



HEDGEHOG SAFARI

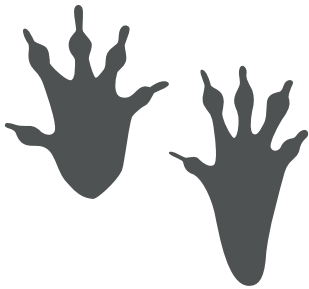
HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE A HEDGEHOG IN YOUR GARDEN?

First of all, hedgehogs are nocturnal. This means that they come out at night and sleep during the day - please don't disturb them, let them sleep.

So how can you be sure you have one in the garden?

For this we need to turn detective and look for the few tell-tale signs they leave behind.

FOOTPRINTS



They have 5 toes on the front and back foot, but sometimes you can only see 4 on their tracks. The front feet are wider than the back feet and they look a little bit like hands. Their back feet are narrower and longer.

In your garden, look for soft muddy patches on the lawn and flower beds. You will have to look carefully as hedgehogs aren't very heavy so don't always leave footprints.

DROPPINGS (OR POO!)



Droppings are normally dark brown, grey or black in colour. They are firm and will be cylindrical in shape with tapered ends.

In your garden look on the lawn for droppings that look like slugs. They will be on their own and be about 15 – 55mm long. If you find what you think are droppings, please just look and don't touch!

DISTURBED GROUND

A small tunnel forged through the undergrowth, disturbance in your log pile/compost heap, or disturbance in damp dark places in your garden. If you have a hedgehog house, has nesting material been pulled into it?

NIGHT-TIME NOISES

Listen for snuffing, huffing, and grunting! They really are noisy little things.

If you have a prickly night time visitor, you might find all of these signs, or you may only find one!



HAVE YOU GOT SIGNS OF A HEDGEHOG IN YOUR GARDEN?

If so, that is great news!

If you actually see a hedgehog register your sighting so we can see how well they are doing out in the wild:

www.bighedgehogmap.org

And if you would like to become a very important hedgehog champion, have a look here!

www.hedgehogstreet.org/about-our-hedgehog-street-campaign/who-are-the-hedgehog-champions

Have fun looking for clues!
Just remember to go quietly and tread softly!



Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital

Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity

www.swccharity.org