

Dangers to hedgehogs

INTRODUCTION

We all love hedgehogs; it is one of Britain's favourite animals but tragically these adorable mammal's numbers are falling at a dramatic speed. Scientists think that within the next ten years hedgehogs will be completely wiped out if **YOU** do not act now and stop this dreadful crisis. There are many dangers to these innocent creatures and here is a few.



A hedgehog tragically caught in a football net

Slug pellets and pesticides

Slug pellets are one of the most dreadful dangers to hedgehogs, these blue capsules of death are highly toxic and can cause hedgehogs to suffer a slow, painful death. People sprinkle these horrific toxin-filled pellets all over their garden, thinking it will do well, but what they do not know is that doing this can cause hedgehogs to suffer.

Recent studies show that a vast amount of hedgehogs die each year, **do you really want hedgehogs to suffer like this for a slug?**

Pesticides are also a major problem to hedgehogs; people spray these all over their fields and crops to stop insects from eating them; this murderous spray is highly toxic to insects causing hedgehogs to die because of the lack of food, not only hedgehogs suffer because of this, other animals such as owls, red squirrels, deer and foxes die because of this.

But hedgehogs are disappearing the fastest, their numbers are even going down as quick as the Siberian tigers.

Do you really want hedgehogs to suffer like this?

Cars

Most people think of a road to be a handy place for cars to drive along but hedgehogs think of it as a dreadful menace flattening them as soon as they attempt to cross it. Scientists estimate cars kill about 150,000 hedgehogs **each year** causing their numbers to plummet at a tremendous speed.

No wonder hedgehogs hate roads so much!

This is a major crisis that has to be stopped or hedgehogs may become extinct in the next ten years.

Act now to save the hedgehogs before it's too late.

Predators

Another main threat to hedgehogs are badgers and foxes. Badgers' main diets are usually earthworms but they will eat hedgehogs if they are hungry enough, they do this by using their sharp powerful claws to rip open the hedgehogs and eat them.



Foxes can kill hedgehogs by waiting for it to uncurl and when it does the fox springs forward grasps its legs before sprinting off and eating it.

How can you help?

If you see a hedgehog on the road stop if it is safe, and take it off the road, put it near a hedge where it will be safe from predators.

Make sure you make or buy a ramp to put at the edge of your pond if you have one, this will make sure that if a hedgehog goes into your pond to swim they will be able to get out easily.

Do you leave your piles of twigs for your bonfire out for weeks before being lit?

If you do this you will be killing hedgehogs, they think it is a great place to hibernate but it actually is not, a considerable amount of hedgehogs die because of this.