

Hedgehogs and the Law

Hedgehogs are protected by law (Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) and should be enjoyed at a distance allowing them to be wild.

Legally, hedgehogs are only allowed to be handled by a rescue or when in need of emergency care. You are permitted to handle for collection of an animal in distress and requiring medical care.

Approaching them for tickling their nose/chin etc. is unnecessary interference and begins to prevent them from being wild. If they begin to trust humans – what chance do they have against predators?

There is absolutely no need to regularly weigh them unless a small juvenile is spotted in late autumn which will likely also need to be rescued – however contact your local rescue about this. They will provide you with advice.

Dazzling hedgehogs with a torch to get a photo or to watch them is also against the law. Therefore, it's a great idea to get a trail camera with infrared lights to be able to watch them happily snuffling away in the dark. These can range from around £30 upwards. These cameras are also a great way of spotting hedgehogs in need of rescue.

A hedgehog will not stay in your garden if it doesn't feel safe. Keep them wild and enjoy watching their natural hogtivities on camera!

Call your local rescue for advice - Helpwildlife.co.uk/map

or call the British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890 801
info@britishhedgehogs.org.uk

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