

Operation Hedgehog



1. *Make a hole for hedgehogs*

Hedgehogs travel 2km a night looking for food & mates. Walls & fences block their path & mean that hedgehogs go hungry and are more likely to be squashed by cars.

- * Make a hole in, or under, your garden fence, wall or gate – 13x13cm is enough
- * Retain existing hedging rather than build new block walls or fences

2. *Make your garden naturally messy*

Many people like to keep their garden looking tidy and their lawn closely mown. But hedgehogs need wild areas, where grasses & native plants are left uncut, to nest in, to hibernate and for insects to eat.

- * Leave patches or strips in your garden to return to nature
- * Leave rotting wood, dead vegetation & leaf litter over winter –insects need these for shelter until spring
- * Encourage nettles, dandelions, brambles, honeysuckle & daisies to attract insects

3. *Make a home for a hedgehog*

Hedgehogs need undisturbed places to rest during the day, to hibernate in over winter, and to raise families.

- * Make a compost heap; those with open sides are particularly good
- * Pile up leaves in a quiet corner
- * Make a log pile – the bigger the better

4. *Keep your garden hazard-free*

Hedgehogs get trapped in netting & litter, drown in ponds, get burnt in bonfires and are killed by strimmers.

- * Pile stones or wood up as an escape route in steep sided ponds
- * Check garden refuse and bonfires before burning
- * Pick up litter
- * Allow space for hedgehogs to pass under fruit netting
- * Store garden refuse & netting off the ground

* **AVOID** strimming – if you really must, then check first for hedgehogs as they sleep curled up in long grass, twigs or leaves during the daytime

5. *Make a watering hole for hogs*

Hedgehogs die without water....and they also love to eat aquatic bugs and frogs.

- * Dig a garden pond or organise a community pond dig
- * Make a mini-watering hole by sinking a dustbin lid into the ground and topping up with water

6. *Feed a hungry hog*

Hedgehogs will love tasty treats particularly in spring and autumn. If hedgehogs visit your garden;

- * Leave out a bowl of cat or dog food (not fish flavoured), chopped peanuts or meal worms

* **NEVER** give milk to hedgehogs – it gives them diarrhoea

* **NEVER** give bread to hedgehogs (or other wildlife including ducks)!

7. *Go chemical free*

Garden pesticides kill our native plants and insects. They poison hedgehogs (and other wildlife) and mean there is less food & shelter for them too.

- * Go pesticide free – embrace native species!
- * Use deterrents such as coffee grounds, salt, seaweed or orange halves & vinegar
- * Plant slug tolerant plants
- * Use environmentally friendly timber & lawn treatments

*** DON'T** use chemical slug, ant or weed killers.

8. *Plant a hedgehog haven*

Trees, shrubs and wildflowers will attract insects and bring hedgehogs, and other wildlife, to your garden.

- * Plant hazel, holly, rowan, hawthorn or crab apple in a small garden
- * Create your own mini wildflower meadow
- * Make the most of your space – instead of just lawn or gravel, encourage wild plants to grow in places you don't use

9. *Log your hog*

To understand & protect hedgehogs better we need to know more about where they live.

- * Record your hedgehog sightings (dead/alive) at www.ORKS.org.uk or www.hedgehogstreet.org

St Breward Parish Council, working for the community and the hedgehogs!!