

In your garden: Be hedgehog friendly!

It's super simple to make some small changes in your garden and give hedgehogs a helping hand - during Hedgehog Awareness Week (3-9th May 2020) or at any time!

1. Grow wild!

Leaving areas of your garden to grow wild is one of the easiest ways to help all wildlife. Long grass, nettles, weeds and piles of leaves and twigs are all fantastic habitats for hiding in and foraging for food.

2. Garden with care

Make sure your garden remains a safe space for hedgehogs by remembering to check compost heaps and piles of leaves before you dig in with your fork, moving wood intended for a bonfire before you set fire to it and ensuring there is an easy access route of ponds.

3. Snack stop

If you've seen hedgehogs in your garden before you could think about providing some tasty treats for them. These include hedgehog food (check online), meaty pet food, or dry biscuit cat food. And don't forget, a source of clean water is really important, for all wildlife, especially during the spring and summer. A shallow tray filled with water and placed on the ground will be enough to quench their thirst.

4. Build a hedgehog home

If you'd like a bit of a challenge, and you've got tools, someone who knows how to use them and plenty of wood, then you could try constructing your own hedgehog home. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society has blueprints for a magnificent hedgehog mansion on their website: www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk (and search hedgehog homes). Another option would be to buy a ready made hedgehog house from a garden centre or online retailer.

5. Create a hedgehog highway

Hedgehogs need to be able to travel easily around their patch. If you've got a fence all the way around your garden they might not be able to get in and out. Ask an adult to cut a hedgehog-sized hole at the base of your fence to ensure wildlife including hedgehogs, frogs and toads, can move freely. Encourage your neighbours to do the same and you've got a safe hedgehog highway all along your street!

