



| | HEDGEHOG FACTS |
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| <i>Lifespan (in Wild)</i> | Around 4 - 7 years |
| <i>Weight</i> | Up to 1.1kg |
| <i>Body Length</i> | 14cm – 30cm plus tail |
| <i>Solitary</i> | Rarely seen in groups called an array |
| <i>Top Speed</i> | 9.5km/h in short bursts |
| <i>Habitat</i> | Grassland, hedgerows, woodland and meadows, suburban gardens |
| <i>Babies</i> | Called Hoglets |
| <i>Nocturnal</i> | They usually feed at night and sleep during the day |
| <i>Diet</i> | Largely carnivorous. E.g. caterpillars, worms, insects but will eat, plants, berries |
| <i>Hunt</i> | Mainly use smell & hearing. Eyesight not very good other than in the dark |
| <i>Hibernate</i> | They drop their body temperature to match their surroundings (called torpor) |
| <i>Communication</i> | A combination of snuffles, grunts and squeals |
| <i>Self Protection</i> | Curles up into a spiky ball when predators are around |
| <i>Spines</i> | They are actually hollow hairs made stiff with keratin (like human nails) |
| <i>Quilling</i> | When a hedgehog sheds its baby spines and grows adult spines |
| <i>Classification</i> | Mammal (not related to other spiny creatures like porcupines or echidna) |

What Can We Do To Help?

- Put your hedgehog house in your garden or park. Clean the box after hibernation.
- Put out food wet cat/dog food & water regularly (even in winter) but try to make sure cats & foxes can't eat the food. Cat biscuits are good for hedgehog teeth.
- If you have a pond make sure that hedgehogs can get to the water.
- Cut a hole in or under the fence to help hedgehogs move from garden to garden (little legs walk a long way - up to 2 miles a night).
- Don't use strimmers or build bonfires without checking for hedgehogs first.
- Become a hedgehog champion. Go to <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org>
- Spread the word that hedgehogs need help and tell others how they can help.
- Stick to Water: MILK IS BAD FOR HEDGEHOGS as they are lactose intolerant.

