

Happy Hedgehog Day!

Hedgehogs will still be hibernating at this time of year, keeping cosy and warm, curled in a nest of leaves until the weather warms up. But this doesn't mean we can't celebrate them, and it's a perfect time to think about how we can get our gardens ready for when they do come out of hibernation.



News: Hedgehogs at Risk!

Hedgehogs are now so rare that they are officially considered 'vulnerable to extinction' on the [red list](#) of British mammals. They are disappearing faster than tigers!

What can I do to help?

There are some very simple things you can do to help hedgehogs:

- Hedgehogs need to travel 1 mile or more each night to find enough food to eat. If we all make a little hole 13cm by 13cm in the bottom of our garden fence, this means that hedgehogs can explore our gardens. For instructions and to become a hedgehog champion, join [Hedgehog Street](#).
- Keep a corner of your garden wild and untidy, leave a pile of logs and leaves, keep the grass long.
- Leave them some food. Do not feed them milk and bread, this will make hedgehogs poorly, but cat food and water are perfect.
- Cut out poisonous slug pellets, which can kill hedgehogs, there are plenty of alternatives available.
- Add any sightings of hedgehogs to the [Big Hedgehog Map](#).



Snuffle Like a Hedgehog

Hedgehogs snuffle so much because they are finding their food. Hedgehogs are nocturnal, which means that they look for food at night, so they mainly use their brilliant sense of smell to find food.

Find out how good your sense of smell is by making a smelly potion. Take a cup out with you on a walk or into your garden. Pick some leaves from different plants. Which leaves smell nice and which not so nice? If you can find some herbs, even better! Crush the leaves with your fingers, and put them in your cup. Give them a shake, then give your smelly potion a snuffle like a hedgehog. Be careful not to taste your potion as some leaves have a nasty taste.

Hunt for Hedgehog food

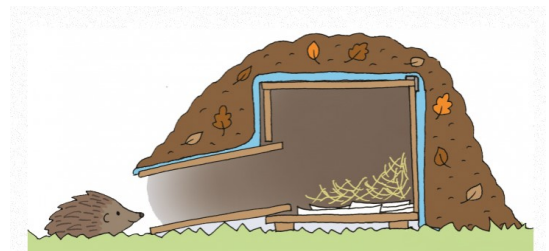
Hedgehogs love to eat juicy worms and slugs as well as other minibeasts like spiders, caterpillars and beetles. Go on a minibeast hunt and see how much hedgehog food you can find. Look under logs, in leaf piles and in the tall grass, all places that hedgehogs love to find their food. Always make sure that you are gentle with any creatures that you find and put them back where you found them.

Build a Hedgehog House

Making a hedgehog home is a great way of encouraging them to come to your garden.

You can get out the saw and make a sturdy wooden one, follow these instructions from the [Wildlife Trust](#).

For a simpler version, using a wooden crate, old bricks, sticks and leaves, follow the [Woodland Trust instructions](#).



Or even easier, use an upside down plastic storage box, follow this [Wildlife Watch sheet](#).