

# hedgehog care sheet



Always wash your hands after handling your hedgehog or its housing to help maintain sanitary conditions.



## habitat

Housing your hedgehog requires plenty of floor space. A **MINIMUM** of 2.5 - 3 square feet is suggested. Hedgehogs are most active at night; be sure to allow them plenty of space to roam during the night hours. Wire cages made to house guinea pigs and/or ferrets **ARE NOT** suggested as this may result in severe injury or death. Walls should be high enough so the hedgehog cannot climb out. Hedgehogs love to burrow and do so frequently. Wood chips, aspen, pine shavings, old newspaper, cotton fabric, or fleece are all commonly used bedding choices. Fragrant bedding such as cedar should never be used.



## temperature

Hedgehogs should be placed in a warm and well lit area, free of drafts and direct sunlight. Hedgehogs are most comfortable at temperatures between 72° to 80° Fahrenheit.



## diet

Commercial hedgehog food. A meat or chicken dry cat food that is high in protein. Dry food should be the primary portion of its diet. Canned cat or dog food that is high in protein and primarily made from meat or chicken. Small amounts of fruit and vegetables should be added to the diet. Beans, peas, corn, apples, grapes, and carrots are good examples. Your pet may not like all of the provided examples, so try a variety. Fruits and vegetables should not be overfed to hedgehogs and should be served in small portions. Treats can be supplied in moderation. Insects like crickets and mealworms are acceptable treats. Moist cat or dog treats and cooked foods like eggs, hamburger or chicken can also be used.



## water

Provide fresh, clean, chlorine-free water daily.

## shopping list

- appropriate sized cage
- appropriate bedding (no cedar or pine)
- dry cat food
- wet dog/cat food
- food dish
- water bottle
- dog/cat treats
- fruits & vegetables
- pipes, tubes or appropriate toys
- book about hedgehogs

## fun facts

### average size

up to 2 pounds and roughly the size of a softball

### average life span

3 to 6 years

### misc. information

hedgehogs are primarily nocturnal creatures, however they can gradually acclimate to daytime activity through routine handling & feeding

they enjoy a variety of toys, such as pipes, tubes, tunnels, balls, etc

for more information or to see other care sheets, visit us online

