



Hedgehogs



What do they look like?

Hedgehogs are small, spiky mammals. Their babies are called hoglets.

Hedgehogs have hard spines on their backs, sides and heads. They don't have spines on their faces, chest or legs. An adult hedgehog can have over 5000 spines.



Did you know? Hedgehogs also have a very little tail.

Where do they live?

Hedgehogs can be found in all sorts of places. They live in parks, gardens and grassy areas, but also along railway tracks and cemeteries.



What do they eat?

Hedgehogs are often called the Gardener's Friend because they eat slugs and beetles. These creatures damage plants so gardeners are happy to see hedgehogs in their garden.



If you wanted to feed a hedgehog in your garden, they also like cat food. They will eat dog food, but this can sometimes be too rich and upset their tummies.

Never give a hedgehog milk. They can't digest it properly so they can end up very poorly.

What do they do?

Hedgehogs are very busy animals. They can visit many gardens in one night!

They are also quite nosy. They have been known to sometimes get their heads stuck in empty yoghurt pots and tins when having a look inside!



Leave or make gaps under fences to let hedgehogs safely come into your garden.

What do they do?



If hedgehogs feel frightened, they will roll into a ball so that their spikes will stop any enemies attacking them.

What is dangerous for a hedgehog?

Hedgehogs often need help to stay safe in gardens. Here are some things that are dangerous for hedgehogs, and how you can help to keep them safe:

If you have a pond, make sure you put a ramp or 'beach' in it to help the hedgehogs get out if they fall in.

Don't use slug pellets to kill slugs. These will poison hedgehogs too.

Keep drains covered so that a wandering hedgehog doesn't get stuck in them.

Hedgehogs can get caught in netting, plastic and other rubbish. Try to keep your garden tidy and free from things that might trap hedgehogs.

Check hedges and wild areas for hedgehogs and other wildlife before strimming, mowing or cutting hedges.



Hibernation

Hedgehogs hibernate between November and March. This means they sleep during the winter to keep warm.

They like to sleep in large piles of dry leaves, so be careful when moving piles of leaves.

They also use piles of sticks and logs.



Hibernation

Don't disturb the hibernating hedgehog.



Bonfires and Fireworks

Hedgehogs sometimes think bonfires are log piles and can often sleep or hibernate in them.

If your parents or someone you know are going to have a bonfire or fireworks, ask them to check there are no hedgehogs sleeping in the bonfire before it is lit.

If you have space in your garden, you could always make a pile of sticks or logs for hedgehogs to use, where they won't be disturbed.





British Hedgehog Preservation Society



#AmazingGrace

Halting the decline one village at a time