

HELPING HEDGEHOGS

THE British Hedgehog Preservation Society is asking people to think about how we can help hedgehogs while we are all spending more time at home.

Hedgehogs are one of the UK's most familiar and well-loved animals. They are always popping up in children's stories and films. But when did you last actually see one? Sadly, hedgehog numbers are falling quickly.

As more houses and building developments take over green spaces around the UK, hedgehogs are finding it harder and harder to survive. So, why not try these five easy ideas to help our hedgehogs?

1. Make square holes at the bottom of fences or walls (about 13cm). This makes sure hedgehogs can move between gardens and helps to create a hedgehog highway!
2. Create a log pile, which will provide shelter and food for hedgehogs.
3. If you know there is a hedgehog in your garden, offer them meaty cat or dog food in the garden at night. You can create a simple feeding station so the food isn't stolen by cats and foxes!
4. Leave shallow bowls of water in the garden for them to drink.
5. Build a hedgehog home for them to nest in and use as a nursery.

You can find instructions on how to build a hedgehog feeding station or hedgehog home at britishhedgehogs.org.uk.



Questions on: 'Animal News'

1) Complete the name of this animal charity:

B _____
 H _____
 P _____
 S _____

2) Look at the **second** paragraph. What question does the writer ask you?

When did you last see a hedgehog?
 What can you do to help hedgehogs?
 Did you know that hedgehog numbers are falling?

3) Find **two descriptions** that give the idea that hedgehogs are one of our favourite animals.

1.
 2.

4) What may be causing our hedgehog numbers to fall?

5) Look closely at the tips and put them in the given order!

Offer food
 Build a home
 Create a log pile
 Make holes in fences
 Leave out water

6) It helps hedgehogs if they can travel between everyone's gardens. What name is given to this path? (Tip, it uses alliteration.)

7) Find and copy the name of the **website** where you can find help with these five tasks.

8) Hedgehogs used to be one of our most popular and well-loved mammals, but now we hardly ever see them. Does this matter? Explain your thoughts.