

Habitat



Hedgehogs originally lived in bushland – areas covered with shrubs and small trees. When a lot of this bushland got turned into farmland, hedgehogs couldn't find enough food and *shelter* there anymore. They moved to *settlement areas* and can now be found in gardens and meadows, where they hide in shrubs and hedges or under *heaps of branches* and dried leaves. There they can find enough to eat as well as places to breed.



Hedgehogs mainly stay on the ground but they can swim quite well and even climb trees. If one is up in a tree and wants to get down quickly, its *spines* come in handy. When the hedgehog hits the ground, it bounces, unhurt, because of the spines.



Hedgehogs are wild animals. But they need our help when they are ill or don't weigh enough to survive the winter. There are care stations where these hedgehogs are fed and looked after. They are weighed daily and usually fed with cat food until they are ready for *hibernation*.



<i>shelter</i>	geschützter Ort, Unterschlupf
<i>settlement area</i>	Siedlungsgebiet
<i>heap of branches</i>	Asthaufen
<i>spine</i>	Stachel
<i>hibernation</i>	Winterschlaf