

Hedgehogs and How to Help Them

Hedgehogs are a beautiful and happy animal but sadly are becoming endangered. Here are the dangers and how you can help.

Lifestyle

Hedgehogs build their nests in hedges which is where their name comes from. They smell to catch their prey and have a long snout that comes before their mouth that helps with that. Surprisingly, hedgehogs are one of three animal species that can hibernate and live in the UK.

Diet

Hedgehogs are not fussy eaters. They have been seen eating things such as: insects, frogs, mice, slugs, worms, eggs, fruit and even small snakes! Also, very interestingly, they are lactose intolerant. So if you ever consider leaving food out for hedgehogs, please don't leave milk or any dairy products out, because it makes them ill. Water or jellied cat/dog food is fine, (don't use fish flavour though because that is bad for them too).

Hardwick Conserve Project

Hardwick Community Primary School have recently started a Hedgehog Conservation Project. We have housed four hogs so far, named Rudolph, Prickles, Rosie, and Jim. Next week, we have a mother and four hoglets (baby hedgehogs) coming to stay. We have not named them yet. Come and tell the Gardening club if you have any suggestions.

Dangers

Hedgehogs face many dangers when out in the wild. They are constantly fighting against trimmers and cars. Please **do not** use slug poison. The hedgehogs will fix your slug problem for you. If you leave poison on plants etc. the slugs will die and the hogs will eat them meaning they will die a horrible death too. Also, please cut a hole in your fence to let hedgehogs in. if everyone did it, it would make a magical pathway through the gardens.



This Hedgehog is exploring the wild.

Did You Know?

They used to be called urchins. They have forty-four teeth. They have fangs to crack snail shells open. Hedgehogs have a vulnerable stomach, so they curl up into a ball when predators come near. They have over 5000 spikes which they can move independently. They do not use their eyes to hunt because their eyesight is not very good.