

## Spring & Summer Hedgehog Watch

Most people we speak to do not realise that they have hedgehogs visiting their gardens as they can roam up to 3 km an evening & go from garden to garden between 6 am & 6 pm. Hedgehogs are nocturnal & therefore shouldn't be out during the day. Usually this is a sign that they need to be taken to a rescue for help.

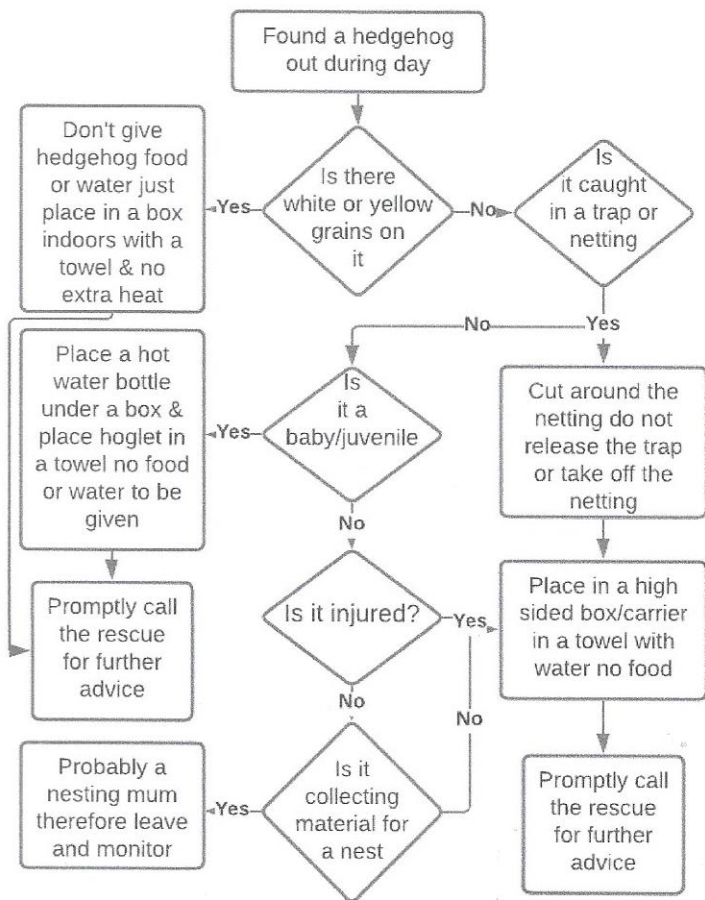


### Nest Building

They like to make nests in all sorts of areas including: Long grass, under shrubs, compost heaps, log piles, under decking or sheds, inside outbuildings, under tarpaulin or ground sheets, in rubbish sacks left overnight or for a few days, in grass cutting piles & even in a cement mixer!



### How you can help



### **DISTURBED NESTS**

If you disturb a nest without mum, re-cover & contact the rescue, monitoring to see if mum returns and is settled.

If you disturb mum & babies catch mum first & put in a carrier or tall box. Once you have mum put whole nest in a separate box with a hot water bottle underneath & call rescue.

## Common Hazards Hedgehogs are now in the at risk of extinction category.

Here is a list of the most common hazards for hedgehogs & how you can help minimise the risk of injury:



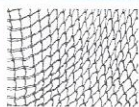
If your dog is not hedgehog aware, they may behave unpredictably & go after them.

Bite wounds are one of the most common injuries we face & dogs get injured too!



Several injuries occur from gardening including strimmers, lawnmowers & other gardening tools.

Unfortunately, nesting mums are disturbed which then leads them to abandon them.



Any type of netting that is floor level can be a trap for hedgehogs. This includes sports netting as well as garden type netting. They can climb & therefore reach traps put out for rats etc.



We see several cases each year where they have ingested poison or eaten something that has been poisoned such as slugs & rats.



Hedgehogs like to swim & therefore often visit ponds.

If there isn't a shallow beach or gradient or a grippy ramp, they can get themselves stuck in the water & quickly drown.



If you have any uncovered drains this is also a big problem as

they fall in & then can't get out. Unfortunately, it can be several days before they are found.



Please check thoroughly before lighting any type of bonfire as they tend to find them a perfect place for them to nest.



We frequently have emaciated hedgehogs brought to the rescue due to a lack of suitable food & water.

To encourage hedgehogs to be able to get around avoiding main roads we encourage people to make hedgehog highways. This is a suitable entrance/exit route in fences approx. 13 x 13cm. Please help them by leaving out food & water throughout the year. Their favourites are Tesco's or Sainsburys kitten biscuits, but any meat/poultry kibble will be fine.