



Wet Pets N Critters

Hedgehog Care Guide

Hedgehogs are curious, nocturnal pets that can make wonderful companions when properly cared for. They typically live **4–6 years**, but some can live longer with excellent care.

Housing

- **Cage:**
 - Use a spacious, well-ventilated cage—at least **2 feet by 3 feet** for one hedgehog.
 - A solid-bottom cage with **kiln-dried pine bedding** or **paper bedding** (both available at Wet Pets N Critters) is ideal. Avoid wire floors, as they can injure feet.
- **Hiding Spots:**
 - Provide a **hide box** or igloo where your hedgehog can feel safe and sleep during the day.
- **Temperature:**
 - Hedgehogs are sensitive to cold. Keep the enclosure between **72–80°F**.
 - Use a **ceramic heat emitter** or heating pad (available at Wet Pets N Critters) if necessary—avoid heat rocks.

Diet

- **Staple Diet:**
 - Feed a high-quality, **hedgehog-specific pellet food** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).
 - Some owners also supplement with small amounts of high-protein, low-fat cat food (ask our staff for recommendations).
- **Treats (in moderation):**
 - Mealworms, crickets, and cooked egg (occasional treats only)
 - Fresh fruits and vegetables in small amounts (avoid citrus, grapes, raisins, and onion).
- **Water:**
 - Provide fresh water daily in a **water bottle** or a sturdy bowl.

Enrichment

- **Exercise:**
 - Hedgehogs need an **exercise wheel** with a solid surface (no wire wheels).
- **Toys & Chews:**
 - Offer **tunnels, chew toys, and small animal-safe toys** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) for mental stimulation.

Cleaning

- Spot-clean daily to remove waste.
- Change bedding and clean the cage thoroughly **once a week** using a **small animal-safe cleaner** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).

Grooming

- **Bathing:** Hedgehogs rarely need baths. If needed, use **hedgehog-safe shampoo** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) and bathe gently.
- **Nail Trimming:** Check and trim nails every few weeks with **small animal nail clippers**.
- **Brushing:** Use a soft-bristle brush occasionally to remove loose quills.

Handling & Socialization

Hedgehogs can be shy at first. Handle them gently and regularly to help them bond with you. Always approach calmly and allow your hedgehog to uncurl at its own pace.

Health Tips

Signs of a healthy hedgehog include:

- Bright, clear eyes
- Clean nose and ears
- Normal eating, drinking, and waste habits
- A healthy, full coat of quills

If you notice lethargy, weight loss, or changes in behavior, consult a veterinarian familiar with exotic pets.

Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- Spacious cage
- Kiln-dried pine or paper bedding
- Hedgehog pellet food
- Water bottle or bowl
- Hide box or igloo
- Ceramic heat emitter or heating pad
- Exercise wheel (solid surface)
- Chew toys and tunnels
- Hedgehog-safe shampoo
- Small animal nail trimmers
- Small animal-safe cleaner