

Why don't we see them in winter?

We do not see hedgehogs often in the winter because they are one of three mammals in the UK that hibernate.

What other UK mammals hibernate?

Bats and Dormice.

What is hibernation?

Hibernation is where an animal slows down their metabolism. This means that their breathing slows right down, their body temperature drops and their heart beats very slowly.

Why do animals like hedgehogs hibernate?

During the winter it is very difficult for them to find their natural food. They try and eat lots during the summer and autumn, so they have enough body weight to see them through their winter hibernation.

How long do hedgehogs live in the wild?

Usually about 3 to 5 years.

When do hedgehogs have babies?

April time through to October.

What are hedgehog babies called?

They are called hoglets!

Are they born with spines?

They are born with spines underneath their skin. A few hours after birth, these start to push through their skin and harden.

Can they see when they are born?

Not at all. Their eyes are closed, and they will open after a few weeks. They cannot hear and have no teeth when born.