



Snuffles Hedgehog Rescue Four Oaks

Emergency Tel: 07889770958

Website: www.snuffles-rescue.com

Dear Neighbour

We write to let you know that hedgehogs have been spotted in this area. Even if you haven't seen one they may be passing through your garden.

As you probably know hedgehogs are endangered in the UK and their numbers are falling rapidly so anything you can do to help the ones in this area live and thrive is much appreciated.

- Hedgehogs are nocturnal creatures and sleep during the day in leaves, compost, bushes and under sheds and come out at night for food. **If you see one out during the day it may be very hungry or in need of medical attention.**
- **As the weather gets colder hedgehogs will begin hibernating as they are cold and short of their natural food supply. Hedgehogs often go in and out of hibernation anytime between November and March, depending on the temperature. PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB A HIBERNATING HEDGEHOG.**
- **In the winter hedgehogs need extra food because their natural food supply is greatly reduced/non existent. Hedgehogs will often starve during winter or die during hibernation because they are too underweight. It would be kind if you could put some food out each night close to any gaps in your fence/hedge where the hedgehog might wander through. In the winter up to 75g of dry meat based cat biscuits and a bowl of water and for the rest of the year a sachet or ½ tin of wet food (meat based cat or dog food in jelly). They also like sunflower hearts. You can make a feeding station to stop cats/dogs/foxes eating the food and place this close to any gaps where the hedgehog wanders into your garden.**



Use a 32litre under the bed storage box. For more information and a short film demonstrating how to make the feeding station visit our website. www.snuffles-rescue.com Line the bottom of the box with newspaper and place the food bowl at the far end of the box

- **Please make sure there are gaps between gardens. A gap of approx 5 square inches in or under your fence or gravel board is all that is needed so that the hedgehog can roam freely between gardens to find food. Ask your neighbours to do the same so that a hedgehog corridor of as many gardens as possible can be created and you can become local hedgehog champions.**
- It would also be really helpful if you could block off any direct access to the main road (gaps under side gates) as we don't want them run over at night searching for food. **Only do this if you are sure the hedgehog can get food without crossing the road otherwise if its access to food and water is blocked off it will quickly die of hunger and dehydration**
- Please avoid using slug pellets at any time as these poison hedgehogs and they usually die a very slow and painful death

If you see a hedgehog roaming around your garden during the day call us on the above number for advice if you live in the North Birmingham area or contact your local hedgehog rescue. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (01584 890801) has details of all rescues in the UK. Use a high sided (at least 18" high) cardboard box or cat carrier and using gardening gloves pick up the hedgehog and place it in the box until you have sought advice. Don't worry about hedgehog fleas. If the hedgehog has fleas they will only live on the hedgehog and NOT on humans or other pets

Your support with this is much appreciated.

Regards

Claire Hunt - Snuffles Hedgehog Rescue

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