
HEDGEHOG INFORMATION



The hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* used to be a common mammal in Britain but has been in worrying decline for several years. They are useful mammals, devouring large quantities of invertebrate pests but intensive farming, pesticides, road kills, dogs and various predators, bonfires and barriers to travel for foraging are all problems that have exacerbated their decline.

Our greenspaces can help to come to the rescue. We try to provide the varied semi-natural habitats that hedgehogs need, with plenty of places to shelter and hibernate, and we never use pesticides that would destroy their invertebrate food. We also make sure any fences we put up or manage are “hedgehog-permeable”. Residents can help, please, by:

- avoiding the use of slug pellets;
- maintaining gaps in your fences so that hedgehogs can pass though on their often-lengthy nocturnal wanderings;
- keeping dogs on leads and away from anywhere there may be hedgehogs
- never letting your cat out at night because they can and do kill baby hedgehogs;
- providing hibernation niches and being careful about bonfire piles where they could be hiding;
- driving carefully on country roads, especially at night.

Thank you.

For more information, there is a helpful site at <http://bit.ly/2vxoskO> and Hedgehog Street (www.hedgehogstreet.org/) has all kinds of initiatives for helping hedgehogs.

And just to answer a question often asked by ladies with a worried expression: no, hedgehog spines are soft at birth!