



THE LIFE OF *Hedgehogs*

**TOGETHER WE CAN
HELP SAVE THE
HEDGEHOG**



**FIND OUT MORE
INFORMATION AT
SPIKESFOOD.CO.UK**

WELCOME TO Spike's

Spike's is a specialist hedgehog food manufacturer. For over 23 years, we have provided nutritious food specifically tailored to support the dietary needs of our spiky friends. Our complementary range includes the renowned, Tasty Semi-Moist and Delicious Crunchy Dry, along with our Insect Crumble, Meaty Feast and Scrummy Meaty Supper. It's safe to say that the nation's hedgehogs can't get enough.

Environmental changes have had a huge impact on the wild hedgehog species. Our spiky friends are vulnerable

to extinction and the Spike's team is dedicated to doing everything to help them not just survive but thrive. Our ultimate goal is to help wild hedgehogs by spreading awareness and protecting their habitats. We currently work with some amazing charities, and making small changes will protect the loveable species and help future generations of hogs.

We hope this little booklet will explain how you can make a difference and help us make sure the little hogs are still around for years to come!



GET TO KNOW YOUR SPIKY FRIENDS

Travel

Hedgehogs are found across the UK, absent only from a few remote places. Gardens, hedgerows, woodlands, grasslands, parks and cemeteries are all important hedgehog habitats. Adult hedgehogs travel between 1-2km per night.

On the menu

Hedgehogs eat a huge range of other garden invertebrates. In fact, beetles, earthworms and caterpillars make up most of their diet. If you want to support hedgehogs, you can also leave nutritious foods for them during cold or dry periods, hedgehogs will benefit hugely from a shallow dish of water and supplementary feeding. The Spike's range of Hedgehog Foods provides all the vitamins hedgehogs need to keep them happy and healthy.

Breeding

During the breeding season amorous hedgehogs can be seen and heard circling each other with snorts and grunts. Breeding typically starts in May, with a gestation period of around 35 days. Most hoglets are born in June and July with litters of up to five. Baby hedgehogs (or hoglets) are born with their spines sheathed beneath their skin which then emerge a few hours after birth.

Hibernation

Hedgehogs are one of only a handful of UK mammals to truly hibernate, along with bats and dormice. Depending on the weather and their body condition, they enter a state of torpor from October/November to March/April, lowering their body temperature and slowing their metabolism to save energy. Hedgehogs must feed intensively and be in great condition before hibernating if they are to last the winter. Some hedgehogs don't always hibernate! If a hedgehog is particularly well fed, it doesn't need to preserve energy to survive the winter. Keep an eye out as some little hogs may be forging for food or may need your help.



DID YOU know?

Did you know hedgehogs are **one of three** hibernating mammals in the UK - alongside dozing dormice and snoozing bats.



On average hedgehogs live for **2-5 years in the wild**

Hedgehogs have survived for over **15 million years** and are thought to be one of the oldest mammals on earth.

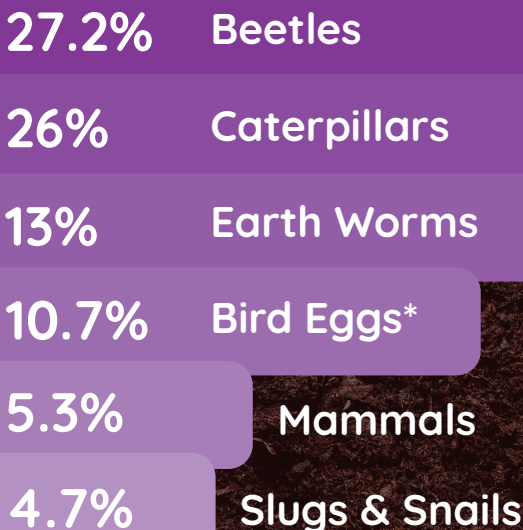
An adult Hedgehog has up to **7,000 spines**, a small hidden tail and can reach speeds of **up to 10mph**.

Hedgehogs have a specialised diet of beetles and caterpillars, or roots and fruit, whilst **they can also eat earthworms, birds' eggs, slugs and snails** if they are available.

Hedgehogs don't have great eyesight, **so rely on their sense of smell and hearing to navigate**.



THE DIET OF A HEDGEHOG



12.8% Other**

Data from Yalden, D.W. (1976) The food of the hedgehog in England. *Acta Theriologica* 21: 401-424.

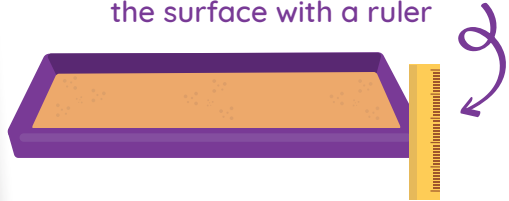
*Study examined animals that were trapped by gamekeepers using eggs as bait, so the proportion of eggs in a natural diet is likely to be lower.

**Other comprises of Millipedes, Earwigs, Wasps, Bees, Ants, Flies, Leatherjackets, Spiders, Ticks, Harvestmen, Woodlice, Centipedes and Bird Feathers.

HOW TO MAKE A *Footprint ID Guide*



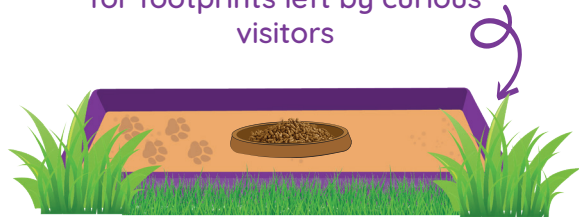
Fill an old baking tray with damp sand and smooth out the surface with a ruler



Place hedgehog food or meaty cat or dog food in a low sided bowl or dish and put into the middle of the tray



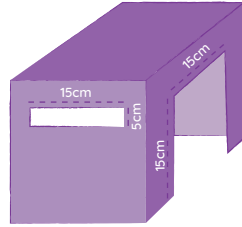
Leave the trap overnight in a garden and check in the morning for footprints left by curious visitors



You will need:

- Old baking tray
- Long ruler
- Fine grain sand
- Water
- Low bowl/dish
- Meaty cat or dog food
- Footprint ID guide

HOW TO MAKE A SIMPLE *Hedgehog House*



Cut two side air vents and an entrance into the plastic box

Put some leaf litter inside the box, with clean, dry grass or straw on top



You will need:

- Medium-sized plastic storage box
- Stanley knife*
- Leaf litter
- Dry grass or straw
- Carrier bag
- Twigs and dry leaves

*handle with care, use with adult supervision

Tuck the box near a hedge (south facing if possible) and place a cut carrier bag over the top covered in twigs, leaves and dry grass



5 TOP TIPS TO HELP HOGS

1. Mulch Beds With Garden Compost:

Encourages plenty of earthworms, woodlice and beetles as it begins to rot down.

2. Loose Leaf Pile: Create a wild corner making sure that any prunings and piles of leaves are left undisturbed. Hedgehogs can make an effective nest with good structural supports that can double up as a great habitat to attract a rich feast of earwigs, centipedes and woodlice.

3. Log Piles: Collect any old dead wood and pile it up in a quiet undisturbed corner of your garden. Log piles are one of the best features for a plethora of wildlife, especially the hedgehogs. These provide a safe, secure site for breeding or hibernating. They are also insect factories, providing a year-round food supply for hedgehogs.

4. Hedgehog Highway: Ensuring hedgehogs can pass freely through your garden is the most important thing you can do to help them. Make their life a little easier by removing the barriers within your control - Make holes in or under your garden fences and walls for them to pass through.

5. Hedgehog Homes: Give a hog a home! Building a simple home can be a great way to attract hedgehogs into your garden and to ensure that the food is accessed by the hedgehogs rather than other animals. See page 7 on how to build a hedgehog home.

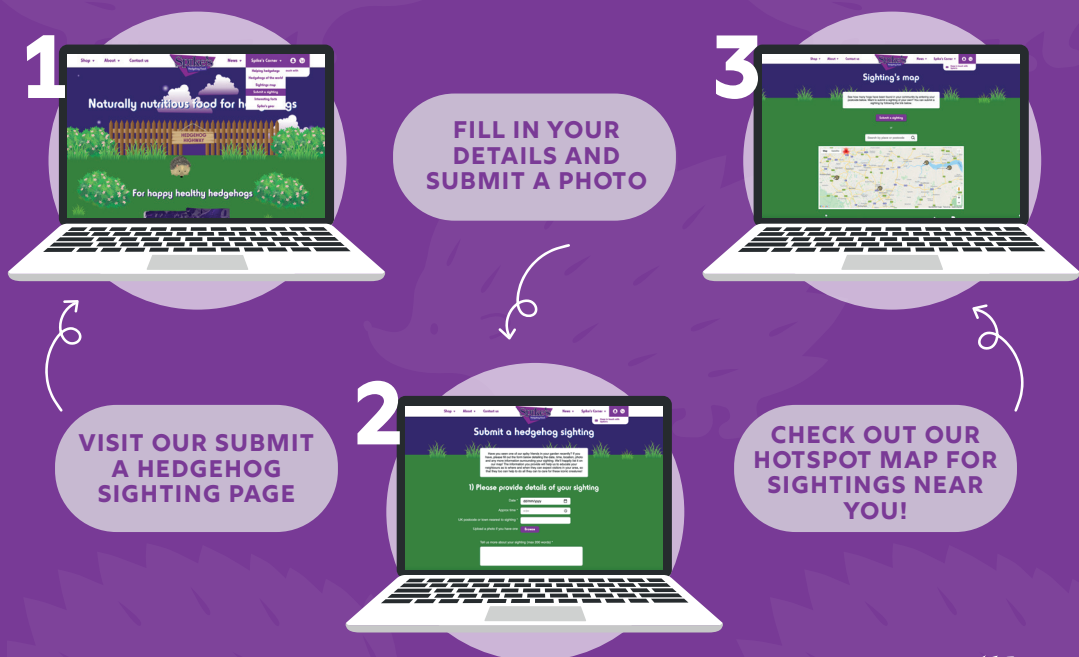


BE PART OF

The Great British Hedgehog Survey

Have you seen one of our spiky friends in your garden or on your travels recently? If you have, please visit spikesfood.co.uk and complete **The Great British Hedgehog Survey**.

The information you provide will help us to educate your neighbours as to where and when they can expect visitors in your area. Not only that, it will help us build a better picture of hedgehog habits as we are concerned that hedgehogs are becoming more reliant than ever on human support to survive.



SPIKE'S PRODUCTS



**DELICIOUS
CRUNCHY DRY**
650g & 2.5kg

- ✓ No artificial colours, flavours or preservatives
- ✓ High in fibre
- ✓ Special shape, perfect for adults & hoglets
- ✓ Ideal for maintaining healthy teeth & gums
- ✓ Made with fresh chicken
- ✓ Made in the UK



**TASTY
SEMI-MOIST**
550g & 1.3kg

- ✓ Tasty & nutritious
- ✓ Can be fed on its own or mixed with other products from the Spike's range
- ✓ Encourages hedgehogs to visit when fed regularly
- ✓ Made with fresh chicken
- ✓ Made in the UK



MEATY FEAST

140g

- ✓ No artificial colours, flavours or preservatives
- ✓ Made with fresh chicken
- ✓ Made with natural ingredients
- ✓ Wheat free recipe
- ✓ Made in the UK



INSECT CRUMBLE

100g

- ✓ Rich in omega-3, 6 & 9
- ✓ High in calcium
- ✓ Added prebiotics to promote healthy digestion
- ✓ Added vitamins
- ✓ Made in the UK



SCRUMMY MEATY SUPPER

395g

- ✓ No added sugars
- ✓ Made with fresh chicken
- ✓ Added vitamins and minerals
- ✓ Encourages hedgohgs to visit when fed regularly
- ✓ Made in the UK

SPIKESFOOD.CO.UK





Get social with Spike's



spikesfood.co.uk

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Pets Choice Ltd, Brentwood House, Lower Philips Road, Whitebirk Industrial Estate, Blackburn, BB1 5UD, UK.

Tel: +44 (0)1254 54545

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