



Hedgehogs at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Intermediate**

Average lifespan: **8+ years**

Average adult size: **9–14”**; **about 1 pound**

Diet: **Fortified pellets with insects and small amounts of meat and vegetables**

Minimum habitat size: **2' L x 3' W x 2' H (for one hedgehog)**

Temperature: **70–85 F**

Fun fact  They burrow and enjoy digging.



Enclosure Setup & Maintenance

- Provide an enclosure at least 2' x 3' x 2' tall, with bar spacing no wider than 1 inch. Place it in a common living area, away from drafts and direct sunlight. Keep temperatures between 70–85 F. Avoid temperatures above 85 F or below 65 F.
- Line the habitat with 3–4 inches of paper bedding or crumbled paper. Towels or liners can be added for digging.
- Include a solid-surface exercise wheel (no mesh or holes), tunnels, hideouts, and enrichment toys. Supervised time outside the enclosure is encouraged. A litter box may be added.
- Spot-clean daily. Wash bowls and remove soiled bedding and leftover food. Fully clean the enclosure weekly using a pet-safe cleaner. Rinse well and dry completely before adding fresh bedding.

Supply Checklist

- Appropriately sized enclosure
- Paper-based bedding or liners
- Food and water bowls (heavy bowl recommended)
- Solid exercise wheel
- Tunnels, hideouts, and toys
- Litter box (optional)
- High-quality hedgehog pellets
- Live or freeze-dried insects
- Cage cleaner



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Species Overview

Pet hedgehogs can be rewarding companions for experienced small pet owners. They prefer to live alone and may take time to trust their humans. They are not ideal pets for young children.

Hedgehogs are nocturnal, meaning they are most active at night. Their quills help protect them. If they roll into a ball, they are feeling defensive. Be sure hedgehogs are legal in your state before bringing one home.

Fun fact ↪ They are most active in the evening and overnight.

Diet

Feed fortified pellets based on your hedgehog's weight and package directions. Offer insects like crickets, mealworms, or dubia roaches as treats.

Small amounts of cooked, unseasoned lean meat and vegetables (such as green beans and carrots) can also be given.

Provide fresh water at all times. Feed in the evening when hedgehogs are most active.

Health

Hedgehogs are prone to mites, respiratory infections, and obesity. Schedule veterinary checkups every 6–12 months with an exotic animal vet.

Healthy hedgehogs eat and drink normally, have healthy quills, and stay active at night. Contact your vet if you notice quill loss, appetite changes, wobbling, or decreased activity.

Fun fact ↪
Hedgehogs are solitary animals.

