



Snuffles Hedgehog Rescue - Four Oaks

Tel: Claire Hunt on 07889770958

Website: [www.snuffles-rescue.com](http://www.snuffles-rescue.com)

Dear Householder

**Re: Hedgehogs in this area – Please help to keep them safe and well**

We know there are wild hedgehogs in this area and we would appreciate it if you could take a couple of minutes to read this letter and consider putting some of the points raised into place to help protect the local wild hedgehog population. There are less than 1 million hedgehogs in the UK compared to over 36 million in the 1950's and we all need to do everything we can to avoid the wild hedgehog becoming endangered and dying out completely.

- **Access between gardens-** Hedgehogs need to roam between gardens at night searching for food and during the breeding season (June – September) for mates. **Please make a gap in or under your fence or gravel board of about 5 inches square so the hedgehog can access neighbouring gardens and find enough food to survive.** You can buy hedgehog friendly gravel boards to make access easier. Visit [www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk](http://www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk) for details.
- **Keep hedgehogs safe when gardening** - Hedgehogs are nocturnal and sleep during the day in leaves, compost, and bushes. **PLEASE BE EXTRA CAREFUL IF YOU ARE USING A STRIMMER OR DIGGING** as many hedgehogs are injured or killed in this way.
- **Slug Pellet Danger** - Hedgehogs are very good for gardens as they eat beetles, earthworms, caterpillars and insects **BUT** if you use slug pellets and the hedgehog eats a dead slug it will become very ill and is likely to die a very painful death. There are alternative ways of killing slugs. Visit [www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org), [www.greengardener.co.uk](http://www.greengardener.co.uk) or [www.slugoff.co.uk](http://www.slugoff.co.uk) for details
- **Garden Pond Safety** -If you have a garden pond please make a sloped ramp or provide stepping stones for the hedgehog to climb out if it were to fall in, otherwise it will drown.
- **Garden netting** – A hedgehog can lose a leg and die if it gets caught in garden or sports netting. Please put garden netting above ground level and remove sports netting at night
- **Drains and deep holes** – Please make sure drains are covered as curious hedgehogs can fall in and injure themselves or die if they are unable to get out
- **Baby Hedgehogs** -Watch out for unsupervised baby hedgehogs out during the day from June – October. If you think they have been abandoned or might be in distress and you can't see their mum call the above number for guidance **IMMEDIATELY** and visit our website for information. **ABANDONED BABY HEDGEHOGS CAN DIE VERY QUICKLY. NEVER REMOVE BABY HEDGEHOGS FROM THE NEST UNLESS YOU KNOW FOR SURE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ABANDONED**
- **Food and water** - **Please do not feed hedgehogs bread or milk** as they are lactose intolerant and will be ill. They like meat based cat or dog food in jelly, small meat based cat biscuits and sunflower hearts. Even if you don't put food out for the hedgehogs **Please put a large bowl fresh water (a saucer of water is not enough) out every night to avoid dehydration.** Hedgehogs can drink up to 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a litre of water each night and dehydrated hedgehogs die very quickly. Visit our website for details of how to make a feeding station to stop cats eating the food.
- **Hedgehogs and dogs** – Visit our website for tips on how to keep hedgehogs safe from dog attacks
- **Slow down when driving at night and look out for hedgehogs** – more than 50,000 are squashed each year. When they hear vehicle noise they stop and curl up, putting them in grave danger

**If you see any hedgehog out during the day looking ill, lying around and not moving in a purposeful manner or injured call your local hedgehog rescue for advice immediately as time is of the essence. Sick or injured hedgehogs can die within a few hours and need specialist care. A hedgehog can look well but have internal parasites or injuries, which can kill them**

Thank you for your support in keeping these beautiful wild creatures alive

*Claire Hunt - Founder of Snuffles Hedgehog Rescue*

Version 5 – February 2017