

Hedgehog facts sheet

Hedgehogs are Britain's only mammal that has spines. They have around 6000 of them which can help to keep them safe from animals which may want to harm them. When they are in danger they curl into a ball.

Hedgehogs hibernate in November. They eat lots of food beforehand to get fat enough to last until March when they wake up.

Hedgehogs eat:

slugs, snails, caterpillars, worms, beetles, earwigs and millipedes



Dangers to hedgehogs:

Dogs and foxes can kill sick or young hedgehogs. Tawny owls sometimes kill a hedgehog but more are killed on our roads. The main danger to hedgehogs is loss of habitat or places to live.



Quick Facts

- Hedgehogs live on the edge of woodlands, hedgerows and in gardens.
- They like to go from garden to garden through gaps in fences and hedges.
- Babies are born June or July in litters of 4 or 5.
- Hedgehogs are born without spines.
- Hedgehog numbers are falling.
- Hedgehogs are nocturnal which means they come out at night.

What you can do to help a hedgehog

Hedgehogs are endangered which means the number of hedgehogs are falling. They find it difficult to find places to make a nest.

If you think you have a hedgehog in your garden there are things you can do to help.

- Leave out water for the hedgehog, not milk.
- Leave out food such as dried hedgehog food or dog meat without gravy.
- Put a hedgehog house in a quiet spot and leave some dry leaves nearby at autumn time.
- Ask your family not to use slug pellets in the garden as these can kill hedgehogs.
- Do not disturb hedgehog nests.



If you have cats, put the food under a box so that cats can't eat the food.



This hedgehog house is in a quiet place where a hedgehog can sleep or hibernate.



This hedgehog house has food inside. Cats cannot get in.