

Name _____



All About Hedgehogs

Have you ever heard of a hedgehog? A hedgehog is a small, spiny mammal that can fit in your hands. They are known for their sharp spines, which help protect them from danger. These spines are actually modified hairs made of keratin, the same material as human nails.

Hedgehogs live in many parts of the world, including Europe, Asia, and Africa.

They are most commonly found in forests, grasslands, and gardens. Hedgehogs are nocturnal, which means they sleep during the day and come out at night to find food. They have a great sense of smell and hearing, which helps them hunt for insects, worms, and small animals. They also eat fruits and vegetables sometimes, making them omnivores.

A hedgehog's body is covered with thousands of spines, but their face, belly, and legs are soft and fur-covered. When they feel scared, hedgehogs curl into a tight ball, hiding their soft parts and showing only their spines. This makes it very hard for predators like foxes and owls to hurt them.

Hedgehogs are solitary animals, meaning they like to live alone. They often build nests from leaves and grass to sleep in. During winter, some hedgehogs hibernate, which means they sleep for a long time to survive the cold when food is scarce.

Hedgehogs can be kept as pets, but they need special care. They need a safe, warm place to live, plenty of food, and room to explore. Pet hedgehogs can be fun to watch, but they are not as cuddly as other pets because of their spines.

These fascinating creatures have been around for millions of years. Hedgehogs help gardens by eating pests that harm plants. They may be small, but they are very helpful animals!