

Endangerment

- Traffic is a serious danger for hedgehogs. Often streets intersect their habitat and the wandering animals are hit by cars.
- Pesticides and other chemicals used in gardens destroy the food for hedgehogs.
- Rat and snail poisons poison them too.
- Leaf blower and lawn mowers destroy not only nests, they can also kill these animals.

If you find a hedgehog in an unusual place for the animal, such as basement or garage, please contact DSN 354-6451 or 09721-966451.

Fact Sheet

- About 25 species in Europe, Asia and Africa
- Not native to North America and Australia
- 6000-8000 spikes
- About 8 inches in length
- Hibernating between October - April
- Eat slugs, earthworms, beetles and other insects
- Up to ten offspring a year
- Hedgehogs are night active animals
- Average speed is about 8 km/h
- Approx. 1000g weight
- Cautious and timid mammals

NO DANGER for humans, but don't touch them, since they have sharp spikes and carry parasites!



**USAG
Schweinfurt
Directorate of
Public Works**



Hedgehogs



For questions and
comments please
contact:
Environmental
Division:
DSN 354-6795

Nourishment & Hibernation

- They eat beetles, earthworms, moth larvae, earwigs, snails, centipedes, millipedes, spiders, and other insects.
- They don't feed on vegetation and plants except by accident (i.e.: if a worm has some grass on it).
- They don't eat fruits or vegetables!
- When ground temperatures remain at around 0 degrees Celsius (32 degrees Fahrenheit)(October/ November time frame), hedgehogs start searching for their winter quarters.
- Nests in ground depressions, hedges and piles of brushwood, which offer adequate protection against the cold. During periods of inclement weather, hedgehogs may use their winter quarters way into the month of May.
- Loose approx. 20 to 40% of their body weight during the hibernation period.



Habitat

- Active from dusk to dawn.
- Due to the bareness of the agricultural country, the hedgehog is increasingly attracted to the vicinity of human settlements. Here they find: food, and shelter in hedges, bushes, wood stacks, heaps of fallen leaves and brushwood, or sheds.
- Hedgehogs are loyal to a habitat found for them and their families. They may therefore return to their hibernation or nesting place.



“ Super– Nose”



With their outstanding sense of smelling, hedgehogs locate nourishment, as well as members of their own species. In addition, their pronounced hearing sense reaches even into the ultrasonic realm. Contrary to this, they have only meager eyesight.

Hedgehogs make it a habit to sniffle, lick, and chew on interesting items, which causes a white salivary foam to form around their snouts. This is a harmless, natural occurrence and **has nothing whatsoever to do with rabies.**

