for details).

Portrait documentaries: Two documentaries are being produced about my research.

Portrait articles: 6 different portrait articles about me and my research have been published in the Danish media (one of them published in 46 Danish newspapers) (please see my publication list for details).

Media training: **3326 features** about my research in the [Danish](#) and [international](#) media in 47 countries, ranging from newspapers, nature documentaries, [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](#), [E](#)). A full list can be found [here](#).

I was acknowledged as the 54th most cited researcher in the Danish media in 2024 (with 388 registered media features in Denmark in 2024) and 51st in 2025 (with 266 registered media features in Denmark in 2025), on the list prepared by the Danish Association of Masters and PhDs. Number 50 on the list had 169 citations, but for some reason not all my interviews were registered properly. Please read [this paper](#) by UniAvisen describing this issue.

I was among the top 5 cited female researchers in the media at Aalborg University in 2024.