

Did you know you have Hedgehogs on your street?

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet. Hedgehogs need all of the help we can give them!

Did you know that rough estimates put the current Hedgehog population in England, Wales and Scotland at less than one million, compared with a staggering 30 million in the 1950s?

Hedgehogs have been spotted nearby and the fact that they can travel up to 2 miles a night means that YOU have Hedgehogs near you!

Some of the reasons for Hedgehog decline in the UK:

HEDGEHOG DECLINE... can you help?

- Loss of Hedgerows and field margins.
- Loss of habitat in Urban areas due to housing developments, car parks etc.
- New roads, fences and walls carve up suitable habitat and sometimes isolate populations which in turn prevents breeding.
- Lack of wild areas means a lack of bugs and beetles resulting in a lack of suitable food sources for the Hedgehogs. This is often a result of 'over-fidy' gardens.
- With more cars on the roads than ever before, roadkill is a big problem.
- Use of pesticides and slug pellets can poison Hedgehogs and also kill the bugs that Hedgehogs eat.



QUEENBOROUGH TOWN Council

What can you do to help? PTO!

Hedgehogs R Us
Order these leaflets for free and purchase many other items to help with hedgehog conservation at:
www.hedgehogsrus.co.uk

1. Link your garden - Hedgehogs roam up to 2 miles each night! It's therefore critical that we put 13 x 13cm (5 x 5") gaps in all fences and walls to allow them to forage for food and meet mates. Why not raise awareness and frame your gap with a Hedgehogs R Us Highway Surround?

2. Make Ponds / Holes / Drains safe - Hedgehogs are adept swimmers and climbers, but they can't climb out of steep-sided ponds, pools or deep holes. Use a pile of stones or a piece of wood wrapped in chicken wire to create a simple ramp to prevent drowning in ponds. Cover up drains and holes to prevent hogs getting trapped and dying of starvation.

3. Create a Wild Corner - Let the plants grow in a corner of your garden. Hedgehogs may nest or even hibernate there. Try adding log piles, bug hotels and a compost heap to encourage bugs for hedgehogs to eat.

Why not buy some wildflower seedballs from Hedgehogs R Us to get your wild corner started?

4. Deal with Nettling and Litter - Hedgehogs are prone to getting tangled. Polystyrene cups, plastic, and elastic bands are all common offenders. Replace netting with a rigid structure or use a thick cordage and keep taut. Sports and garden netting should be tied up or stored inside when not in use.



5. Put out Food and Water - Hedgehogs really appreciate us supplementing their natural diet. Meaty cat or dog food, certain hedgehog foods and kitten biscuits are all suitable. **AVOID** mealworms, peanuts, suet and milk. Always make fresh water available in a shallow dish. If you are worried about the local cats and rats getting to it, why not buy a Hedgehogs R Us feeding station?

6. Stop using Chemicals - Lawn treatments reduce worm populations. Pesticides, insecticides and slug pellets are toxic and reduce hedgehogs' creepy crawly prey. They are all unnecessary in a healthy, well managed garden.

7. Check before Strimming - Check before you cut and avoid causing horrific injuries or death. Single hedgehogs are easily moved, but use gloves! Moving a hedgehog family is more complicated and ideally they should be left undisturbed - Call your local hedgehog rescue centre for advice.

8. Be Careful with Bonfires - Piles of debris are irresistible to a hedgehog looking for somewhere to hibernate or nest - build it on the day of burning or move the pile on the day of burning to avoid a tragic end.



9. Make a home for Hedgehogs - Houses available from Hedgehogs R Us.

10. Help hogs in need - Hedgehogs are nocturnal animals and should therefore only come out at night. If you see a Hedgehog out during the day, it's likely that it needs help. Using gloves, put it in a high-sided box, cover with a towel, add a shallow dish of water and get in touch with your local hedgehog rescue centre for advice ASAP.

Note: If the hedgehog is large and moving with purpose, it could be a busy mum, so do not disturb it without getting advice from your local rescue centre first.