



# HEDGEHOG FRIENDLY CAMPUS

## BRONZE AWARD 2019/20



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

The number of hedgehogs in urban gardens has decreased by 30% since the year 2000. This recent decline has been attributed to loss of hedgerows, greater usage of pesticides, litter, impermeable garden fencing and walls, and busy roads causing mortalities.



You can really help boost hedgehog numbers by following a few simple tips:

1. **Link up your garden:** Hedgehogs roam between 1-2km each night during their active season in search of food. It's therefore critical that they can access a wide range of gardens. 13 x 13cm (5 x 5") holes in walls or fences will let hedgehogs through but be too small for most pets.
2. **Create a 'wild corner':** keeping an area of your garden 'wild' will not only give hedgehogs and other small mammals shelter but provides an abundance of insects for foraging hogs. In the Autumn, leaf litter and log piles can also provide a habitat for nesting hedgehogs, so don't rush to get out that rake!
3. **Avoid using chemicals:** Pesticides and slug pellets are poisonous to hedgehogs and will deplete their supply of insects. There are many non-chemical alternatives you can use to deter slugs, including copper tape, eggshells or coffee grounds.
4. **Litter:** Hedgehogs are covered in thousands of spines which makes them vulnerable to becoming trapped in litter such as cups, crisp packets, can ring holders and plastic bags. Keeping household rubbish bags off the ground will prevent rats and keeps hedgehogs clear of any litter.
5. **Check before strimming:** Strimmers are a popular tool for gardeners to use but many hedgehogs are injured or killed by them every year. An easy solution to avoiding unnecessary injuries, is as simple as checking garden edges, in long grass and under shrubs before you work in the garden.
6. **Provide food and water:** Provide a shallow dish of fresh water for all wildlife, and especially during long dry spells. You can also give hedgehogs food- meaty cat/dog food or cat biscuits are ideal.
7. **Sick or injured hedgehog:** Hedgehogs are nocturnal so hedgehogs out in the day are probably poorly, so quick action can be the difference between life and death. Place the hedgehog inside, away from flies in a high sided box. If possible, keep them warm using a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel. Call the British hedgehog Preservation Society on **01584 890801** and they will provide you with further information and locate your nearest rescue.



**British Hedgehog  
Preservation Society**

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