

One in a MILLION



Aren't hedgehogs the most beautiful creatures? We're sure you're used to seeing them scuttling about at night, maybe in your own garden if you're really lucky! But one thing that might surprise you is that hedgehog numbers are falling and there's now thought to be **less than one million hedgehogs in the UK**. Can you imagine not seeing hedgehogs pottering about in the wild? We can't!

If we're not really careful, hedgehogs could become extinct. They're now classed as 'vulnerable' which means they're facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

What can you do to help?

- Give a hedgehog a home - logs, leaf piles and wild areas are perfect for hedgehogs to snuggle down in. Or why not provide a specially-made hedgehog home? Maybe you can ask your parents to help you make a really special wooden hedgehog house?
- Feed hedgehogs in your garden (take a look at what they eat in our Hedgehog Fact File) and don't forget to offer them shallow bowls of fresh water to drink.
- Keep your garden free of clutter so they don't hurt themselves. If you're having a bonfire, always check it before lighting to make sure a hedgehog hasn't snuggled up in the twigs and leaves.
- Tell people all about hedgehogs and ask for their help! The more people who can feed hedgehogs, provide homes and help to protect them, the more chance we have to save them.

Hedgehog Fact File

How much do you know about hedgehogs? Here's some fun facts for you...

- Adult hedgehogs can have up to 7,000 spines! Spiky!
- Hedgehogs live for 2-5 years.
- Hedgehogs like to eat invertebrates - beetles, slugs, earthworms and caterpillars are some of their favourites! Keen to feed hedgehogs in your garden? Offer them some meat flavoured dog or cat food, cat biscuits, or specially made hedgehog food!
- There are 17 different species of hedgehog! The one we see in the UK is called the European Hedgehog.
- Adult hedgehogs can travel between 1-2km each night.
- Hedgehogs hibernate! They start hibernation in October/November and it usually lasts until March/April. They lower their body temperature and slow their metabolism to save energy.

