

Special facts: Hibernation



Hedgehogs can weigh up to 2.5 kilos, but the minimum weight they need to survive the winter is 500 to 800 grams. This is why hedgehogs mainly concentrate on eating in autumn. They can eat up to 200 grams of food per night.

The hedgehog builds its winter nest from grass and twigs. When the days get colder in November or December, it curls up in its nest and starts its winter sleep, *hibernation*. Its body temperature drops to 9° Celsius. Its heartbeat slows down from 190 times per minute to only about eight or nine times a minute and it breathes very slowly.

The hedgehog wakes up a few times, but doesn't eat anything and falls asleep again. If a hedgehog wakes up from its winter sleep too early, it will starve to death. Hedgehogs usually wake up again in March or April when it starts getting warmer outside.

hibernation Winterschlaf