



Hedgehog

Erinaceinae



What is the history of my relationship to man?

Hedgehog domestication became popular in the early 1980s. They still have much of their wild behavior, including a fear of predators, especially humans. Buying from a responsible breeder and proper handling will do a lot to ensure a friendly relationship. Since domestication began, several new colors of hedgehogs have been created or become common, including albino. and pinto.

Habitat / Climate

Range from Cold to hot weather around the world.

Where am I from?

There are 16 species of hedgehog in five genera, found through parts of Europe, Asia, Africa, and New Zealand. There are no hedgehogs native to Australia, and no living species native to North America; those in New Zealand are introduced.



Other family members:

- Solenodon
- Moonrat
- mindanao gymnure

Who are my relatives?

I have many Hedgehog cousins and some distant relatives that like to eat insects like me. Such as the Long eared hedgehog, or the Indian hedgehog



Breeding

One litter per year

How am I born?

Depending on the species, the gestation period is 35–58 days. The average litter is 3–4 newborns for larger species and 5–6 for smaller ones. As with many animals, it is not unusual for an adult male hedgehog to kill newborn males.

How long does it take me to grow up and how long do I live

I am born blind. Many believe that I am born without quills, however the quills are easily visible within hours of birth. My quills are just beneath the skin, like pimples, and pass through the skin after they have been cleaned.

Breeding Season



What kind of family life do I have

In the wild I live with my mother until I'm about six months old. I, along with by 4 or 5 brothers and sisters, are fed with milk from my mother. After six months with mother, we live on our own.

Names for:

- Adult male- Male
- Adult female-Female
- Young- Young

What do I eat and when do I eat? Crickets, mealworms, and pinkies (baby mice) are favored treats. Many people leave food out to attract hedgehogs. Although we are lactose-intolerant, we will eagerly consume cheese, milk, and dairy products, causing illness.

Who are my predators? As with most small mammals living around humans, cars pose a great threat to hedgehogs. Many are run over as they attempt to cross roadways. Another common human-related fatality is pesticides. Hedgehogs that eat insects filled with pesticides will often form digestive problems. In the wild, a hedgehog's predator is the owl.



Comments:

In areas that have hedgehogs in the wild, they are often welcomed as a natural form of garden pest control. Many people leave food out to attract hedgehogs.