

Name _____



How Does a Hedgehog Move?

Hedgehogs are small mammals known for their unique way of moving. Hedgehogs do not fly, but they can run, climb, and even swim. Their bodies are built for moving close to the ground. With short legs and a round body, hedgehogs use their strong limbs to move efficiently.

Hedgehogs are surprisingly quick for their size. They can run at speeds of up to 4 miles per hour, which helps them escape predators. While running, they stay close to the ground, keeping their body low for balance and safety.

Climbing is not a hedgehog's strength, but they can climb short distances if needed. Their small claws and strong limbs allow them to grip rough surfaces, such as low branches or rocky areas. However, they prefer staying on the ground where they feel safer.

Swimming is another ability hedgehogs possess. They can swim across small ponds and streams, using their legs to paddle through the water. Their lightweight bodies help them stay afloat, and they use gentle movements to avoid tiring quickly.

Hedgehogs have a special technique for protecting themselves while moving. If they sense danger, they curl into a tight ball, hiding their face and soft belly. Their spines stick out, making it difficult for predators to attack.

In summary, hedgehogs move in various ways. They can run fast, climb short distances, and swim when needed. Their natural defenses, such as curling into a ball, help them stay safe while exploring their environment.