

The Y6 Hedgehog Heroes and School Council would like to present this introductory guide to hedgehogs.



Our hedgehog display done by the School Council .

Hedgehogs



Hedgehogs are found across the UK.

There are 17 different types of hedgehog.

They are a wild animal - not to be kept as pets.

Being a small mammal, they are warm blooded, have a backbone, hair or fur, produce milk and give birth to live young.

What do hedgehogs look like?



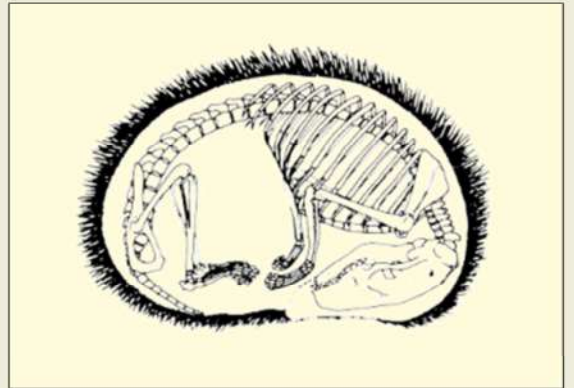
They have a long nose (for sniffing out food).

Spines on their back give them protection from predators. They have a furry belly.



Hedgehogs are nocturnal - they are active at night and sleep through day.
They hibernate which means they 'sleep' through winter when there is no food around.
These creatures like to live alone.

Staying safe



Did you know that a hedgehog has 5000 to 7000 spines on its back? They protect them from predators; spines are like stiff human hairs. When hogs are scared, they curl into a prickly ball and stay still; hedgehogs do not run away.

Hoglets



These are baby hedgehogs.

Hedgehogs usually give birth in June or July to 4 or 5 babies.

Hoglets are born with their spikes under the skin.

They leave nest at 3 or 4 weeks old.

If a mum and babies are disturbed, she may leave them to die or eat them.



This is a mammal tunnel. Special ink means the hedgehogs leave their foot prints.



Hedgehogs mainly eat insects and creepy crawlies. They also eat meaty pet food that people leave for them in gardens.
NEVER GIVE A HEDGEHOG MILK OR BREAD.

What else?



Hedgehogs are a lot like us!

They need food and water, places to sleep, leaves and lovely wild spaces.

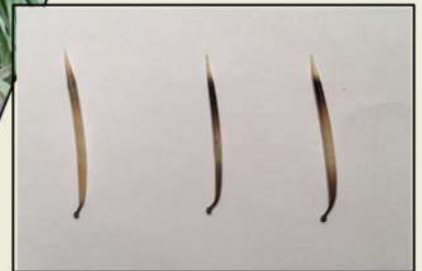
Make sure they have a way in to your garden; this is called a hedgehog highway.

Habitats



Hedgehogs like to live in wildflowers, long grass, hedges, trees, leaf piles, log piles, brambles and nettles.

Signs



How do you know a hog visits your garden? Feet prints, spines and poo are good indicators. You may be lucky enough to spot one at night or on a night camera.

Help



Helping hedgehogs. Everyone can do their part: pick up litter, make holes in fences, check under bonfires before lighting, keep dogs away and don't use slug pellets.

Sick hedgehogs

LETHARGIC

HEDGEHOGS DO NOT
SUNBATHE!



WOBBLY ON ITS FEET



SURROUNDED BY FLIES



TRAPPED



BEING ATTACKED BY CORVIDS



INJURED



HOGLET WITHOUT AN ADULT

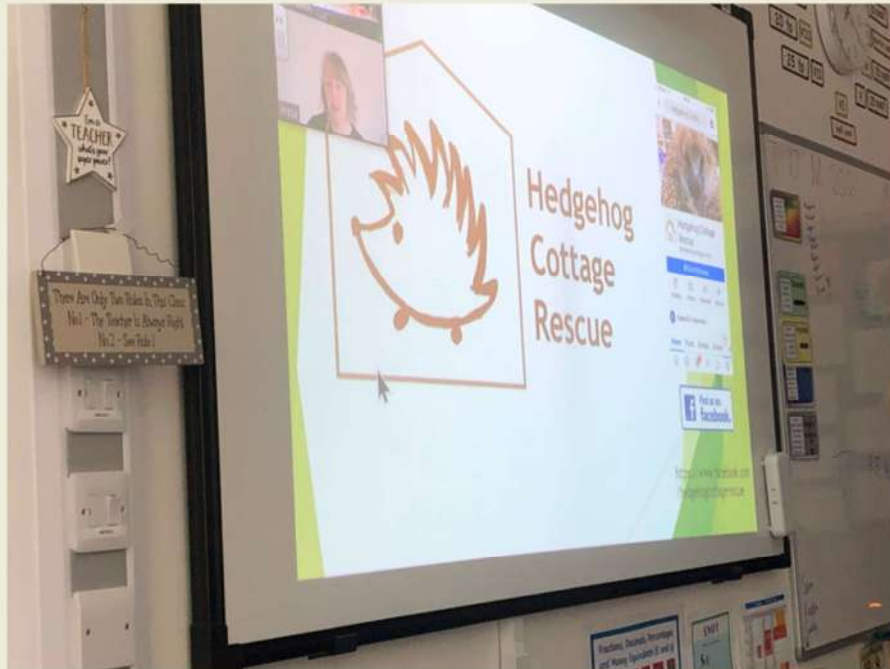


Hedgehogs are at risk of dying out – extinction.

We've lost up to half of our hedgehogs since the year 2000.

If you see a hedgehog out in the day, wobbling, being attacked by flies or birds, trapped or injured, it needs help. This is Fiona who takes sick hedgehogs into her York hedgehog sanctuary – Urchins. She has helped us look after four that we have found in Lord Deramore's.

Sick hedgehogs



Caroline, who runs Hedgehog Cottage Rescue, talked to us about how she looks after sick hedgehogs.

Sick hedgehogs

British Hedgehog Preservation Society

Hedgehogs in need of help:

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| LETHARGIC Hedgehogs don't sunbathe! | FLIES If there are a lot of flies around a hedgehog it needs help. | WOBBLY If hedgehogs are wobbling as they walk there is something wrong. |
| OBVIOUSLY INJURED | TRAPPED Have been caught in netting, a pond, drain, etc | HOGLETS If seen out in the day without an adult and/or squawking |
| OUT DURING THE DAY Some exceptions being a mum nest building or taking a break from the nest or any adult that has been disturbed and is seeking safety. These hedgehogs will be healthy looking and walking with 'purpose'. | | |

How to spot a sick hedgehog.

If you see hedgehogs in need of help, please carry out the following first aid:

- + Use gardening gloves or a folded towel to gently pick the hedgehog up and pop it into a high sided cardboard or plastic box.
- + Bring the box indoors away from flies.
- + Keep the hedgehog in a quiet room away from pets and children and don't be tempted to look at it any more often than you must to carry out first aid.
- + Wrap a warm hot water bottle in a towel and place the hedgehog on it, with another towel gently draped over the hedgehog to keep the warmth in, make sure it has room to get off the bottle and that it stays warm (but not hot) at all times.
- + Offer a small amount of hedgehog food or meaty cat or dog food and some water – don't force feed.
- + If it is a small hedgehog or hoglet do check nearby for others from the same litter that might also be in trouble.
- + Call the British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890 801 for the phone number of your local hedgehog rescue volunteers (or go direct to the rescue if you have contact details).

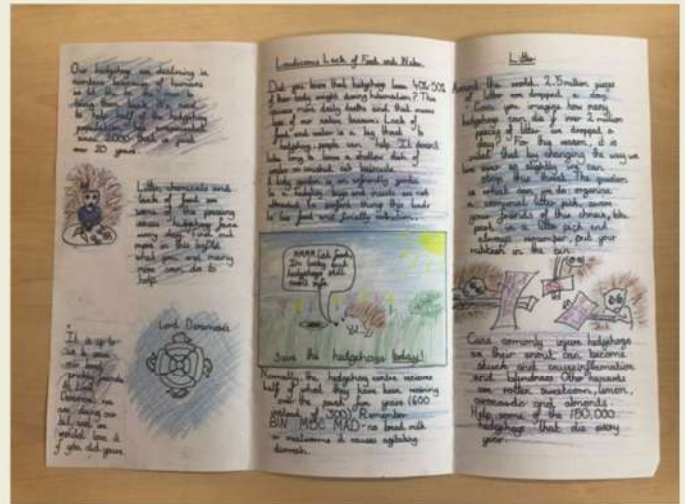


British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Hedgehog House, Dhustone, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 3PL
Tel: 01584 890 801 www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1154543 (formerly 236590)

How to help a sick hedgehog.

Hedgehog heroes at our school



Here's how we are doing our bit for our prickly friends.
We made and delivered hedgehog leaflets in Heslington.

Hedgehog heroes at our school



The construction of the dead hedge. Gordon Eastham (Grounds and Ecology Manager at the University of York) and his team helped us to install these uprights. More than 150 pupils enjoyed creating this wonderful dead hedge by carefully layering the branches and twigs up.

Hedgehog heroes at our school



It is 40 metres long! The hedgehog sanctuary is behind the hedge and there are six hedgehog highways through the hedge which we have seen hedgehogs use.

Hedgehog heroes at our school



Our award-winning bug hotel. It is huge and fully booked all year round! We collect as much litter as we can from the school grounds and in Heslington.

Some of the hedgehogs seen at Lord Deramore's School



Some of the hedgehogs seen at school.

Hoggy Links

<https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/leaflets/Hedgehog-Street-top-tips.pdf>

<https://bighedgehogmap.org/>

<https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/BHPS-First-Aid-Leaflets.pdf>

**How can YOU be a
hedgehog hero?**