

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A HEDGEHOG OUT DURING THE DAY



Any hedgehog found out during the day should be referred to a wildlife rescue centre, even if it looks fit and healthy.

Some problems such as worms can only be diagnosed following further tests and show little symptoms. Similarly, some diseases may be less obvious or easily missed if you do not know what you are looking for.

It is better to be safe than sorry!

Place the hedgehog in to a cardboard box or similar with a towel or newspaper on the base.

Hedgehogs like to hide so a towel to snuggle under or some ripped up newspaper will provide an ideal hiding place whilst you await rescue. Cat food can be offered as a snack as well as a bowl of water.

East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service

24 Hour Rescue Line: 07815078234

For non emergency information or advice
call: 01825 873003

Or email: trevor@eastsussexwras.org.uk



**East Sussex WRAS is funded by
donations and fundraising event.**

If you can make a donation please call

01825-873003

10am - 5pm 7 days a week.

Registered Charity 1108880

**East Sussex WRAS, PO Box 2148, Seaford,
East Sussex, BN25 9DE**

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Hedgehogs Out During the Day



**Information on why it
happens and what you can
do if you find one**

WHY IS IT UNUSUAL?

Hedgehogs are nocturnal animals and so usually wake up around dusk and forage throughout the night—travelling up to a couple of miles—looking for food.

Unless there is something wrong it is unusual for a hedgehog to be around during the day, often it is a sign that the hedgehog is suffering an illness or injury and so all rescue centres will take any hedgehog found out during the day in to care as a precaution.

If you see a hedgehog out during the day time, always call your local rescue centre for advice.



COMMON REASONS FOR HEDGEHOGS BEING OUT DURING THE DAY

- **INJURY** - Hedgehogs are commonly the victim of road traffic accidents, predator attacks, get caught in nets or litter and unfortunately are even mistreated by people. All of these can cause injuries which could leave a hedgehog disorientated and acting unusually such as being around during the day
- **DISEASE** - Hedgehogs are often admitted suffering from conditions including mange and ringworm, these skin conditions cause dry, flaky skin and intense itching which is extremely uncomfortable
- **WORMS** - Worm burdens are the reason behind a large proportion of hedgehogs being found out during the day, particularly during Autumn/Winter months. Lungworms cause congestion and infection with symptoms including coughing, rattley chests and weight loss. Worms found in the gut such as fluke, tapeworm or roundworm can prove fatal in some cases and show few symptoms other than green faeces and weight loss.



- **FLYSTRIKE** - Flystrike is a potentially fatal problem, common during summer months. Flystrike occurs when flies are attracted to moist areas such as open wounds or areas covered in faeces and lay their eggs. These eggs then hatch in to small white maggots which eat away at the animals flesh. Hedgehogs are particularly vulnerable as they sleep during the day so are unaware of what is happening. Fly-strike needs immediate veterinary attention so if you suspect a hedgehog is suffering, always contact your local rescue centre or take the animal to the vets as soon as possible.
- **TICKS** - A tick infestation is usually a sign that the hedgehog is suffering another illness as they usually take advantage of a lethargic hedgehog and hop onboard. Ticks themselves are also a danger however as they can transmit diseases including Lyme Disease which can cause paralysis.