


Care Guide

<h2>Hedgehog</h2> <p>(Atelerix albiventris)</p>	
Facts: Average adult size: 4 - 9 inches long Average life span: 4 to 6 yrs with proper care Diet: Insectivores	
<p>Hedgehogs are cute, inquisitive and active nocturnal creatures that can be wonderful pets. The hedgehog has barbed spines, also known as quills or spikes that feel like a stiff bristled brush.</p>	
Feeding & Nutrition:	
Food <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High-quality Hedgehog food• Treats (mealworms, gut-loaded crickets, fruits, eggs)• Do not feed chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar, food and treats high in carbohydrates and high fat treats.	
Water <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fresh water should be provided daily in a water bowl (some hedgehogs have a hard time drinking from a water bottle.)• Bowls need to be kept clean inside by soaking in a 10% bleach solution for ten minutes every two to three weeks and then scrubbed out with soap and a bottle brush.	
Frequency of Food <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fresh food and water should always be available.• Treats of mealworms, crickets, fresh diced fruit, finely chopped hard-boiled eggs, bananas and apples may be offered 3–4 times weekly.• Vegetables and fruits not eaten within 24 hours should be discarded.• Treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake.	
Housing:	
Cage <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hedgehogs acclimate well to average household temperatures: 70°F to 80°F; the habitat should never be in direct sunlight or in a drafty area.• A large aquarium or plastic tote is recommended.• Hedgehogs love to jump and play so an exercise wheel (solid) along with tubes, toys and balls are recommended; hedgehogs usually burrow during the day so it is important to provide a hiding place.• It is best to provide the largest habitat possible.• Hedgehogs are solitary animals; be cautious when housing more than one hedgehog per habitat.• Different types of small animals should not be housed together.	
Bedding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 inches of bedding should be placed in the habitat• Proper bedding includes high quality paper bedding, crumbled paper bedding, or aspen	

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shavings.

- Avoid Cedar-based products.

Habitat Maintenance

- Clean the habitat and its contents at least once a week with mild soap and water, rinse and dry completely before placing back into the habitat.
- Remove wet spots daily; change bedding at least once a week, or more often as necessary.

Care:

Grooming & Hygiene

- Hedgehogs are relatively clean animals that rarely need baths; if a bath is necessary, wash with warm water and pet shampoo, using a small soft brush to reach between spines; rinse well and towel dry carefully; do not allow the animal to chill.
- Nails should be cut every 6 to 8 weeks.

Health

- Active and social when awake
- Clean spikes and clear eyes
- No bald spots
- Eats and drinks regularly

Normal Behavior

- Will roll into a spiny ball when frightened or first awakened; with patience and time, can learn to remain unrolled while being handled.
- Communicates through a variety of sounds - a snuffling/snorting sound while rolled indicates fear or uncertainty
- Hedgehogs have a remarkable behavior commonly referred to as "self-anointing"; occasionally, your hedgehog will salivate profusely and then it will spread the saliva over its back; this is a normal, though not well understood behavior.

Recommended Supplies:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Size Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Hide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedding | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High-quality Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise Wheel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treats | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet Shampoo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food bowl/Water bowl | |

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