

HOGWATCH AT HOME

THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS



You can help the HogWatch project from home by trying out some fun and simple activities and looking out for the hedgehogs in your local area. You'll find a factsheet and instructions for the 'making' activities included here too.



Hedgehog Friendly Garden

If you have a garden, try leaving a 'messy corner'. Leave some longer grass to grow, make leaf and log piles. These are the perfect home and hunting ground for hedgehogs. Their favourite foods include beetles and worms, so make somewhere damp and dark!

Report Sightings

Have you seen a hedgehog in Scotland? We want to know - to add to our interactive map. If you have spotted one, in your garden or on the street let us know with:

- Status (alive / dead)
- Where (postcode)
- When (date)

Hedgehog Highway

Hedgehogs need up to one mile each night to find enough food and a mate. Make sure you offer connected habitat by cutting a small hole in your fence. 13cm x 13cm is perfect (template included in this pack)- this allows them the freedom to move between gardens.



Get in touch with questions and to report sightings - kirsty.crawford@tcv.org.uk



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Food and Drink

Hedgehogs rely more than ever on food from urban gardens. To encourage visitors to your garden leave out a shallow dish of water and some wet / dry cat or dog food. You can try placing these under a plastic box with a small hole cut (to prevent cats etc).

Footprint Tunnel

Remember hedgehogs are nocturnal and are active at night. To find out if you have a small visitor you can make a footprint tunnel. Hedgehog prints are like tiny human handprints (see photo). This pack comes with a worksheet on how to create your tunnel!

No More Netting

There are less than 350,000 hedgehogs left in Scotland. There are quite a few injuries from rescued hedgehogs who have become tangled in netting / goals. If you have some in the garden, raise up the goals on two bricks to allow hedgehogs to pass underneath (or store them inside at night!)



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Spikey Crafts

Get creative with the leaves in your garden or local park - collect different sizes and textures and use the hedgehog template in this pack to create the spikes using natural materials. Be careful when collecting objects from the ground!

Hedgehog Champion

The Hedgehog Street project is the UK-wide companion to HogWatch (run by The People's Trust for Endangered Species). Sign up as a Hedgehog Champion for your area to receive free access to lots of resources and activities.
www.hedgehogstreet.org

Hedgehog House

A resident hedgehog in your garden could benefit from some shelter. You can create a simple to more complex hedgehog house using a range of materials - starting from just some sticks and twigs to a plastic box. Check out the 'how to' guide later in the pack.



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Thanks to our partners on the HogWatch project - The People's Trust for Endangered Species and British Hedgehog Preservation Society for a variety of the resources.

Healthy hedgehog dinners

You can supplement a hedgehog's natural diet with these snacks:

- Specially made hedgehog foods both in dry and moist varieties now exist and can be bought from most local pet and garden stores.
- Hedgehogs will also relish any combination of meat-based wet dog or cat foods as these are high in the protein that they need.
- A shallow dish of fresh water, especially during dry or cold periods.
- Never give bread and milk. Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant so please do not give them milk. Bread is low in energy so fairly worthless to them.
- The hedgehog's natural diet mainly consists of slugs, ground beetles, caterpillars and worms so make sure there are lots of these living in your garden!

people's
trust for
endangered
species

Bringing the wild back to life



Copies of all the resources here plus many more can be downloaded from www.hedgehogstreet.org

Remember to sign up as a Hedgehog Champion!

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HEDGEHOG STREET

CITY OF WILDLIFE

Hedgehogs make hibernation nests in winter called

'hibernacula' - these can be under hedgerows, fallen logs or in areas of scrub like bramble. They are durable, insulated and help maintain humidity to prevent dehydration for the sleeping 'hog. They also make simpler day time nests for resting, sleeping, breeding and rearing young in over summer.

Your garden can provide lots of great nesting spots for 'hogs - under your shed, in compost heaps, shrubs, under leaf piles or under logs or spare building materials. But, sometimes hedgehogs need a helping hand. You can buy pre-built hedgehog houses online or in stores, or have a go at making your own - homemade houses tend to be more popular with our prickly visitors.

Any straw or dry leaves left outside will likely be taken in and used for bedding.

The simple DIY Hedgehog House

Take a spare plastic storage box, planter or milk crate (make sure it has holes) and flip it upside down. Make an entrance that's 13cm x 13cm and provide some bedding like dry leaves or pet straw. You can cover the rest of the box with some plastic sheeting and then cover with leaves/soil/grass cuttings.



Houses are best placed in sheltered locations, along boundaries, in back gardens and within 5m of the house. The presence of pets or predators doesn't appear to put off a local hedgehog from moving in.

It's best to clean my house in March/April when I've finished hibernating and left. But please make sure it's before the breeding season as disturbing another can cause her to abandon her hoglets.

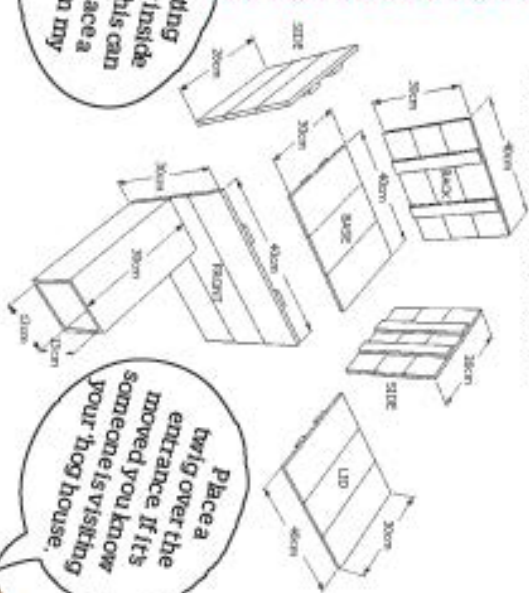
Avoid putting food or water inside the house, as this can disturb me. Place a little straw from my house.

The tricky DIY Hedgehog House

Hedgehogs seem to love home-made houses made from untreated wood (ideally durable UK softwood species like larch, Douglas fir and red cedar). Don't nail the roof down (so that you can clean inside) and avoid using paint. Tunnels help stop predators or cats getting into the house and can be made of wood or bricks.



Brieks to raise box slightly off ground



Place a twig over the entrance if it's moved you know someone is visiting your hog house.

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HEDGEHOG STREET



CITY OF WILDLIFE

Hedgehog highway template

Did you know our hedgehogs are declining faster than tigers are worldwide?

Help today by making a Hedgehog Street in your area!

Take the first step - make an access hole at the bottom of the fence on each side of your garden using this template.

Next step - visit our website, www.hedgehogstreet.org for more tips and to join thousands of others in becoming a Hedgehog Champion.

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British Hedgehog
Preservation Society

PTES Reg. charity no. 274208 BHPS Reg. charity no. 1144542

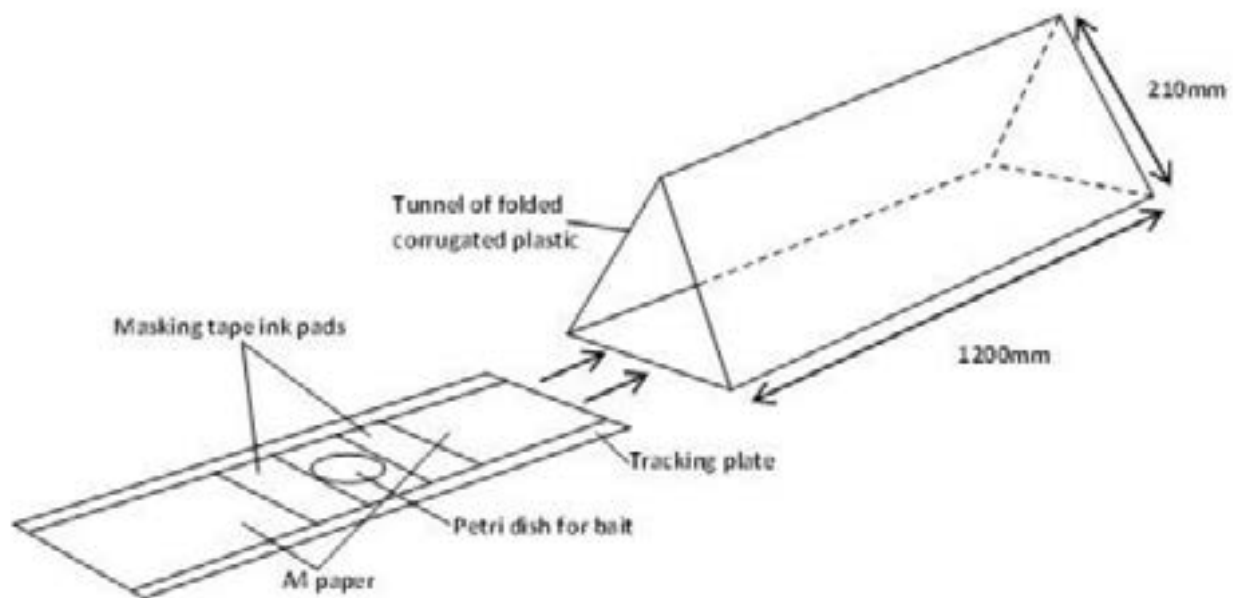


13cm

13cm

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Tunnel diagram:



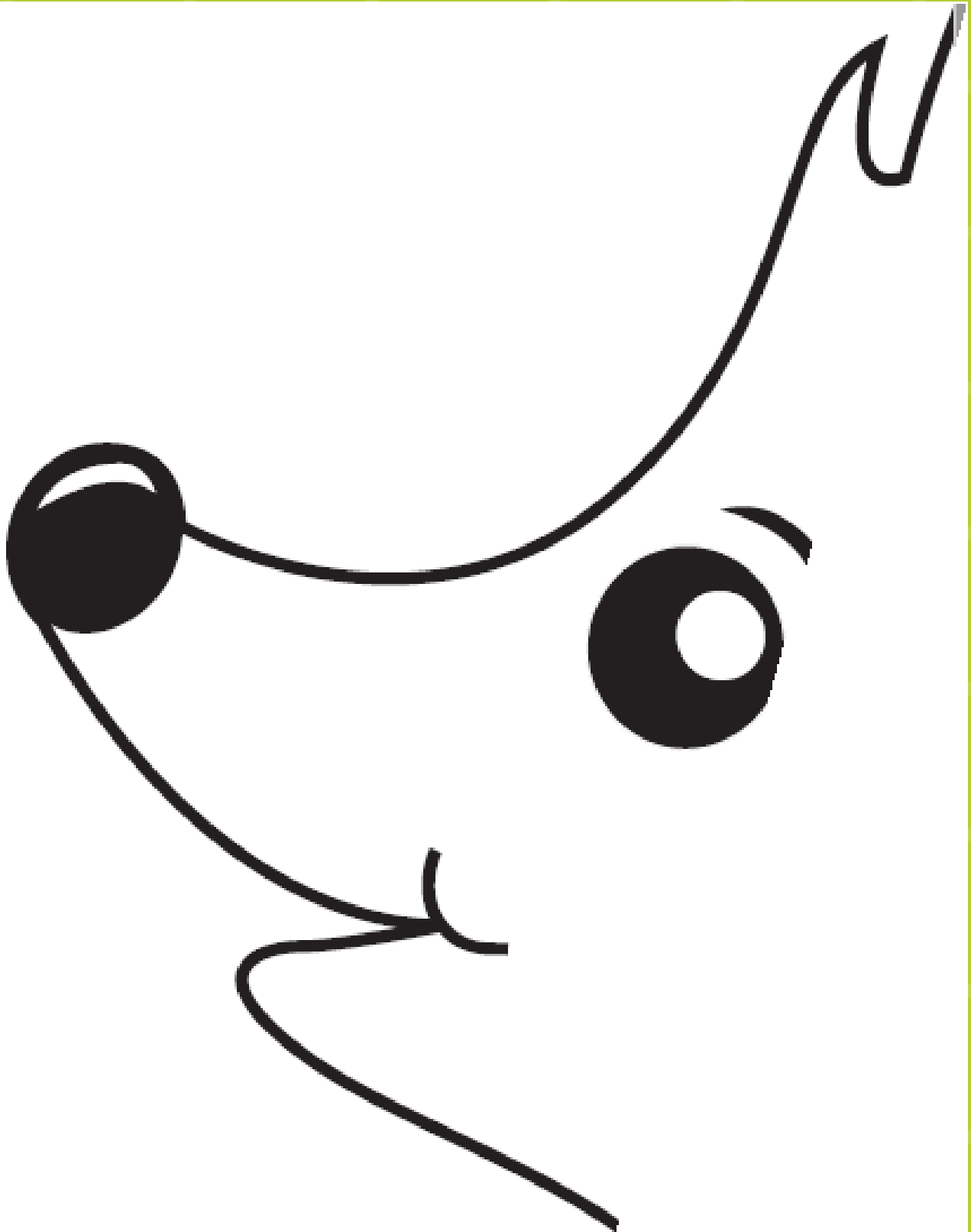
You will need:

- Corrugated plastic
- A4 paper & paper fasteners
- Masking tape
- Paint brush
- Small plastic bowl
- Carbon powder
- Vegetable oil
- Hedgehog food / meaty pet food

How to make:

The best full guidance can be found on the Hedgehog Street website searching how to make a footprint tunnel. There is also a brilliant step-by-step guide on the Gardener's World website. The whole process should take around 30 minutes.

Hedgehog Craft - Collect leaves and join the head template with another piece of A4 paper where you will stick down the collected materials to create hedgehog spikes.



Hedgehog Promise - Once you have decided to take action for hedgehogs in your garden, fill out the hedgehog pledge to remind you - share with us on social media!

I pledge to do something *wild* for hedgehogs by...



.....
.....
.....
.....
Show us what that would look like:



Share your ideas @TCVCitSci

Make sure you share all your hedgehog photo sightings, crafts and garden activities with us:



TCV Scotland



@TCVCitSci



@tcvscotland

