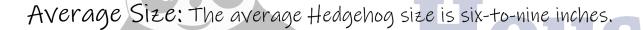
Your Neighborhood Pet Store Since 1991

Hedgehog

Scientific Name: Erinaceinae

Brief Description:

There are seventeen, known-species of Hedgehog found through parts of Europe, Asia and Africa and New Zealand. Hedgehogs are easily recognized by their spines, which are hollow hairs made stiff with keratin. They are not poisonous or barbed. We can tell you that Hedgehogs make for a unique pet and they are very easy to care for.



Average Life Span: The average Hedgehog life-span is up to seven years, with proper care.

Feeding:

- Fresh food and water should be provided, daily.
- Use clean, fresh, de-chlorinated water, changed daily.
- Dry Hedge Hog food should always be readily available.
- Low fat cat food can be used as a treat.
- Canned dog/cat food is a good source of protein for Hedgehogs.

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Feeding: (con't)

- Fruits and vegetables can also be added to your pet's diet.
 - o Beans, peas, corn, apples, grapes and carrots can be provided in small amounts.
- Other treats appreciated by Hedgehog include mealworms, crickets, cooked hamburger, chicken or eggs.
- Treats should not exceed ten percent of their total food intake.
- Do not feed chocolate, alcohol or caffeine as they are dangerous.
- Many houseplants and grass are toxic for Hedgehog.

Housing:

- Hedgehogs acclimate well to average household temperatures.
- Be cautious of extreme temperature changes and never leave habitat in direct sunlight.
- Avoid placing your pets enclosure in any drafty areas.
- Habitat should be a decent size and escape proof.
- Hedgehogs will run around at night, digging tunnels and hide outs.
- Be sure to provide an exercise wheel for your pet Hedgehog.
- One-to-two inches of bedding should be placed in habitat.
 - o Use recycled paper products
 - o Avoid cedar-based bedding
- Different types of small animals should not be housed together.



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Maintenance:

- -Remove wet spots on a daily basis.
- Change bedding weekly or on an as needed basis.
- Once a week, remove all furniture from enclosure and scrub it with an approved cleaner.
- o Rinse all items and allow to dry before returning pet back into the habitat.

Temperatures:

- Stable room temperature is adequate.
- No special requirements are needed unless room temperature drops or increases.
- Heat lamp, similar to those used for reptiles, can be used to raise cage temperatures.

Humidity:

- No special requirements.

Lighting:

- Use room lighting as required.
- Hedgehogs are nocturnal by nature.
- Some domesticated Hedgehogs will be active during the day if they are consistently handled during daylight hours.



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Water and Accessories:

- Provide your hedgehog with a sipper bottle hung from the side of its cage.
- Provide small toys, a bowl, chew sticks, hideouts and an exercise wheel.



Reproductive:

- Females should be bred between five and twelve months.
- Gestation is thirty-five to fifty-eight days and weaning at around eight weeks.
- Hedgehogs may have anywhere from three to six pups in the litter.
- Male hedgehogs should be removed from the cage, when new babies are born.

Notes and Comments:

Hedgehogs about approximately five-thousand to six-thousand quills each. They use their quills to protect themselves from predators.

A hedgehog is fun to watch, quiet, not aggressive, and is fairly easy to care for. It is a clean animal and has very little smell. His food is easily attainable and inexpensive. A hedgehog can be a wonderful addition for someone who wants a unique and entertaining pet.

Females are more likely to accept another female housing with it. Not all hedgehogs will get along. Males do not accept another male housing with them.

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