



## ALL ABOUT ANIMALS

Animals are amazing, there are lots of websites and information out there to get some brilliant facts about lots of different animals, whether its cats and dogs, lions and giraffes or snakes and lizards.

Check out the live webcams at many of the zoos in our country and abroad:

Edinburgh zoo	Panda, penguin & koala
Paignton zoo	Flamingo cam
Dublin zoo	Elephants, giraffes, zebras & rhino cam
Chester zoo	Virtual zoo days live on Facebook
	50 activities on all thinks animals, science & Conservation on the website
San Diego zoo	Polar bears in America

If you want to watch animals a little closer to home, go to Cannon Hall farm in Cawthornes website, where you can watch the latest new arrivals, who doesn't love newborn lambs!

Lots of the zoos and animal farms are in desperate need of donations to help feed and care for all the animals as there are no visitors going into the places at the moment. The food bill alone for all the animals at Edinburgh zoo is £50,000 each month, which is a lot of money.

All around the world there are rescue charities that take in unwanted animals to give them a second chance, although we are a nation of animal lovers, unfortunately, for lots of different reasons many animals end up in these shelters, through no fault of their own.

Each year it is estimated that around 250,000 animals go to rescue centres in our country.

Some of the main rehoming centres in the UK are:

RSPCA

Cats protection League

Blue Cross

Dogs Trust

There are many more around, which rehome lots of different types of animals.

When choosing your next family pet, try to think about all the abandoned pets waiting for a second chance in the rehoming centres, they are just waiting to be adopted and shown some love and care.



Don't have time, room or money to have your own pet, don't worry, get more involved with wildlife – stand outside and just listen, what can you hear? Beautiful birdsong?

Write down how many different birds you can spot?



Blackbird



Sparrow



Blue tit



Goldfinch



Starling

Spot any other birds, look in books, websites to find out what they are.

Put out bird food and water to attract the birds into your garden, grow sunflowers as the birds love the seeds.

Got some of this on your garden lawn?



Then you are lucky enough to have one of these wandering through your garden at night, hunting for food.



The British Hedgehog

15 hedgehog facts for kids

Hedgehogs are wonderful creatures that inhabit our gardens in the UK, and there are many friendly facts about hedgehogs



### 1. They are nocturnal

Hedgehogs are nocturnal which means that they sleep in the day and only come out at night.

### 2. They are called hedgehogs for a reason

The 'Hedge' part of their name comes from where they build their nests hedges, bushes and shrubs. The 'hog' part comes from the small snorting/ grunting sound they make which is similar to a pig/warthog.

### 3. Hedgehogs can hibernate

#### Sleeping hedgehog

Hedgehogs have the ability to hibernate (although not all do), which makes them one of only three mammals that hibernate in the UK. Hibernating means that they hole themselves up and stay in a dormant state for winter.

### 4. Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant

Hedgehogs are actually lactose intolerant, so milk should never be left out for them, water is perfectly fine.

### 5. They weren't always called hedgehogs

The hedgehog was not always called a hedgehog. Before this they were called Urchins which led to the naming of Sea Urchins.

### 6. Their long snout is useful

Hedgehogs have a really long snout to help them hunt. It is even ahead of their mouths as it makes it easier to forage for their staple diet of insects, worms, caterpillars and berries.

### 7. They don't use their eyes to hunt

They hunt primarily using their hearing and smell because their eyesight is not very good, although they can see quite well in the dark.

### 8. There isn't just one species of hedgehog

There are 15 different species of hedgehog in the world. The UK only has one native species, the European Hedgehog.

#### 9. They have over 5000 spikes

Hedgehogs have around 5000 to 7000 spines on their back. These can be raised and lowered to respond to threatening situations. Each quill/spine lasts about a year before dropping out and being replaced.

#### 10. They have intelligent self-protection

Hedgehog curled up in a ball for protection

The hedgehog has a vulnerable stomach, which is why it curls up into a spiky ball when predators such as badgers are around.

#### 11. They self-anoint when stimulated

If a hedgehog smells or tastes something really strong, it will attempt to cover itself in foamy saliva, much like a cat cleaning itself. This is called self-anointing.

#### 12. They are solitary creatures

Hedgehogs venture out on their own after only four to seven weeks of nurturing from their mother. They usually then spend their entire lives alone with the exception of pairing up to mate with another hedgehog.

#### 13. A group is called an array

It is extremely rare that you will see multiple hedgehogs together in one place other than when mating, but if you do it is called an array.

#### 14. Hedgehogs are a gardeners' friend

Hedgehogs have earned this reputation because of their eating habits. Not only do they enjoy berries and fruit but the staple of their diet is made up from pests that are common in our back gardens such as beetles and caterpillars. This helps preserve the fruit and vegetables you may have growing in your gardens.

#### 15. Little legs walk far. When hedgehogs are out to forage in the evening, they can travel for up to 2 miles, that's a long way for little legs!