

Exotic Pets



Some people keep hedgehogs as pets. They are often hedgehogs that have been rescued from roads or bonfires and need to be looked after.

Hedgehogs are nocturnal which means that they sleep in the day and only come out at night. The 'Hedge' part of their name comes from where they build their nests in hedges, bushes and shrubs. The 'hog' part comes from the small snorting/ grunting sound they make which is similar to a pig/warthog. The hedgehog was not always called a hedgehog. Before this they were called Urchins which led to the naming of Sea Urchins.

Hedgehogs have a really long snout to help them hunt. It is even ahead of their mouths as it makes it easier to forage for their staple diet of insects, worms, caterpillars and berries. They hunt primarily using their hearing and smell because their eyesight is not very good, although they can see quite well in the dark. There are 15 different species of hedgehog in the world. Each are similar but have small characteristic and habitual differences.

The UK only has one native species, the European Hedgehog. Hedgehogs have around 5000 to 7000 spines on their back. These can be raised and lowered to respond to threatening situations. Each quill/ spine lasts about a year before dropping out and being replaced. The name for a group of hedgehogs is called an 'array'