

Hedgehogs



Hedgehogs can be found almost everywhere in the UK. They live in cities and towns, and can be found on railway land, parks and gardens. They do not live on mountainsides because there is not much food for them and there are not many places for them to nest.

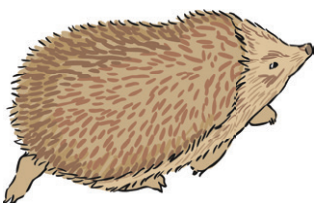
What do they look like?

Hedgehogs are small, spiky animals. Their babies are called hoglets. Adult hedgehogs have long spines along their backs and sides, but not on their faces or legs. Some hedgehogs can have up to seven thousand spines!

What do they eat?

Hedgehogs are often called the Gardener's Friend because they eat the slugs that eat plants and cause damage to the garden. Gardeners are usually pleased to see a hedgehog.

If you want a hedgehog to visit your garden, you could leave a small saucer of cat or dog food out as they like the meat. Make sure that you leave a saucer of water out too, especially in the summer months.



No milk for hedgehogs!

Milk makes hedgehogs very poorly so don't leave it out for them.

Hedgehog Habits

Hedgehogs visit a lot of gardens. You could have as many as 10 different hedgehogs passing through your garden! They are very nose-y animals, and sometimes need rescuing from getting their heads stuck in empty yoghurt pots, tins and plastic cups.

Helping a Hedgehog

There are some things you can do to keep a visiting hedgehog safe if they pass through your garden.



When a hedgehog feels scared, it will roll itself up into a ball so that its spikes will frighten off its enemies.

Slug pellets – Never use these to kill slugs. Hedgehogs eat the pellets or the dead slugs and the poison in them can kill the hedgehogs.

Garden ponds – Hedgehogs can fall into ponds and drown. Make sure your pond has sloping sides so a hedgehog can get out to safety if they fall in. You could also cover the pond with netting or chicken wire.



Hedgehogs hibernate between November and the middle of March, so be extra careful if moving piles of leaves during this time.

Nesting places – Hedgehogs nest in piles of leaves, so if you are planning to tidy the garden, be careful you don't accidentally wake a sleeping hedgehog.

hibernate – to sleep all through the cold winter months until the springtime.

slug pellets – poisonous tablets left out in the garden to kill slugs.

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs can be found almost everywhere in the UK. They are able to live in cities and towns, and can commonly be found on railway land as well as wastelands and gardens. They do not live on mountainsides or wet areas because there is not much food for them and there are fewer areas for them to nest.



Did you know?

Hedgehogs also have a very small tail.

What do they look like?

Hedgehogs are small, spiky mammals. They give birth to young called hoglets. Adult hedgehogs have 25mm long spines along their backs and sides, but not on their faces or legs. Here, they are covered in tough, brown fur. They usually have between five thousand and seven thousand spines!

What do they eat?

Hedgehogs are often called the Gardener's Friend because they eat slugs and beetles. Slugs damage plants so gardeners are often pleased to see a hedgehog in their garden. They also eat earthworms.

To improve the chance of a hedgehog visiting your garden, you could leave a small saucer of cat or dog food out as they like the meat. Make sure you leave a saucer of water out too, especially in the summer months.



No milk for hedgehogs!

You should not leave milk out for hedgehogs because they cannot digest the lactose within it and they can become very poorly.

Hedgehog Habits

Hedgehogs often visit a lot of gardens. You might think you are seeing the same hedgehog, but you could have as many as 10 different hedgehogs passing through your garden!

They are very noseey animals and sometimes need rescuing from getting their head stuck in empty yoghurt pots, tins and plastic cups.



When a hedgehog feels threatened, it will roll itself up into a ball so that its spikes will act as a defence against enemies.

Helping a Hedgehog

There are some things you can do to keep a visiting hedgehog safe if they pass through your garden.

Slug pellets – Never use these to kill slugs. Hedgehogs eat the pellets or the dead slugs and the poison in them can kill the hedgehogs.

Garden ponds – Hedgehogs can fall into ponds and drown. Make sure your pond has sloping sides so a hedgehog can scramble out to safety if they fall in. You could also cover the pond with netting or chicken wire.

Drains – Keep drains covered to stop the hedgehogs falling in and getting stuck.

Shed doors – Keep shed doors closed so a hedgehog doesn't wander in and get locked in overnight.

Nesting places – Hedgehogs nest in piles of leaves, so if you are planning to tidy the garden, be careful you don't accidentally wake a sleeping hedgehog.



Hedgehogs hibernate between November and the middle of March so be extra careful if moving piles of leaves during this time.

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs can be found almost everywhere in the UK. They have become comfortable living in cities and towns and are known to make good use of cemeteries, railway land as well as wastelands and gardens. The only places they are not as happy living in are on mountainsides or wet areas because food is scarce and there are fewer areas for them to nest.



Did you know?

Hedgehogs also have a very small tail.

What do they look like?

Hedgehogs are small, spiky mammals. They give birth to live young called hoglets. Adult hedgehogs are covered in 25mm long spines along their backs and sides, but not on their faces, chest or legs. Here, they are covered in tough, brown fur. They usually have between five thousand and seven thousand spines!

What do they eat?

Hedgehogs are often called the 'Gardener's Friend' because they eat slugs and beetles. Slugs damage plants so gardeners are often pleased to see a hedgehog in their garden. They also eat earthworms.

If you wanted to encourage a hedgehog to visit your garden, you could leave a small saucer of cat or dog food out as they like the meat. Make sure you leave a saucer of water out too, especially in the summer months.



When a hedgehog feels threatened, it will roll itself up into a ball so that its spikes will act as a defence against enemies.

Hedgehog Habits

Hedgehogs tend to visit quite a number of gardens. You might think you are seeing the same hedgehog, but chances are you could have as many as 10 different hedgehogs passing through your garden!

They are very inquisitive animals, and have been known to need rescuing from getting their head stuck in empty yoghurt pots, tins and plastic cups.



Hedgehogs hibernate between November and the middle of March so be extra careful if moving piles of leaves during this time.

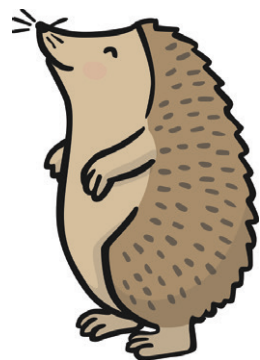
Helping a Hedgehog

There are some things you can do to keep a visiting hedgehog safe if they are travelling through your garden.

Slug pellets – Never use these to kill slugs. Hedgehogs eat the pellets or the dead slugs and the poison in them can kill the hedgehogs.

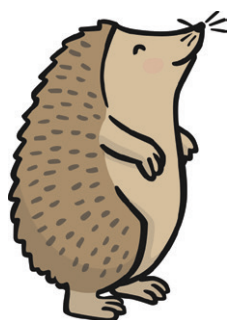
Garden ponds – Hedgehogs have been known to fall into ponds and drown. You could help by having sloping sides to the pond so a hedgehog can scramble out to safety if they fall in. You could also cover the pond with netting or chicken wire.

Drains – Keep drains covered to prevent the hedgehogs falling in and getting stuck.



Shed doors – Keep shed doors closed so a hedgehog doesn't wander in and get locked-in overnight.

Nesting places – Hedgehogs nest in piles of leaves, so if you are planning to tidy the garden, be careful that you don't accidentally disturb a sleeping hedgehog.



It's a myth!

Many people think they should leave milk and bread out for hedgehogs, but this can be very dangerous for the little creatures. This is because they cannot digest the lactose in the milk, which can make them very poorly.