

Enemies

Adult hedgehogs only have a few enemies. *Badgers* and foxes are the most important ones. Some of the bigger *birds of prey*, including some *owls*, also eat hedgehogs. Nowadays, the greatest danger to a hedgehog's life comes from humans: thousands of hedgehogs are run over by cars each year.

Hedgehogs use their spines for *defence*. If an enemy such as a fox or a badger comes closer, a hedgehog curls into a tight ball, tucking in its head, tail and legs. In this way, it protects the parts that don't have spines and then looks like a *pincushion*. Usually enemies then walk past the hedgehog to look for easier *prey*.

Young hedgehogs, hoglets, whose spines are still soft, become an easy prey of foxes, martens and birds when they discover their nest. This is why only one in ten hoglets survives.

<u>badger</u>	<u>Dachs</u>
<u>bird of prey</u>	<u>Raubvogel</u>
<u>owl</u>	<u>Eule</u>
<u>defence</u>	<u>Verteidigung</u>
<u>pincushion</u>	<u>Nadelkissen</u>
<u>prey</u>	<u>Beute</u>