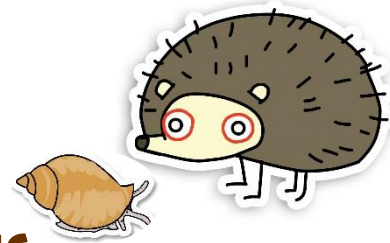


Cats, Dogs and Hedgehogs



Cats

Cats do not normally pose a problem as they usually leave hedgehogs alone after initial investigation. We even have trail camera footage of the most mischievous of cats sitting outside and being very confused but unphased as a brave little hedgehog bumps into them and carries on their way!

The only 'trouble' cats pose to hedgehogs, is that they will be drawn to the meaty, tasty supplementary food you are putting out for 'hogs. A way to combat this, is by making a feeding station which not only protects food from all weather, but with a tunnel entrance it will especially stop cats from accessing the food. Find some help to make one here:

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/feed-hedgehogs/>



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Dogs

Dogs can and sometimes do attack hedgehogs. Often adult hedgehogs will be sufficiently protected by their spines but sick or young hedgehogs may be killed. Try to keep dogs away from any hedgehogs in your garden as an encounter could lead to both animals being hurt.

If you know your dog is prone to attacking hedgehogs then try to warn hedgehogs visiting your garden when the dog is being let out e.g. turn on an outside light a minute or so before letting the dog out. For the dog's final patrol of the evening consider putting your dog on its lead or supervising the trip into the garden to prevent any attacks. Hedgehogs do also have their own routine i.e. they appear at a certain time from a certain point. If you know the routine of the hedgehogs visiting your garden then keeping your dog in during those times will also benefit your dog and the hedgehog.

(Hedgehog Street)

Hedgehogs are renowned for having fleas. However, the fleas found on hedgehogs are actually hedgehog fleas (scientific name: *Archaeopsylla erinacei*) which are host specific, meaning they will not survive for long on any other species, be it pets or people.

If your dog is likely to attack a hedgehog...

...for both of their sakes, keep the dog on a lead for garden runs, especially after dark.



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How to create a simple Hedgehog Feeding Station

This should help to protect the food you offer hedgehogs from inclement weather and deter larger mammals from accessing the food, allowing hedgehogs to dine in the dry and in peace! Suitable food to offer would be specialist hedgehog food, white meat cat/dog food or cat biscuits. Don't forget to offer water!

What will I need?

- Large Plastic Storage Box
- Hacksaw/Strong Scissors
- Insulation Tape
- 2 Bricks or Large Stones

1 Very carefully cut a 13cm x 13cm (5" x 5") square gap in one of the short sides of the box, cover sharp edges with the insulation tape.

2 Place the food and water at the back of the box as far away from the entrance as possible.

3 Place one brick on top of the box to prevent it from being easily moved and another approx. 13cm (5") away from the entrance to stop larger mammals being able to lie down and hook the food out with their paws.

Voila! A Hedgehog Diner!



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