

3. Nesting

Hedgehogs benefit from hibernation spots in undisturbed corners or under sheds, and a ready supply of leaves. Winter nests need support structures, such as log piles, thick hedges or bramble patches. Medium-sized leaves such as beech or oak are best as they don't break down as quickly as others and can be tightly packed into their 50cm wide wintering nests. Why not provide a Hogilo or make your own - check out <http://britishhedgehogs.org.uk/leaflets/L5-Hedgehog-Homes.pdf>.

4. Chemical free

The chemicals that we use in our gardens (such as slug pellets) remove the insects that hedgehogs feed on, so less food and fewer hedgehogs. They, along with other species such as frogs and toads, love the species you probably hate – slugs! Encouraging hedgehogs into your garden will be benefiting the environment and helping you with pest control.

5. Think hedgehog!

Strimming incidents are common. Always thoroughly check the area you are cutting. Making a high cut, followed by a low cut will help to reduce the chance of injuring or killing any hedgehogs present. Similarly for bonfires, always check for wildlife first! Hedgehogs might view your bonfire as a potential nesting site so it best to prepare the bonfire on the day it is being burnt. Make sure steep-sided ponds have an escape route, too, such as a plank of wood, a shallow end or a few large stones. Also check garden netting regularly as hedgehogs can get tangled in it if it is not well pegged down.



www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

www.angusalive.scot/countryside.cfm

*All photos ©British Hedgehog
Preservation Society*



Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



BIODIVERSITY
THE VARIETY OF LIFE

**MIND THE GAP
and become a
Hedgehog
Champion**

*Go the whole hog and be
a Hedgehog Champion*

Would you like to Become a Hedgehog Champion?

We are calling on all Tayside residents to become Hedgehog Champions – residents who will manage their garden for wildlife and will enthuse their neighbours to do the same, to make your whole street hedgehog friendly. It is only through this collaborative effort that we will be able to create Hedgehog Highways - linked gardens across whole streets, creating ideal hedgehog habitats throughout.

Hedgehogs in Decline



We are losing our hedgehogs! In just two decades the population has been halved. There is, however, hope; a recent report by People's Trust for Endangered Species and British Hedgehog Preservation Society shows that the decline, especially in our towns and cities, may be slowing, suggesting the actions that people are taking in their own neighbourhoods could be making a real difference.

For such a small animal, hedgehogs range

over a surprisingly large area and in a single night a male hedgehog can travel 2-3 kilometres. The hedgehog that visits your garden will therefore be roaming far and wide - and to do this they need interconnected patches of feeding and nesting habitat.

Our modern landscape, fragmented by houses, roads, walls, fences and farming, is an increasingly difficult place for hedgehogs to navigate safely. Reversing the decline of hedgehogs will be a challenge, but creating a network of interconnected nature-friendly gardens is a good place to start.

Five Ways you can make your garden a Hedgehog Haven

1. Hedgehog Highways

Hedgehog Highways are small, ground level access points to your garden or green space. These are easy to make - from just cutting a hole in the bottom of a wooden fence, or making a gap under a gate, clipping a wire fence, or making a tunnel under a fence - or asking a contractor to create a hole in a newly installed concrete gravel board. When making holes or gaps 13cm x 13cm is the size to remember: the same size as a CD case.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a hedgehog during the day or at any time, please contact the SSPCA at 03000 999 999

2. Feeding

Is your garden a hedgehog cafe? Hedgehogs rely largely on beetles, spiders, worms, slugs and earwigs. Habitats that encourage these will be great feeding sites so pile up fallen leaves into quiet corners, create log piles and compost heaps, and include nectar-rich flowers in the garden. A hedgehog's natural diet can also be supplemented with a bowl of wet cat or dog food (not fish flavoured) or specialist hedgehog food - especially good in dry or very cold weather. Crushed unsalted peanuts or dried mealworms are best only as an occasional treat. Hedgehogs are also lactose-intolerant so don't give them milk. Avoid leaving bread on the ground as it will be eaten by hedgehogs and attract vermin yet has little nutritional value.

