



Snuffles Hedgehog Rescue Four Oaks

Emergency Tel: 07889770958

Website: www.snuffles-rescue.com

Dear Resident

As you probably know hedgehogs are a rare sight and their numbers are falling rapidly, with less than one million currently in the UK. 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 urgent need of medical attention.**
- **Hedgehogs usually to go in and out of hibernation anytime between November and March depending on the temperature. They usually emerge from hibernation once the temperature begins to rise and remain consistently above 5 degrees Celsius. PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB A HIBERNATING HEDGEHOG.**
- **Hedgehogs generally need additional food throughout the year, particularly during the summer breeding season and in the winter when the natural food supply is reduced. Up to 50,000 hedgehogs each year are killed by cars as they cross roads looking for food and/or hedgehog mates. It would be helpful if you could put a bowl of water and a sachet or 1/3rd tin of either wet food (meat based cat or dog food in jelly) or up to 50g of cat biscuits out each night close to any gaps in your fence/hedge where the hedgehog might wander through. You can make or buy from us 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 and the water outside the box.

- **Please do not block off** any gaps in or under your fence or gravel board as this could be the hedgehog's nightly route. **If you haven't got one already please make a gap of approx 5 square inches in or under your fence or gravel board so that the hedgehog can roam freely between gardens. If you are planning to replace your fence please consider buying a hedgehog friendly gravel board. Visit www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk for details.**
- Please avoid using slug pellets as these poison hedgehogs and they die a very slow and painful death. Visit our website for details of alternatives to slug pellets.
- Take care when gardening as hedgehogs can be hurt or killed by gardening equipment. **Please check for hedgehogs before digging, strimming and mowing.**
- Make sure that if you have a pond there is access out for a hedgehog because although they can swim they can drown if they can't climb out. A plank of wood covered with chicken wire or placing stepping stones in the pond is ideal.
- Cover any drains or deep holes in your garden to avoid a hedgehog falling in.
- **Generally if you see a hedgehog in your garden during the day looking wobbly or lying still it is ill so call your local hedgehog rescue for advice immediately.** One exception is during the breeding season (May – September) when a healthy female may come out during the day before she gives birth looking for food and nesting material and after the birth because she is hungry and wants a break from the nest. In this case keep an eye on it and if it displays any of the above warning signs there is likely to be a problem so you need to seek specialist advice from your local hedgehog rescue

Your support with this is much appreciated. Visit our website for more information

Regards

Claire Hunt - Snuffles Hedgehog Rescue

V 4.0 Spring/Summer