

Frequently Asked Questions

What can I feed the hedgehogs in my garden?

Cat or dog food, small cat biscuits and a shallow dish of water is perfect. If cats or foxes are stealing it, a feeding station is easily made. Plans are on the internet.

I accidentally disturbed a nest, what do I do?

Don't touch it. Mum may abandon or kill the babies.

If mum has run off and been gone for several hours or the babies are making loud peeping noises, pick up the entire nest, place it in a cardboard box and call for help.

Please do not attempt to care for them yourself. They need specialist feeding every hour right through the night. **Do not try to give them milk.**

I've found a hedgehog and it's wobbly/screaming/limping/out in daytime...

Carefully lift it and place it in a deep box so it can't escape, cover it with a towel and call for help or take it straight to a vet or wildlife centre.

If you can't get the animal immediate treatment, keep it warm by placing a towel wrapped hot water bottle or other heat source under it, making sure it can get off it if it gets too hot. Don't feed it. Just give a shallow dish of water so it can help itself if it wants to.

What about fleas?

Not all hedgehogs have them but if they do they are hedgehog specific. They will not live on anything else. More problematic are ticks. If you see a hog with white or grey blobs these need to be properly removed as soon as possible. Fly eggs must be taken off urgently.

DO NOT USE FLEA SPRAYS OR FRONTLINE!

The fumes can kill a hedgehog

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Email: (enquiries only, do not use if you have a sick animal)
hogspital@googlemail.com

Web site
www.hedgehog-rescue.org.uk

DID YOU KNOW....

Coming up to hibernation, a hedgehog needs to weigh at least 600 grams to be able to survive until spring. If you find an underweight hog or babies late in the year, call for advice. Better still, put out food and water all year round to help them.

Hedgehog Bottom is a non-funded small charity. Donations of food, bedding and, of course, cash are always welcomed. 100% of all donations go directly to the hedgehogs.



HEDGEHOG BOTTOM

Hedgehog Rescue INFORMATION SHEET

A love of animals on its own is not enough to help a hedgehog in trouble

Pro Igel

Hedgehogs have been on this planet for 15 million years. In the last 10 years, man has managed to wipe out 50% of the population, not just in the UK but right across Europe. If this carries on there will be none left by 2020.



Research at Bristol University based on Post Mortems carried out in 2009 show rat poison as a major cause of mortality. There has been a huge increase in the so called 'safe' bait boxes lying all over the place. These boxes are ideal shelters for hoglets who have been chucked out by mum to get on with it.

Councils are spraying everything in sight with 'animal safe' pesticides. There is a study currently going on to find out just how safe they actually are. It's the usual thing of do you believe the sales hype?



Fencing companies are installing concrete footings all over the place, hedgehogs can't walk through or dig under huge slabs of concrete so their food route is cut off.

We're fighting the old wives' tales of bread and milk, slugs and snails. All of these can make hogs extremely sick.

Milk gives them the runs and dehydration, slugs and snails can cause secondary poisoning from slug pellets as well as give them lungworm which leads to coughing, pneumonia and death.

Their main diet is worms, caterpillars and beetles but you can leave out water and cat biscuits to help them.

Strimmers, mowers, shears, bonfires, ponds, compost heaps, garden netting and rubbish; careless use, construction, or disposal of these contribute to horrific injury or death.

Open compost heaps are beneficial to wildlife but plunging a fork into one to turn it over can result in a skewered hedgehog that thought it had found a safe place to sleep. Gently check through before you attack it.



These animals have to battle through more problems than any other wildlife and yet they are listed as the UK's favourite animal. They are now on the Protected Species list and carers all across the country are working their socks off to try and help them.

If you see a hedgehog out in daylight (not early morning or late evening) then there is something wrong.

Please grab it and get it to a carer or wildlife rescue, do not try to care for it yourself without seeking expert advice.



There is a list of carers on our web site. If there's nobody near you then take the hedgehog to a vet. Please don't hang around, a few minutes can make a difference with these guys as they go down hill really fast.

If they get the **right** treatment the prognosis is good. By constantly updating our methods we are now releasing 95% of the patients we take in.

Hedgehogs that look fine one minute can be dead the next. Please do not hang around getting help.