Hedgehog Highways at home

Hedgehogs can travel between one and two miles each night. Hedgehogs spend this time hunting for food, building nests and looking for mates, depending on the time of year.

This ability to move freely is critical to hedgehogs. A key reason for the decline in hedgehog numbers is due to gardens becoming more secure which reduces hedgehogs ability to wander between gardens.

The first step is to look at your garden. Are there any spaces that hedgehogs could pass through already? Gaps in fences, hedges or space under gates all provide spaces for hedgehogs, as long as they are at least 13 cm by 13 cm.

If you already have one hedgehog highway, this is an excellent start! However, hedgehogs like to wander freely and prefer to walk from one garden to another rather than having to return to the same way they came in. This wastes time, which can be dangerous for a hungry hedgehog or female hedgehog with a nest full of hoglets.

Making simple hedgehog highways in your garden can make a huge difference to hedgehogs. Who knows, you might even see one!

MAKING A HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY

Hedgehogs need a space 13 cm x 13 cm to walk through. This will be too small for most pets, including cats and dogs. There are a number of ways you can create a hedgehog highway and which you choose depends on your garden. Simple ideas include:

- Cutting a hole in a fence.
- Removing a brick or two from the bottom of a wall.
- Digging under a wall, gate, hedge or fence.
- Replacing walls or fences with hedges. This option will take more time but will provide food and shelter as well as wandering spaces for hedgehogs and other wildlife.
- Replacing fencing gravel boards with hedgehog friendly gravel boards. These can be purchased from a number of suppliers. Just search ‘hedgehog friendly gravel boards’ online for suppliers.

Remember, it is impossible to have too many hedgehog highways as far as our prickly pals are concerned!
Once you have made your hedgehog highway, you can label it with these signs, which are available from www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk. In doing this, you can support the work of the British Hedgehog Protection Society and ensure that everyone knows how you are helping hedgehogs. It also means that, if you move house, new inhabitants will know that hedgehogs are in the area.

**Why not speak to your neighbours about hedgehogs and encourage them to make hedgehog highways?**

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**FIND OUT MORE**

Find out more about the University of Liverpool’s Hedgehog Friendly Campus Scheme by following us on Twitter @LivUniHedgehogs

Or by emailing Zoë Chapman, Hedgehog Champion, University of Liverpool, Z.Chapman@liverpool.ac.uk

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**HEDGEHOG FRIENDLY CAMPUS**