

Hedgehog numbers have fallen from
36 million to less than **1 million** today

Help your neighbourhood become hedgehog-friendly with these 9 easy ideas

1. Make a hole for hedgehogs

Hedgehogs travel 2km a night looking for food & mates. Walls & fences block their path & mean hedgehogs go hungry and are more likely to be squashed by cars.

- ✓ Make a hole in, or under, your garden fence, wall or gate – 13x13cm is enough
- ✓ Retain existing hedging rather than build new block walls or fences

2. Make your garden naturally messy

Many people like to keep their garden looking tidy and their lawn closely mown. But hedgehogs need wild areas, where grasses & native plants are left uncut, to nest in, to hibernate and for insects to eat.

- ✓ Leave patches or strips in your garden to return to nature
- ✓ Leave rotting wood, dead vegetation & leaf litter over winter –insects need these for shelter until spring
- ✓ Encourage nettles, dandelions, brambles, honeysuckle & daisies to attract insects

3. Make a home for a hedgehog

Hedgehogs need undisturbed places to rest during the day, to hibernate in over winter, and to raise families.

- ✓ Make a compost heap; those with open sides are particularly good
- ✓ Pile up leaves in a quiet corner
- ✓ Make a log pile – the bigger the better

4. Keep your garden hazard-free

Hedgehogs get trapped in netting & litter, drown in ponds, get burnt in bonfires and are killed by strimmers.

- ✓ Pile stones or wood up as an escape route in steep sided ponds
- ✓ Check garden refuse and bonfires before burning
- ✓ Pick up litter
- ✓ Allow space for hedgehogs to pass under fruit netting
- ✓ Store garden refuse & netting off the ground
- X AVOID strimming – and never trim within 25cm of the ground

5. Make a watering hole for hogs

Hedgehogs die without water....and they also love to eat aquatic bugs and frogs.

- ✓ Dig a garden pond or organise a community pond dig
- ✓ Make a mini-watering hole by sinking a dustbin lid into the ground and topping up with water
- X NEVER give milk to hedgehogs

6. Feed a hungry hog

Hedgehogs will love tasty treats particularly in spring and autumn. If hedgehogs visit your garden;

- ✓ Leave out a bowl of cat or dog food (not fish flavoured), chopped peanuts or meal worms
- X NEVER give bread to hedgehogs (or other wildlife including ducks)!

7. Go chemical free

Garden pesticides kill our native plants and insects. They poison hedgehogs (and other wildlife) and mean there is less food & shelter for them too.

- ✓ Go pesticide free – embrace native species!
- ✓ Use deterrents such as coffee grounds, salt, seaweed or orange halves & vinegar
- ✓ Plant slug tolerant plants
- ✓ Use environmentally friendly timber & lawn treatments
- X DON'T use chemical slug, ant or weed killers.

8. Plant a hedgehog haven

Trees, shrubs and wildflowers will attract insects and bring hedgehogs, and other wildlife, to your garden.

- ✓ Plant hazel, holly, rowan, hawthorn or crab apple in a small garden
- ✓ Create your own mini wildflower meadow
- ✓ Make the most of your space – instead of just lawn or gravel, encourage wild plants to grow in places you don't use

9. Log your hog

To understand & protect hedgehogs better we need to know more about where they live.

- ✓ Record your hedgehog sightings (dead/alive) at www.ORKS.org.uk or www.hedgehogstreet.org

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