

Did you know that members of my family could be living on your street?



Here's how you can help them.

- Allow them access in and out of your garden. A 12cm x 12cm hole is all they need. Encourage neighbours to do the same.
- Loss of habitat. Let the plants, weeds and wildflowers go mad in one or more areas of your garden! Plant some hedges and create log piles to encourage bugs for the hedgehogs to eat and a place for the hedgehogs to sleep. Compost heaps are great too!
- If you have a pond, make sure that Hedgehogs can escape if they fall in. They can swim but only for a short amount of time. Build up one side of the pond with stones so there is a shallow end for them to climb out of.
- Hedgehogs are prone to getting tangled. Make sure all waste is disposed of correctly to prevent Hedgehogs getting stuck. Where possible, replace netting with a rigid structure. Sports and garden netting should be tied up or put away when not in use. If this is not possible, check it each morning to ensure nothing got stuck in the night. If you find a tangled hedgehog, take it straight to your local rescue.
- Hedgehogs really benefit from extra food on top of their natural diet. Offer meaty cat/dog food and/or kitten biscuits every evening. Ensure hedgehogs always have access to a shallow dish of water.
- Hedgehogs will not run away from the sound of a strimmer. Check ALL areas before strimming and move hedgehogs to a safe place (wearing gloves). Moving a family is more complicated and you should contact your local rescue for advice and support.
- If you are planning on burning piles of debris, ensure that you move the pile to another area on the day you wish to set it alight to ensure there are no Hedgehogs hiding underneath.
- You can google plans to build your own Hedgehog house or buy one from www.hedgehogsrus.co.uk.

To find out more, contact Stratford St Mary's designated Hog-Warden

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