

Hedgehogs



“Abandoned” Hedgehogs

It is very unusual to see a hedgehog out and about during daylight hours. Do not immediately disturb it; put down some food and watch it for a day. After this time if it is still around then it may be a late born baby that is too small to hibernate or it may be ill.

“Ill” Hedgehogs

Any hedgehog that does not roll into a protective ball when approached or is out and about in daylight is probably ill or injured.

Fleas

Most hedgehogs naturally carry fleas. They are not a problem unless the hedgehog is ill when they can be treated with a pyrethrin containing flea powder (e.g. Head-to-Tail).

Maggots/Fly Larvae

These are usually seen only on very sick or injured hedgehogs and should all be picked off and the wounds cleaned.

Hibernation

Baby hedgehogs born late in the summer or in early autumn often have difficulty finding sufficient food to build up fat reserves to see them through the winter. The minimum weight necessary for hibernation is 450g (1lb). (A normal adult should weigh between 800-1200g.)

Hedgehogs will usually hibernate when environmental temperatures drop to below 9°C; it is normal for hedgehogs to emerge from hibernation intermittently during mild spells.

Feeding Adult Hedgehogs

Feed as varied a diet as possible:

- Meaty household scraps
- Tinned pet foods, e.g. Pedigree Chum
- Chicken carcasses (raw or cooked)
- Soft fruit
- Nuts (non-salted)
- Soaked dog biscuits/bread (not milk)

Feeding Baby Hedgehogs

Recipe 1

2 parts goat's milk
1 part goat's colostrum
vitamin and mineral supplement

Recipe 2

Puppy milk replacer, e.g. Welpi or Lactol

Recipe 3

1 raw egg
½ pint water
1 pint whole goat's milk
¼ - ½ tsp castor oil
vitamin and mineral supplement

Age (Days)	Volume	Frequency
0-4 (umbilical cord remnants visible)	few drops	2 hours (glucose in water)
4-14 (eyes closed)	2-3ml	2-3 hours
14-21 (eyes open)	5mls	3-4 hours (between 7am and 12pm)
21+	Start lapping. Start to introduce solids, e.g. biscuits mashed in milk and Chum puppy food	
40 days	Should weigh approximately 230g (½lb)	
56-80 days	Release back into wild	

Useful Addresses

British Hedgehog Preservation Society
Knowbury House
Knowbury
LUDLOW
Shropshire
SY8 3LQ

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St Tiggywinkle's
The Wildlife Hospital Trust
Aston Road
Haddenham
AYLESBURY
Bucks
HP17 8AF

☎ **Casualty Helpline:**
(01844) 292292

NB: After each feed gently massage the belly and genital areas to encourage voiding of urine and faeces.