

Fun facts

Baby hedgehogs are called **hoglets**



A hedgehog **CAN REACH** a **TOP SPEED** of **9.5km/h**

Hedgehogs have over

5000 SPINES

on their backs

A **GROUP** of hedgehogs is called an **ARRAY**

THERE ARE **15** SPECIES OF HEDGEHOG IN THE WORLD

The **Parks Trust**
MILTON KEYNES



A guide to Hedgehogs

Latin Name - *Erinaceus europaeus*

This leaflet is packed full of facts about hedgehogs, plus plenty of tips to encourage them to visit your garden in Milton Keynes



We are the charity caring for your parks, woodlands and lakes forever

For more information about The Parks Trust and wildlife in Milton Keynes visit:
www.theparkstrust.com/actionforwildlife or call: 01908 233600

Sign up to our e-newsletter online to receive updates and further information about our work.





Where do hedgehogs live?

Hedgehogs are found throughout Milton Keynes and the UK, in a variety of habitats such as woodland, gardens, farmland and grassland.

As their name suggests, they love hedges as they provide shelter.

At home you may find hedgehogs living in your garden hedge or hiding in long grass. **They could be hibernating under a pile of logs or leaves so be careful not to disturb them!**

What do they eat?

Hedgehogs' favourite foods are beetles, slugs, earthworms and caterpillars.

What can I feed them?

During the cold or dry weather, hedgehogs benefit from having a bit of extra food as the **minibeasts** they rely on become scarce. You can feed them a diet of meat-based wet dog or cat foods, or specially made hedgehog food. You could also provide a shallow dish of water. Milk is **NOT** suitable for hedgehogs as they are **allergic to milk**.

When will I see them?

Hedgehogs are nocturnal mammals, coming out at night to feed. They are active between March and October each year, hibernating during the chilly winter months. Warmer winter weather can wake hedgehogs up out of hibernation, so be sure to give them some food if you catch them out and about over winter.

Why do hedgehogs need our help?

Since 2002, as much as 30 per cent of the UK hedgehog population has been lost. **Changes to farmland has reduced their habitats** and left them without much to eat. Hedgehogs have had to move into the cities and towns, making urban gardens and parks their new homes.

The parks in Milton Keynes appear to support a good population of hedgehogs, but The Parks Trust is working to improve the habitat for hogs in the wider landscape. The Trust works with local schools and community groups to carry out hedgehog surveys to help understand where hedgehogs are doing well so that numbers can be protected.

Things to do to make your garden hog-friendly:

1 Create hedgehog highways

Cutting a 13cm x 13cm hole in your fence or digging a channel underneath will allow hedgehogs to move between gardens.

2 Avoid the use of pesticides

Slug pellets and pesticides are toxic for Hedgehogs. Hedgehogs provide their own form of pest control by eating lots of unwanted insects, so encourage them into your garden instead.

3 Make water safe

Hedgehogs can swim well but struggle to get out of steep-sided ponds, so provide a ramp or create shallow areas for them to climb out.

4 Provide nesting sites

Keep your garden a bit scruffy around the edges to allow for hedgehogs to nest and hibernate in piles of leaves, logs and long grass.

5 Help the hogs stay safe

Check for hedgehogs before lighting bonfires, or cutting long grass. Keep garden netting and household rubbish above ground level to prevent the hogs getting trapped.