



## Giving hedgehogs a helping hand

Small, round, brown and famously covered in spines, the hedgehog is one of Britain's favourite wild mammals. However, the once common hedgehog is now under threat from development and habitat loss. Here are some ways to help...

### Dig a pond

Hedgehogs like ponds that they can drink from, but make sure it easy to escape from, with a sloping beach-like edge or half submerged rocks or wire that can be used as a scrambling net. Also, keep pond levels topped up so they don't have as far to reach.

### Make a hog hole

Give hedgehogs easy access to your garden by creating 'hog holes' of at least 13x13cm square around the perimeter of your garden. Encourage neighbours to do the same so that your local community creates hedgehog highways! Visit [www.ywt.org.uk/hedgehog](http://www.ywt.org.uk/hedgehog) for a template.

### Things to avoid

Dogs can be very territorial and sometimes attack hedgehogs. Try avoid allowing them out in the garden unattended at night. If you have neighbours with dogs this should also be considered, as hedgehogs are likely to travel around your area, not just your garden.

Slug pellets and pesticides can potentially kill hedgehogs, and certainly damage the food chain they rely on. Hedgehogs themselves are brilliant predators of slugs, so try leave the job up to them, or find wildlife-friendly alternatives.

### How to help injured hedgehogs

Please be aware that if you find an injured hedgehog, although we can offer advice, we are a conservation charity and do not have the resources to rescue an animal.

[www.ywt.org.uk](http://www.ywt.org.uk)



Hedgehog - Credit Tom Marshall

In the event of finding an injured hedgehog we advise that you contact the British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801 to find your local rescue centre.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society recommends using gardening gloves to collect the hedgehog up and bring it indoors to put in a high sided cardboard box with an old towel or fleece at the bottom for it to hide in. They also suggest using a hot water bottle at the bottom of the box to provide extra heat – do not allow this to go cold. Put the box somewhere quiet and offer meaty cat or dog food and a small dish of water, then call the number above for your local rescue centre.

### Find out more

For more information on creating a haven for hedgehogs download the 'Wild About Gardens: Hedgehog' leaflet from our website [www.ywt.org.uk/hedgehog](http://www.ywt.org.uk/hedgehog).

If you are not a member then find out more about Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and how to become a member, plus more about the work we do to prevent the decline in hedgehogs by contacting us in the following ways:

**A:** 1 St George's Place, York, YO24 1GN

**T:** 01904 659570

**E:** [info@ywt.org.uk](mailto:info@ywt.org.uk)

**W:** <http://hedgehogs.ywt.org.uk/>



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