

Hedgehogs Out in the Day – EMERGENCY

Hedgehogs DO NOT SUNBATHE!

A hedgehog out in the day displaying **abnormal behaviour** such as wobbling, laying down on its side or in direct sunlight, moving slowly without purpose* is an **EMERGENCY** and will need proper care immediately!

**Moving with purpose may include actively collecting leaves or grass, eating, drinking or resting in a well shaded, secluded area, and regularly returning to a nest or other hiding place.*

DO NOT try to look after this mammal yourself; it will be seriously unwell and will require specialist care and medication. The life of this hedgehog depends on the action you take immediately - **DO NOT** leave it unattended as it could move away and is unlikely to be found again.

The hedgehog needs to be picked up carefully, with a thick towel, thick gardening gloves or oven mitts, taking care to avoid injury to yourself or the hedgehog. Place the hedgehog in a high sided box with either newspaper and some straw/hay or preferably a light-coloured towel or T-shirt. Place the box in a quiet place indoors.



If there is no heavy bleeding that you can see, wrap a warm (not too hot) water bottle in a towel and place at one end of the box. Place the hedgehog on the towel and cover the box with another towel.

Leave room so the hedgehog can move off the heated area if it gets too hot. Place a shallow bowl of water in the box but no food. It can be dangerous for the hedgehog to attempt eating if the body has gone into shock and started to shut down.

If it is bleeding heavily or there are signs of flystrike (small white/yellow grains around eyes, nose, mouth, bottom),

follow the previous instructions but without the hot water bottle.

CALL YOUR LOCAL RESCUE WITHOUT HESITATION – THE LIFE OF THE HEDGEHOG IS IN YOUR HANDS.

Click here to locate your nearest rescue centre: Helpwildlife.co.uk/map



© British Hedgehog Preservation Society

©Copyright [Elaine Gardener](#)

You are welcome to print and use this information for personal use only. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher.