

HEDGEHOG INFORMATION AND ADVICE

GUERNSEY HEDGEHOG RESCUE CENTRE
PENROSE FARM, LES EFFARDS,
ST SAMPSON. GY2 4YW

TELEPHONE: 07781 144250

email: dawn@hedgehogrescue.org.gg (please call if urgent)

website: www.hedgehogrescue.org.gg



We pledge not to give up
on any hedgehog that
arrives on our doorstep

I have found an injured / sick hedgehog, what should I do?

Make sure the animal is secure. (Tip: put a bucket or box over the hedgehog or it may be gone when you get back to it!). Find a box or container and line it with newspaper or an old towel. Using a pair of gloves gently pick up the hedgehog and put it in the box and cover it loosely with a towel or torn newspaper. Put the box somewhere safe and out of direct sunlight (but please ensure the hedgehog is kept warm as an ill hedgehog cannot generate heat for itself). If there is room in the box, you may put in a small dish / saucer of water, **but do not feed the hedgehog.**

THEN CONTACT THE CENTRE IMMEDIATELY.

What if I see a hedgehog out during the day?

Hedgehogs are nocturnal; they should not be out during the day. If you see a hedgehog in the open during the day it is sick and needs immediate help (even if it just appears to be sleeping on your lawn / patio).

**IF YOU SEE A HEDGEHOG OUT DURING THE DAY, SECURE IT (SEE ABOVE),
THEN CONTACT THE CENTRE IMMEDIATELY.**

Don't hedgehogs have fleas?

Hedgehogs can carry fleas HOWEVER they only carry their own variety of flea. The hedgehog variety of flea cannot survive on humans or other animals.

You or your pets cannot 'catch' fleas from hedgehogs.

Crusty looking growth on hedgehogs (Mange)

Hedgehogs can be afflicted with mange. This is a crusty looking deposit on the hedgehog, often around the head / face and underside. It can appear that the hedgehog is going 'mouldy' or covered in dried mud. This is a reaction by the hedgehog to the parasitical mange mite. This condition will eventually kill the hedgehog as the encrustation restricts the hedgehog's mobility. However, mange is a condition that is easily treated with medication.

It is important to spot and treat mange as early as possible. If you suspect a hedgehog might have mange, secure it, then contact the centre immediately.

I have found a hedgehog that will not uncurl, is it dead?

During the winter you may find completely rolled up hedgehogs that will not uncurl. They may appear to be dead but can actually be in deep hibernation.

If you find a hedgehog like this please contact the centre immediately.

What do hedgehogs eat?

Hedgehogs are common visitors to local gardens. You may see them out in the evening looking for food on your lawn or patio.

Hedgehogs typically eat in order of preference:

- beetles • caterpillars • earthworms • small mammals • slugs and snails
- millipedes • earwigs • bees • crane fly larvae • other small insects

They have also been known to eat dead birds and birds eggs if they are on the ground.

Can I feed hedgehogs?

Yes! Please put out food for hedgehogs, but please note what you should and should not feed hedgehogs.

The centre recommends feeding hedgehogs the following:

- Whiskas Supermeat tinned cat food
- Broken Peanuts (the wild bird variety of peanuts NOT the salted human kind)
- Small sized Cat Biscuits (the centre uses Nutro cat biscuits)

Hedgehogs will also appreciate scraps of meat, scrambled egg and grated cheese.

DO NOT FEED HEDGEHOGS THE FOLLOWING (these items will make them ill):

- Milk and / or bread
- Tinned cat / dog food with jelly or gravy
- Fish flavoured tinned cat food

Always ensure there is a shallow bowl of fresh water available for hedgehogs to drink.

How much does a hedgehog need to weigh to survive the winter?

A hedgehog needs to weigh at least 700 grams (about 1 & 1/2 lbs) to have a good chance of surviving the winter.

AND FINALLY: Please take care when driving!

Squashed hedgehogs are an all too common sight on the roads. A hedgehog will often curl up in to a ball as it senses danger, this unfortunately will not protect it from cars. Take care when driving, particularly at night. If you see a hedgehog curled up on the road stop and assist it across the road. (It is a good idea to carry a pair of gloves and a torch in your car).

THE A-Z OF MAKING YOUR GARDEN HEDGEHOG FRIENDLY

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The first thing to do is walk around your garden and have a good look at it. Make a mental note of all the cosy, dry sheltered places where a hedgehog might like to nest in future and try to leave those places alone. And if there aren't any places like this in your garden, leave a small corner to get overgrown and make it a wildlife sanctuary.

Barbed Wire All barbed wire should be at least a foot above the ground, and never left trailing or discarded on the ground. If a hedgehog manages to become impaled on a spike, it will curl into a ball instinctively and become enmeshed.

Bonfires Piles of dry leaves, twigs, wood and garden waste are irresistible to hedgehogs looking for a nest or some dry shelter. Ideally a bonfire should only be built on the day you are going to light it, so that hedgehogs do not have a chance to go to sleep underneath it, if this is not possible either: store your rubbish in a separate location from where you intend to burn it or check the bonfire by carefully turning it over before you set it alight. Please be particularly careful when accumulating rubbish for 5th November.

Chemicals (Pesticides and Herbicides) The use of chemicals in the garden kills much wildlife indiscriminately. Many pesticides and herbicides contain poisons that are deadly to hedgehogs. Slug pellets contain metaldehyde that will kill hedgehogs and birds. **Unless the manufacturer states otherwise, all pesticides (including ALL slug pellets) are poisonous to animals.** Even if the hedgehogs don't eat the pellets directly, they are likely to feed on the snails and slugs that eat the pellets. If the resident hedgehog population is not keeping these pests under control an alternative could be to use a "beer-trap". Or water your garden in the evening and then when it is nearly dark simply go round and pick up the slugs and snails. Doing this for a few consecutive evenings can eliminate most of the slugs. Soapy water is good for spraying aphids and other insects and there is a wide selection of safer insect killers on the market. Read the packet carefully and always mix according to the instructions. Or why not try natural repellents like marigolds or peppermint plants. If you really must put down slug pellets, please pick up all the dead slugs each day.

Compost Heaps A compost heap is a favourite sleeping place for hedgehogs; but they can easily be hurt by a garden spade or fork when working the composting matter. Break the heap down carefully and if you find a nest of hedgehogs (or any other animal), leave them alone. They will move of their own accord.

Drains All drain holes should be covered - this will stop leaves blocking the drain and hedgehogs falling into it.

Garages If there is a pit or tray of old sump oil, a hedgehog is likely to fall into it. They are also likely to investigate open tins of paint or other liquids so always replace the lids. **If a hedgehog does get covered in oil, paint or tar, please call the centre so that we can treat the hedgehog.**

Mowing and Strimming Please check for sleeping hedgehogs before using these tools. Mowing and strimming long grass and using hedge trimmers near to the ground can cause severe injuries to hedgehogs. Sometimes hedgehogs will snuggle down unnoticed into tall grass and can be caught with blades and strimmers. When cutting long overgrown areas, initially cut to about a foot high, and then check for hedgehogs and other wildlife before cutting any lower. If you provide a suitable nesting or hibernating box, this can prevent accidental disturbance.

Netting and other potential traps All garden netting is hazardous to hedgehogs as it can act as a snare as the twine gets caught around the hedgehog's spines. If a hedgehog gets caught in netting or another potential trap (4-pack rings, etc.) it is unlikely to be able to remove itself. As it struggles to escape, the strands can form ligatures around one of the hedgehog's limbs, and these can act as a tourniquet. Hedgehogs are naturally inquisitive, so do not leave empty cans, plastic cups, containers or anything else lying around that may trap them. Keep all netting and string arrangements a foot above the ground and never leave it lying around.

Pets Dogs are the only animals that regularly injure hedgehogs. Keep your dog under control at all times, and if your dog finds something worth barking at in the garden, find out what it is. Both the hedgehog and dog are likely to get hurt in the conflict. **If a hedgehog does get attacked by a dog, please call the centre so that we can treat it.**

Ponds and other water Hazards Hedgehogs can swim very well, but if they cannot escape from a pond they will become exhausted and drown. Make sure that any hedgehog can get out of a pond by making a bank with a gentle slope; or hang a length of plastic-coated wire over the edge to make a good escape ladder. Check ponds daily.

Rubbish Hedgehogs are frequently killed by rubbish, so always ensure that your garden is clear of it. Cover dustbins and tie up refuse sacks so that the contents do not blow away. Hedgehogs can get their heads stuck in empty cans, yoghurt pots and other cartons - flatten them before throwing them away. Also hedgehogs love to nest in black plastic sacks - check any open ones before throwing them away.

Sheds Do not decide to keep doors closed that have previously been open for weeks without first checking that a hedgehog has not made a nest inside. Hedgehogs also regularly nest under sheds and outbuildings and are often injured when the shed is demolished or moved, so always check for hedgehogs by lifting the floor carefully. If you can, postpone moving the shed until October when the hoglets should have left the nest, but hibernation may not have started.

Swimming Pools Leave a flat piece of wood about a foot square floating in the swimming pool. If a hedgehog falls in it can swim to the 'raft' where it can wait for rescue - Please check swimming pools daily.

Wood Preserver Many wood preservers are poisonous and will harm hedgehogs as they frequently lick freshly treated fences. Ask for an environmentally safe water-based product from your garden centre.

ABOUT THE CENTRE AND BECOMING A MEMBER

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The Guernsey Hedgehog Rescue Centre was officially set up as a charity at the beginning of 2005. The centre at Penrose Farm had been taking in hedgehogs since 2001 and it had become apparent that there was a need for a properly funded centre to care for the hedgehogs of Guernsey.

The aims of the centre are:

1. To care for sick, injured or orphaned hedgehogs under veterinary guidance and supervision and to release them when assessed to be capable of surviving in the wild.
2. To increase public awareness about hedgehogs and the hazards they face, and to encourage children's interest in and respect for hedgehogs.
3. To assist in scientific research into hedgehogs and their behaviour.

The centre is staffed entirely by volunteers, led by Dawn Robin. Dawn has extensive knowledge of the care and rehabilitation of hedgehogs. Advice has also been given by Dr Toni Bunnell, who lectures in biological sciences at the University of Hull.

The Guernsey Hedgehog Rescue Centre is member number 269 of The Association of Guernsey Charities.

BECOMING A MEMBER

Minimum annual membership is £5.00 for an individual and £10.00 for a family; all donations above this will be gratefully received. Members receive a quarterly newsletter.

To become a member please complete the form overleaf and return it to the centre.

STANDING ORDER FORM



Please return this form, completed and signed, along with your Annual Membership form to the centre.

Bank Name:	
Bank Address:	
Sort Code:	
Account Name:	
Account Number:	
Account Type: (Current / Deposit etc.)	
Reference: (Please leave blank)	

Amount: (Minimum - £5 Individual / £10 Family)	£
1 st Payment Date: (Date, Month & Year)	
Annually Thereafter: (Date and Month)	

Your Name:	
Your Address:	
Post Code:	

On receipt of this order please pay to Lloyds TSB Bank, Guernsey Branch, Sort Code 30-93-73 to the credit of the Guernsey Hedgehog Rescue Centre Account No. 02462851 the amount noted above on the date specified and annually thereafter as indicated.

SIGNED.....

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HOW YOU CAN HELP US

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Donate

Please send any donations to the centre's address.

Any amount is greatly received. Thank You.

**PLEASE NOTE: 100% of ALL donations are spent on caring for hedgehogs.
Administration and publicity work is undertaken by volunteers, free of charge.**

Collect Co-op stamps for us

We can use Co-op stamps to buy food for the hedgehogs being cared for at the centre.

Knitted hedgehog toys

We have a pattern for small knitted hedgehogs that can be filled with catnip or kapok and sold as toys for cats or children.

Could you knit us some?

If you could please contact the centre for more details.

Would you like to buy one?

They cost 75p and are available from the centre, the Trim Dog Pet Centres (Pleinheume and 24 Fountain Street) and Paws & Claws (St Sampson).



Mufti days

Does your place of work contribute regularly to charity with mufti days etc?

If so, please nominate us as a worthy charity to support.

Make a Hog Money Collection Box

Contact the centre for a template.

Merchandise for sale at the centre

The centre has a wide range of merchandise for sale. This range includes:

Car Stickers • Fridge Magnets • Key Rings • Money Boxes • Mugs • Pin Badges
Hedgehog Hand Puppets • Hedgehog Toys (our exclusive design) • Knitted Hog Toys
Notepads • Notebooks • Notelet Cards • Pens (3 different designs)

100% of all profits made on merchandise sales are spent on caring for hedgehogs.

WE NEED YOU!

Foster Carers

The centre is always looking for more people to become foster carers - this means looking after the hedgehogs when they have recovered from their illness or injury, but are not quite ready to be released back into the wild.

Hedgehog Carers

We would welcome any help at the centre from just a few hours now and again to regular daily / weekly help. This would involve feeding and cleaning out the hedgehogs with the possibility of progressing on to more medical work with hedgehogs BUT ONLY: 1) If the volunteer wants to, 2) If the centre agrees and 3) After FULL training.

Maintenance Helpers

We occasionally need repairs done to the hospital and the hutches (or new hutches built). All equipment and materials would be provided.

Charity Helpers

We need organised, dedicated people to help with other aspects of the charity: fundraising, promotion, administration work etc.

If you could help us with any of the above we would very much appreciate it.
For further information please contact Dawn Robin on 07781 144250.

HOW TO FIND US

Whenever possible please call to let us know you are coming.

This way we can be prepare for your arrival. Thank You.

Our Perry's Guide reference is 10A3 (Page 10, Grid Square A3).

