

HEDGEHOG STREET



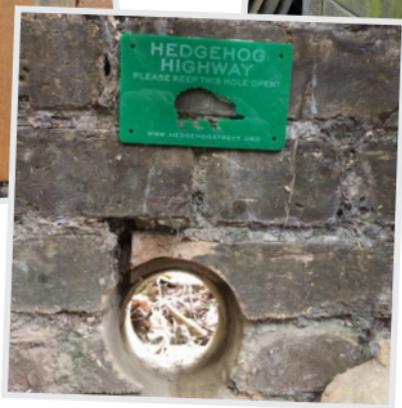
CITY OF WILDLIFE



Oliver Wilks

**10 tips for encouraging
hedgehogs in your neighbourhood**

1. Link your garden



Hedgehogs roam between 1-2km each night during their active season. It's therefore critical that they can access a wide range of gardens. 13 x 13cm (5 x 5") holes in walls or fences will let hedgehogs through but be too small for most pets.

If you've made a hole in your garden wall or fence please visit www.hedgehogstreet.org to put it on our map.

Buy Hedgehog Highway signs made from recycled plastic at ptes.org/shop and britishhedgehogs.org.uk/shop

2. Make your pond safe

Hedgehogs are adept swimmers, but if they can't climb out of steep-sided ponds or pools they will drown. Use a pile of stones, a piece of wood or some chicken wire to create a simple ramp.



Pat Morris

3. Create a wild corner



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Let the plants go mad in a corner of your garden, and don't cut them back in winter and hedgehogs might nest here. They'll also benefit from the abundant insects. Use branches to add structure.

4. Deal with netting and litter

BHPS



Hedgehogs are prone to getting tangled. Polystyrene cups, plastic, and elastic bands are all common offenders. Replace netting with a rigid structure or use a thick cordage and keep taut. Sports and garden netting should be tied up or stored inside when not in use.



Pat Morris

5. Put out food and water



Simon Oldfield



Arthur Southwell

Hedgehogs really benefit from extra food, using it as a supplement to their natural diet. Meaty cat or dog food and hedgehog food are both suitable. Water can also be scarce at certain times of the year and is the only thing you should give them to drink.

Hedgehog holes

A 13cm (5 inches) square hedgehog hole is essential for creating hedgehog highways between gardens.

Cherry tree

Hedgehogs will eat fallen fruit and the insects they attract. The tree's medium-sized leaves also make for perfect hedgehog nesting material, so leave some on the ground when they fall.

Water sources

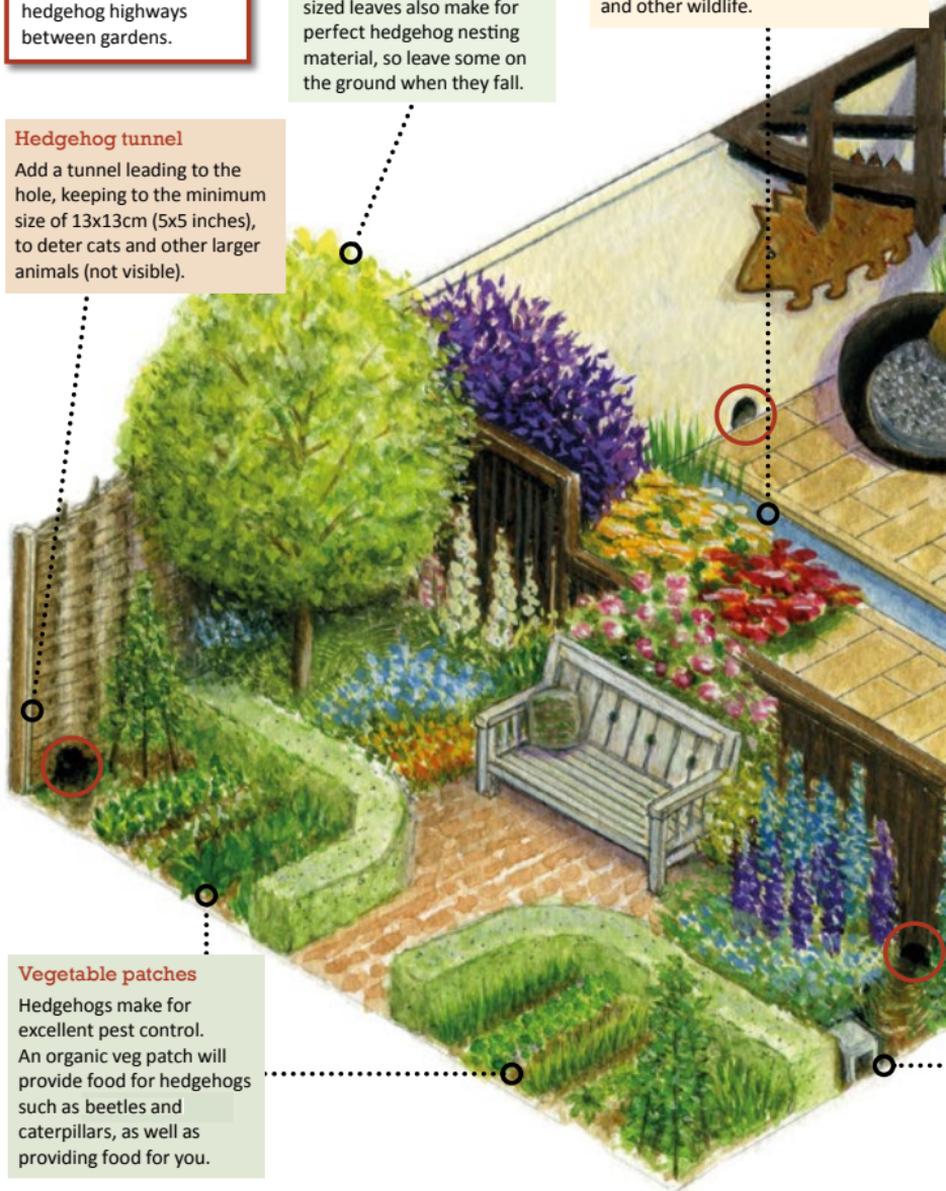
A wide shallow rill with a hedgehog escape ramp provides a safe and vital source of fresh water for hedgehogs and other wildlife.

Hedgehog tunnel

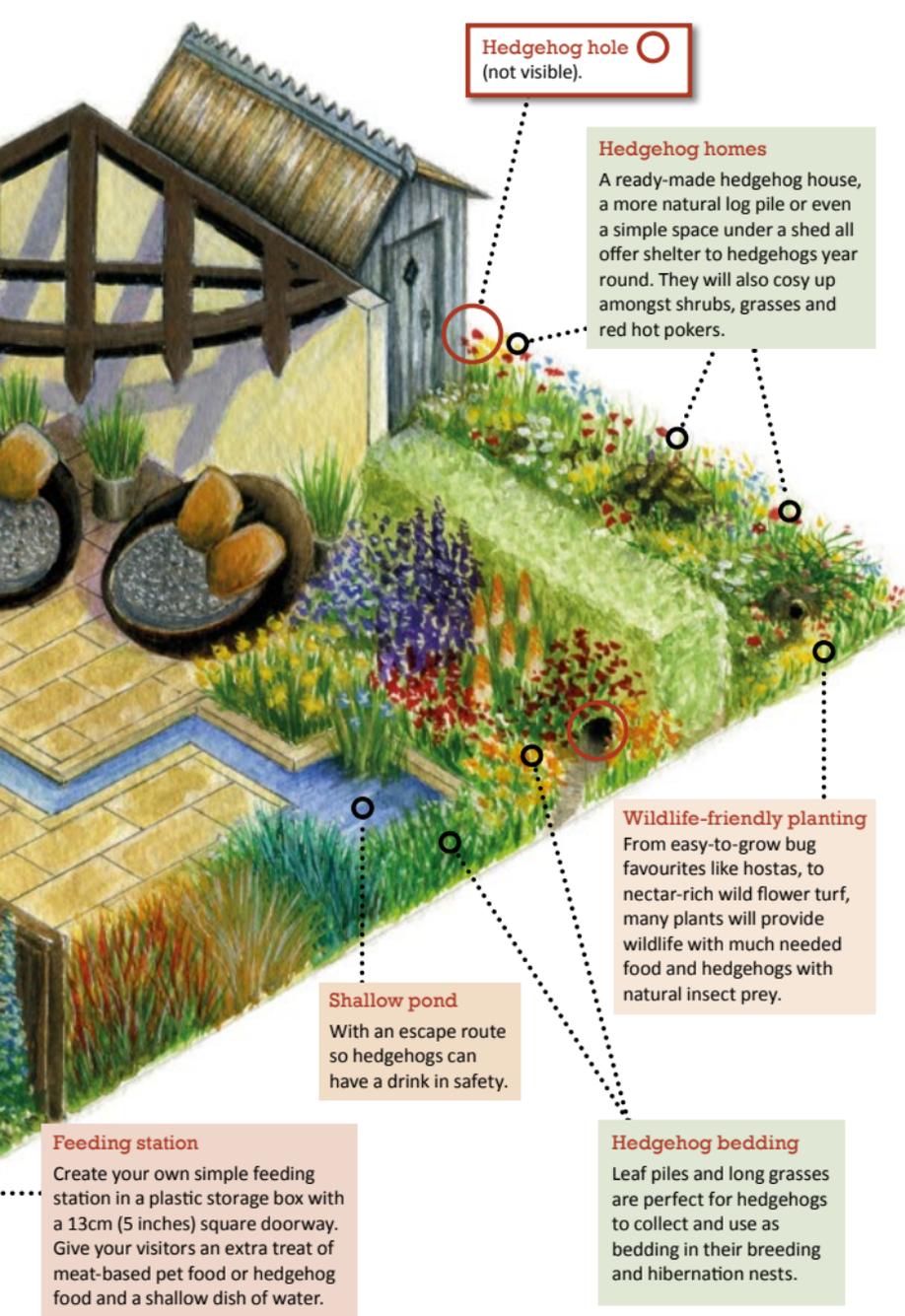
Add a tunnel leading to the hole, keeping to the minimum size of 13x13cm (5x5 inches), to deter cats and other larger animals (not visible).

Vegetable patches

Hedgehogs make for excellent pest control. An organic veg patch will provide food for hedgehogs such as beetles and caterpillars, as well as providing food for you.



Any style of garden can be hedgehog friendly. This illustration is Flower Show 2014. The garden won a Gold medal and the People's



Hedgehog hole (not visible).

Hedgehog homes

A ready-made hedgehog house, a more natural log pile or even a simple space under a shed all offer shelter to hedgehogs year round. They will also cosy up amongst shrubs, grasses and red hot pokers.

Wildlife-friendly planting

From easy-to-grow bug favourites like hostas, to nectar-rich wild flower turf, many plants will provide wildlife with much needed food and hedgehogs with natural insect prey.

Shallow pond

With an escape route so hedgehogs can have a drink in safety.

Feeding station

Create your own simple feeding station in a plastic storage box with a 13cm (5 inches) square doorway. Give your visitors an extra treat of meat-based pet food or hedgehog food and a shallow dish of water.

Hedgehog bedding

Leaf piles and long grasses are perfect for hedgehogs to collect and use as bedding in their breeding and hibernation nests.

from Hedgehog Street's show garden at RHS Hampton Court Choice Award and was featured on BBC2.

6. Stop using chemicals



Oliver Wilks

Lawn treatments reduce worm populations. Pesticides, insecticides and slug pellets are toxic and reduce hedgehogs' creepy crawly prey. They are all unnecessary in a healthy, well-managed garden.

7. Check before strimming



Oliver Wilks

Hedgehogs will not run away from the sound of a mower or strimmer – check before you cut and avoid causing horrific injuries or death. Single hedgehogs are easily moved, but use gloves! Moving a hedgehog family is more complicated and ideally they should be left undisturbed – call BHPS for advice on 01584 890801.

8. Be careful with bonfires

Piles of debris are irresistible to a hedgehog looking for somewhere to hibernate or nest – build it on the day of burning or move the pile on the day of burning to avoid a tragic end.



Oliver Wilks

9. Make a home for hedgehogs



Henry Johnson



Claire Gamble

A log pile is one of the best features for encouraging all kinds of wildlife – and so easy to make. It will encourage insects and provide nesting opportunities all year around. Alternatively, you can make your own DIY hedgehog house – you can download instructions from the website.

HEDGEHOG STREET



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We can only carry out vital work for hedgehogs with your support.

To find out more about how you can get involved visit

www.hedgehogstreet.org/get-involved



Hedgehogs in the countryside are continuing to decline, but appear to be stabilising and showing signs of recovery in urban areas. Hedgehog-friendly gardens are beginning to have a positive impact and there's never been a more important time to help Britain's hedgehogs.

Source: The State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2022 report

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endangered
species



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