



HEDGEHOG STREET

CITY OF WILDLIFE

PTES & BHPS have put together this super guide for making your garden more hedgehog-friendly. For more info. visit www.hedgehogstreet.org.

A

...is for **Autumn orphans** and juveniles. Keep an eye out for any small hedgehogs that look underweight. If you do find any small hedgehogs get in touch with BHPS for some advice: info@britishhedgehogs.org.uk or 01584 890 801.

B

...is for **Bonfires** which are popular with hedgehogs as they make an ideal nest site. Make sure you check any bonfires before lighting them or relocate them on the day of burning. Why not make a compost heap for hedgehogs to burrow into over the winter?

C

...is for Hedgehog **Champions**, spreading the Hedgehog Street message to their neighbours and local communities. Find out more at www.hedgehogstreet.org.

D

...is for **Disease** and its impact. The Garden Wildlife Health project is looking into whether disease is a factor in the hedgehog decline and working out what a natural level of disease and parasitism may be. To report any dead or ill hedgehogs visit the Garden Wildlife Health website: www.gardenwildlifehealth.org.

E

...is for **Events**. People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) runs events throughout the year where you can get close to British wildlife, including hedgehogs: www.ptes.org/events.

F

...is for supplementary **Food**. Meat-based cat or dog food, special hedgehog food, along with a few crushed unsalted peanuts, raisins or mealworms are all great for hungry hedgehogs.



G

...is for **Gardens**, a great habitat for hedgehogs. With almost half a million hectares of gardens in Britain they are an important refuge.

H

...is for **Hibernacula**, the nests in which hedgehogs will hibernate. These can be in log piles, compost heaps, patches of brush or in a specially built hedgehog nest box.

I

...is for **Insulation**. Hedgehogs need to keep warm and snug during their hibernation, so providing them with dried leaves, straw or torn up newspaper will allow them to insulate their winter nests.

J

...is for **Joining up** gardens. Get your neighbours to put access holes into their wooden fences to allow your local hedgehogs to freely roam your neighbourhood. Register as a Hedgehog Champion and you can download our hole template for free!

K

...is for two **Kilometres**, the average distance that a hedgehog roams in a single night.



L

...is for **Leaf piles** which can provide both important hibernation sites for hedgehogs and nesting material for hedgehog boxes. It's also valuable food for insects.

M

...is for **Mothers**. Female hedgehogs have raised their babies and will be trying to regain condition and increase weight. Males often enter hibernation before females as they have had more time in late summer and early autumn to 'put on the pounds'.

N

...is for **Neighbours**. Hedgehogs need more than one garden to forage in so get to know your neighbours and local community and persuade them to make their gardens hedgehog-friendly.



O

...is for **Old and decaying wood**. Creating a wood pile in your garden will not only provide an important habitat for insects, which hedgehogs can then feed on, but also be a safe, secure site for nesting or hibernation.

P

...is for **Ponds** and swimming **Pools** - ensure that the sides of ponds are gently sloping to allow hedgehogs to climb out or use a piece of chicken wire to form a ramp. Similarly, swimming pools need an exit route or should be securely covered.

Q

...is for a **Quiet corner** in your garden in which to place your hedgehog home or build a log or leaf pile. Do not disturb hibernating hedgehogs as it may cause them to stir and use up valuable energy reserves.

R

...is for the fat **Reserves** that hedgehogs need to build up before they start hibernation. Often around 30% of their body weight is fat when they enter hibernation.

S

...is for **Strimming** with care. Hedgehogs are often hiding in long grass or brush and their natural defence mechanism is to curl into a ball which sadly isn't much protection against machinery. Check all long grass or vegetation carefully before mowing or strimming.

T

...is for **Torpor**, the state hedgehogs enter when they hibernate. During hibernation a hedgehog's body temperature drops to match the surroundings. This allows them to save a lot of energy but slows down all other bodily functions making normal activity impossible.

U

...is for being **Untidy**. Leave an area of your garden to go wild – brambles, log piles, leaf piles and long grass or scrub are all perfect places for hedgehogs to make a cosy hibernation nest.

V

...is for **Vehicles** on roads. Every year thousands of hedgehogs are killed on roads in Britain. Autumn is one of the peak times for road casualties as young hedgehogs disperse, so please drive carefully.

W

...is for a fresh bowl of **Water**. Hedgehogs can remain active well into November and December and will often move nesting sites during hibernation. A bowl of fresh water will be greatly appreciated by any 'hog out and about.

X

...is for **ToXic chemicals**. Try not to use slug pellets or pesticides in your garden as not only will they reduce the number of insects available for hedgehogs to eat, they might also make hedgehogs very ill or even kill them.

Y

...is for **YouTube**, visit our Hedgehog Street channel where you can watch videos from other Hedgehog Champions: www.youtube.com/hedgehogstreet ...or send us your videos and we will upload the best ones.

Z

...is for **Zzzzzzz**.... sleeping hedgehogs will be warm to the touch, whilst hibernating ones will be colder. The spines of a hibernating hedgehog will still prickle if touched but the spines of a dead one will not.



people's trust for
**endangered
species**

reg. charity no. 274206



**British Hedgehog
Preservation Society**

reg. charity no. 326885