

What should you do if you find a hedgehog that needs help?



Hedgehogs are usually most active at night, so a hedgehog out in the daytime may need help. However, in hot weather they may come out looking for water or shelter, and female hedgehogs may occasionally be seen collecting food or nesting materials.



If the hedgehog is injured

If the hedgehog is visibly injured, please take it straight to your local vet or contact a hedgehog rescue for urgent advice.



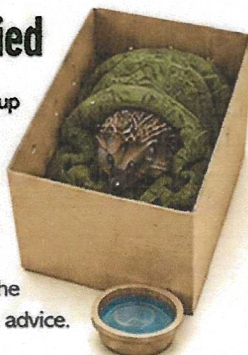
Watch first

If the hedgehog is not visibly injured, put down a shallow bowl of water and some wet or dry cat food, preferably non-fish and watch it quietly for a short while to see what it does. **Please do not give hedgehogs bread or milk.**



If you are worried

Use gardening gloves to pick it up and place it in a high-sided box, as hedgehogs can climb. Add a towel for it to hide in, and keep the box somewhere dark, quiet and secure, with a shallow bowl of water. You can place a towel over the top of the box to help keep it calm while you seek advice.



If you uncover a hibernating hedgehog

Please do not move it. Cover it over again with a thick layer of dry leaves and leave it to sleep.



Small hedgehogs in autumn



In autumn, if you see a hedgehog that looks very small, pick it up using thick gloves and weigh it.



If it weighs under 450g, or seems injured, cold, wobbly, weak or unwell, contact your local hedgehog rescue or vet for advice.



If it weighs 450g or more and otherwise looks healthy, it is usually best to leave it in the wild, as coming into rescue can be stressful.



When in doubt, ask for advice



Please contact your local hedgehog rescue or local vet if you are at all concerned.



Many vets will assess sick or injured wildlife without charging the finder, but it is best to phone first if you can.



You can find details of local wildlife rescues at:

www.helpwildlife.co.uk



Every hedgehog deserves a chance



Make your garden hedgehog friendly: leave gaps in fences.



Always provide fresh water.



Never use slug pellets or poisons.



Provide shelter with a hedgehog house or log pile.