

African Pygmy Hedgehog

General Guideline:

Revision 11 (2025)



Awesome Krimpvarkies

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This guideline was lovingly created to assist hedgehog owners world-wide with hedgehog caretaking. Information in this document were obtained through years of personal experience as a breeder and hedgehog owner, as well as studying research cases and personal research. This is Revision 11. Starting at Revision 0, it means this document were revised 12 times. Mostly because products change, went off the market, and if new information becomes available, it gets to be added here. This is to ensure that all content is relevant and nothing old is in here.

Hedgehogs Overview

Did you know that there are 19 species of hedgehogs world-wide? The domesticated pet hedgehog, African Pygmy is related to the *Atelerix Albiventris* and goes under the same name; however, the modern-day pet hedgehog is more related to the *Atelerix Albiventris* and the Somali hedgehog *Atelerix Sclateri*. Meaning, the African Pygmy hedgehogs we own as pets are a man-made, cross bred species, never lived in the wild. Born and raised in captivity. Because of genetic compilation and appearances, our pet hedgehogs are called the same name.

Please note that the original pure species of African Pygmy hedgehogs still exist and can be found living free in Central and West Africa.

Size: Adult size: is 17 to 20 cm and adults weigh up to 500 grams

Diet: Omnivorous: Dry cat food as staple diet with vegetables, fruits, meats and added treats to their main diet.

Sexual Maturity: Males from 7 weeks on, Females 2 months, females are induced ovulated and are withheld by owners from mating until 6 months of age for health benefits. Induced ovulators means if you place the female with the male, she comes on heat immediately.

Gestation: 35-38 days

Life Span: Approximately 5 -7 years

Behavior: Nocturnal

Your pet should be kept **indoors** at normal room temperature (23-25 degrees). Hedgehogs is nocturnal and is very active in the night. They are very curious little animals and will inspect any new thing you put in their cage. They are very territorial and prefer to be alone. **Do not keep your hedgehog together with another in 1 cage. Cage sharing can never be justified. They are solitary in nature.** Your pet hedgehog can never be set free as he / she will surely die, they don't have that ability anymore to survive in the wild.

Other species in South Africa:

South Africa do have an indigenous hedgehog species, the Southern African Hedgehog (*Atelerix Frontalis*). They are protected and **not allowed to be kept as pets**. These hedgehogs are living wild and mostly appears in Mpumalanga, Gauteng, Northwest, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and Limpopo and the Free State. It is rare to see them in KZN or Western Cape. They are also found in surrounding countries like Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe.



Southern African Hedgehog



Madagascar Lesser Tenrec

Madagascar Lesser Tenrecs can also be found in South Africa and are often confused as a hedgehog. They are not hedgehogs and not even related to hedgehogs. It is important to know the differences between these species as to what is allowed to keep as a pet, and what not, and obviously, care taking methods are different.

Permits:

In which provinces is it legal to keep an African Pygmy Hedgehog as a pet? If you are in a province that requires a permit, please apply at your nearest Department of Nature's offices. Natal can be done via email.

Mpumalanga	No permit required
Gauteng	No permit required
Limpopo	No permit required
Northwest	No permit required
Western Cape	Illegal to keep
Free state	Illegal to keep
Northern Cape	Require a permit
Natal	Require a permit
Eastern Cape	Require a permit

Food:

Prescribed by the South Africa's Hedgehog Breeders Association.

List of Dry Cat Foods: 2023. Please note that the dry cat food list can change due to new products on the markets, or brands changing their recipe's. Some brands might have big pellets that requires crushing before offering it to you hedgehog.

Brand Name	Where to buy	Average Price	Fat	Protein
Montego Classic Kitten Chicken Most recommended, suitable for all ages	Pet Shops /Vets / Takealot	1 kg – R85- R115 3 Kg - R195- R250	13%	32%
Feline Cuisine for Adult cats (Chicken and Rice Flavour) Not the most perfect food but acceptable	Checkers / Pick & Pay /Spar / OK Foods Pet shops	2 kg – R155 – R269 4 kg - R319 -	12%	34%
Montego Adult Chicken Perfect, but needs crushing.	Pet Shops / Vets /Takealot	1 kg- R85- R115 3kg- R220- R250	12%	30%
Hills Hairball Indoor Needs crushing	Pet Shops / Vets / Takealot	2.5 kg – R 306- R435	8.5%	33.9%
Hills Science Sterilized Cat Needs crushing	Pet Shops / Vets / Takealot	1 kg – R350	9.9%	31.9%
Nutribyte Adult Cat Highly recommended	Online/ Petzone/ Catbox Hyper	1.5 kg- R135 5 kg – R340	14%	30%

Dry Cat food that shall never make it to the “safe” list is: Catmor, Waggies, Epol, Ideal, Pro-balance, Monty & Me, Ultra Cat, Montego karoo. These types of supermarket cat foods contain too many cereals, grains, and most often fish derivatives, citrus, wheat gluten and colourants to be of a healthy diet to your hedgehog. Dry cat food such as Catmor and Whiskas are known for causing kidney related issues with cats and therefor can be harmful to your hedgehog if being fed on a long-term basis. **This is not negotiable.**

Treats list:

Treats consist of meats and vegetables, fruits added to their dry food diet for a healthy balance. If hedgehogs get a balanced diet of dry food and soft food (treats) it will promotes dental health and overall improvement on health and immune system. The dry food helps keep their teeth clean and sharp, but too hard pellets can dull and crack their teeth.

If you only offer soft food, that can lead to tooth rot and dental decay. Important to know is when your hedgehog is old or perhaps already lost some teeth, that it is okey to feed soft food only. But, in such a case it is better to soften the pellets with water. They need the dry pellets to get in all the nutrients they need. For those reasons, other foods are regarded as treats. Too many of certain treats can also contribute to weight gain.

- Wet cat food (Royal Canine, Whiskers, Pampers etc.) no more than a spoon full at a time. Preferable chicken or duck flavour. Whiskas the best as it is salt free.
- Boiled eggs / Scramble eggs – no milk or spices added
- Cooked chicken (no oily skin or spices).
- Vegetables and fruit (cooked vegetables without spices). It is important to cook and mash up vegetables.
- Avoid fish-based foods, or any fish. No milk products!



30 ml of dry cat pellets are enough food for an adult hedgehog.

International Dry Food list for members abroad of South Africa.

Brand Name	Where to buy	Fat	Protein
Smilla Adult poultry	Online	15%	30%
Ultima Adult Poultry	Online / pet stores	14%	34%
Ultima Sterilized Adult	Online / pet stores	35%	12%
Iams Pro-Active Health & Urinary Tract- Chicken	Pet Stores/ Online	15%	32%
Iams Senior Adult Sensitive	Pet Stores/ Online	14%	33%
Royal Canine Dental	Pet Stores/ online	15%	29%
Royal Canine Gastrointestinal	Pet Stores/ online	13%	35%
Hills Sterilized cat adult (pellets a bit big)	Online/ Pet Stores	9.9%	31.9%
Hills Hairball Indoor (pellets a bit big)	Pet Stores/ online	7.8%	31.9%

All ingredients were verified, and these products seems most suitable for hedgehogs. Taking in consideration that cat food is not manufactured for hedgehogs. If the pellet size is too big for comfort but no other cat food available, the owner can crush the pellets to smaller pieces.

It does not contain ingredients that are harmful to hedgehogs.

Because some of the products are not available in South Africa, SAHBA were not able to verify the size of the kibble.

These products contain animal protein products, fish oil, but no fish derivatives or other fish products. No milk or citrus products.



Basic food list :



Note : This food list only includes foods that are well known. Please ask if you would like our complete food list documents. These foods should only be given as TREATS (2 tablespoons of catfood and 1 tablespoon treats - daily). Do not use any milk , salt or spices.

<u>Fruit</u>	<u>Vegetables</u>	<u>Meat</u>
Apple Apricot Banana Berries Cantaloupe Mango Watermelon Peach Pears Paw Paw Plums	Beetroot Brocoli - Cooked Cauliflower - Cooked Bell Pepper Corn - Cooked Cucumber Carrots Green Beans Leafy greens Peas - Cooked Pumpkin - Cooked Sweet Potato - Cooked	Chicken - Cooked Duck - Cooked Lamb - Cooked Beef - Cooked Mince meat - Cooked Pork - Cooked Turkey - Cooked

<u>Herbs</u>	<u>Snacks</u>	<u>DANGEROUS</u>
Mint Parsley Coriander / Cilantro Dandelion Clover Rosemary	Mealworms - 3to5 a week Purity - No milk , pasta or rice Wet Catfood Satches - No fish Tofu - Small amount Cottage cheese - Small Amount Natural Yogurt - Small amount , special treat Cooked eggs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mushrooms • Raw eggs • Raw meat • Onions • Grapes • Basil • Avocado • Citrusfruits • Chocolate • Cinnamon • Dried fruits • Dairy products • Fish • Garlic • Pineapple • Nuts + seeds • Tomato • Processed foods • Raw potatoes

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Hedgehogs that require special diets:

In the case of a hedgehog that is underweight or overweight, you as owner needs to adjust the diet to rectify the weight problem. In the case of a sickly underweight hedgehog, it is always good to provide food that are high in calories as well as proteins such as:

Royal Canine Mother and Baby Mousse tin food, eggs, meat (Chicken livers, chicken, beef, mincemeat).


For an overweight hedgehog you need to monitor calorie intake.

Normal hedgehog: requires 70- 100 cal.

Underweight hedgehog: requires 100 cal.

Overweight hedgehog: requires less than 70 cal.

See calorie lists from SAHBA and note that this were calculated as per tablespoon.



SAFE TREATS

Calories list

As per tablespoon

FRUIT :

apple	5.35 cal
apricot	4.65 cal
banana	12.71 cal
mixed berries	4.71 cal
cantaloupe	3.12 cal
mango	5.82 cal
watermelon	2.65 cal
peach	3.85 cal
pears	5.53 cal
pawpaw	3.64 cal
plums	4.47 cal


* hedgehogs needs 70 - 100 calories per day

CAT KIBBLE

Montego kitten	21,58 cal
chicken	
Montego Adult	17.65 cal
chicken	
Feline Cuisine for	11.77 cal
adult cats	
Hills Hairball Indoor	18.47 cal
Hills Science	21 cal
Sterilised Cat	
Nutribyte Adult Cat	17.65 cal
*** special care* * *	
(lactating mother, underweight hedgie)	
Royal Canin Mother and Baby	28.47 cal

CAT WET FOOD

Pampers	19.5 cal
Whiskas	25.66 cal
Feline Cuisine	25.66 cal
Montego Kitten	9 cal



VEGETABLES :

Beetroot	7.18 cal
Broccoli	2 cal
Cauliflower	1.76 cal
Bell Pepper	1.77 cal
corn	3.82 cal
Cucumber	0.94 cal
Carrots	2.65 cal
Green Beans	2.59 cal
Leafy Greens	2.65 cal
Peas	6.47 cal
Pumpkin	2.94 cal
Sweet potato	10.59 cal
Cabbage	5.41 cal

MEAT :

Chicken	19.7 cal
Duck	27.76 cal
Beef	5.76 cal
Lamb	23 cal
Minced meat	26.43 cal
Pork	18.29 cal
Turkey	14.82 cal
Chicken liver (44g)	36.5 cal

**INSECTS :**

Mealworms	0.14 cal
Superworms	0.05 cal
Crickets	0.13 cal
Black Fly Soldier	
Larvae	2.6 cal
Dubai Roaches	0.66 cal
Silkworms	0.77 cal

SNACKS :

*** Per occasion not
daily even not
weekly***

Tofu -1/4 teaspoon	2.69 cal
Cottage cheese - 1/4 teaspoon	3.2 cal
Natural Yogurt - 1/4 teaspoon	2.19 cal
1/2 egg (weekly)	40 cal



Everything about housing:

A hedgehog needs a cage with good ventilation (**a "fish" tank is not recommended**). Poor ventilation and the ammonia build up from urine are the 2 reasons why hog owners are told not to use aquariums. **This is not negotiable!**

They need bedding in their cage, a house / sleeping den, water bottle, food bowl, heat source, and a running wheel for exercise to keep them healthy.

I recommend a running wheel that have a solid floor. Hamster wheel is **not** suitable, as the gaps in the wheel might cause them to hang themselves if their feet got caught in the grids, or worse injure themselves. Wheel size 28-30 cm in diameter. The right size is crucial to avoid back injuries.

You will need additional **heating sources** in the winter to keep them warm, like a heat emitter lamp or heating-pad. You can even throw a blanket over their cage if it is cold. A warm water sack will also help if you do not have other resources, as long as it has a cover on to prevent your hedgy from burns. The same for the heating pad, heating pads to be underneath sleeping den, otherwise your hedgehog can burn. Best advice is to place a ceramic tile on top of heat pad.

Drinking Water bottles must be the ones with a ball valve, not the type that is spring loaded. Spring loaded bottles can amputate their tongues. Water bottles can be a solution as you may find that your hedgehog will turn over water bowls during the night and mess up everything. They love doing that!!! Unless if you can afford ceramic water bowls that is very heavy. They are unfortunately expensive.

Toys for your hedgehog consists of any soft cat toys, a ping pong ball and cut open toilet rolls. Avoid cat toys that contains catnip.

Cages vary from homemade to rabbit cages bought from pet shops or hedgehog cages bought from breeders. Size of the cage not smaller than **100 cm x 50 cm x 50 cm**. Ideal length is 1.2 meters. Avoid using secondhand reptile cages as animals such as bearded dragons and certain snakes leaves a chemical compound behind that causes stress and respiratory issues for hedgehogs. Hedgehogs and snakes are natural enemies, and your hedgehog can be stressed out by the smell of the snake lingering in the cage. If you do use a new reptile cage, replace one glass panel with mesh to ensure proper ventilation. DIY wooden cages must be treated with lead free paint or a wood sealer to avoid becoming smelly after a while as the water and urine can be absorbed in wood.

Types of bedding:

Bedding types: Cat litter, bio-compressed pellets, yoga carpets, industrial carpets, or fleece blankets. Breeders have different opinions on bedding. **Bedding must never be soggy or wet.**

I have tried and tested all off these options, and here are my findings:

- 1) **Compressed Eco pellets:** This work very well indeed and is much cleaner. Negative point is that it is expensive, and not always available. Compressed pellets cause for a nice clean smell that other materials lack of. I am using this currently in my litter boxes. Litter boxes to be cleaned weekly, if it is covering your cage floor, regular scooping up of poop and topping up as required, you should then only be needed to replace once a month.
- 2) **Cat litter:** It must be the traditional type (grey) and **not the crystal type**, as it will burn your hedgy`s skin. If you use cat litter, just scoop up the poo regularly. You might find that cat litter last longer than other materials. As you scoop up the poo, you may need to top up a bit if needed. It should be changed at least once a month. Dust is a common complaint, and some owners experienced that the litter could get stuck in the male`s penis shafts.
- 3) **Cage liners:** Cage liners made from fleece with a foam inner works great, if you hedgehog is potty trained. The foam inside is absorbent and protects the bottom of your cage against water damage. If dirty on the one side, it can be shaken out and turned over, and after both sides are dirty, it can be washed in a washing machine. Please take note of poop and quills ending up in your washing machine. Your hedgehog feet will be much more dirtier with fleece than what it would be in cat litter.
- 4) **Carpets:** Carpets works great in terms of protecting cage floors. The Yoga carpets are easy cleaning. It can be hosed down or just lightly scrubbed with a brush. Risks here is that when taken out and washed and it is not properly dry, it can cause for fungus or mold to start growing underneath the carpet. Industrial carpets are also popular to use. Ensure that there are no fibers that can hook on the hedgehog`s nails, and the same risks apply in terms of fungus.

Avoid:

Wood shavings (It is just a host for mites)

Natural grass (Causes eye injuries and eye infections)

Fake grass (It becomes so smelly after a period of time, also big risk for fungal infections as it traps moisture at the bottom). It feels dry on top but is wet underneath.

Newspaper (it is not absorbing and cause fungal infections)

Examples of typical hedgehog cages and wheels, and other required items



Wooden cages with proper ventilation. See pictures below of recommended safe wheels.



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SAFE



NOT SAFE



Do not use

Do Not Use



100 Watt

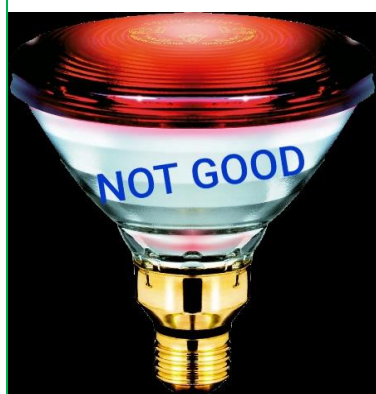
Safe



Safe



Safe if covered



NOT GOOD



110v 75w

Not Good

Bonding:

When you take your new hedgehog home, spent a lot of time with him / her the first 3-4 weeks. You form your own hedgehog's personality by spending time with him or her. Smell is their best sense they have, to get used to you. You will notice that your hedgehog anoints a lot with new smells and tastes. Anointing is when they form saliva in their mouth and rubs it into their quills. They do this as part of a memory process, and they also do this with smells and tastes that they enjoy.

Use an old unwashed T-shirt as a carry bag / bonding pouch to carry around your hedgehog. He or she would then get used to your smell. Be patient with your baby hedgehog, as he will be now alone for the first time of his life, and also in a strange environment. Always talk to your hedgehog whenever you are near his cage or when handling him, so that he can get used to your voice. Avoid bright lights and loud noises when bonding with your hedgehog.

Baby hedgehogs need quite a bit of sleep the first month after they come home with you, so don't be too concerned if he sleeps a lot at first. They would also be of the age (6 weeks old) of quilling. This would last for almost a month, and they would lose their baby spikes. Quilling can be very painful for them and cause grumpiness. No don't give up with the bonding, just change your handling techniques, instead of stroking over the quills, rather let the hedgehog just roam your lap, bed, couch, or designated area where you spend time with him. Avoid stroking or touching their quills if they have difficulty with shedding quills. Around the age of 6 months, they do shed quills for a last time. It is possible that some hedgehogs may quill for longer periods than other hedgehogs. Think of this as a human baby that is teething. The big difference here is that they will have to shed around 5000 quills!

Bathing:

Bathing your hedgehog; Do not bath your hedgehog too often, as it can dry out his skin. No more than twice a month.

How to bath a hedgehog:

Simply put luke-warm water in your wash basin or a small dish, add your shampoo and linseed or coconut oil (if you do use it), use a soft brush like an old toothbrush to gently brush off the hedgehog, in downward movements. Rinse of all shampoo and oil with clean water, this is to prevent clogging of pores. **Never use any scented shampoos or oils!!**

Traditional Bath- Johnsons Baby Shampoo No More Tears with a bit of coconut / linseed oil. Rinse off with clean water after bathing.

Oatmeal Bath- Place a handful of dry oats in an old sock and let it steep until bathwater is milky- This is like a spa treatment for an itchy hedgehog during quilling- no need to rinse of

Rooibos Tea Bath- Steep 3 or 4 Rooibos Tea Bags in bathwater and wash hedgehog in it. It is a natural way of bathing, cheap, also has anti-inflammatory properties – no need to rinse of

Betadine Bath- Use half a teaspoon of betadine dissolved in bath water to bath hedgehog in. This is for minor injuries, relieving itchiness from mites, relief for mild skin eczema.

Hedgehog bath products:

Johnson's Baby Shampoo, Tear free.

Aveeno Baby Oatmeal Wash

Oatmeal Bath (a handful of oats in a sock, leave sock in water until milky) This is good for a quilling hedgehog.

Rooibos-tea bath (simply add a few rooibos teabags to water)

Coconut oil – mix with shampoo.

Linseed oil – recommended oil to add with shampoo.

Nail Clipper

Soft Brush

Towel

Bath time can be used as a good opportunity to trim your hedgehogs' nails. I bath my hedgehogs if needed, (average every two weeks) and trim their nails while bathing them. This can be done with a normal human nail clipper, just as you clip your own nails... just trickier as they do not like this! Not all hedgehogs appreciate a bath, however in summer they love to cool off in a bit of water. When hedgehogs are overheating, they will lay flat on their stomach in order to cool down. When your hedgy is doing that, you can cool him down with water. Do not put a fan or air con directly on the hedgehog, especially when they wet, they can catch easily pneumonia. **IMPORTANT:** Always rinse hedgehog with clean water after a bath with shampoo and oil (linseed or coconut) This is to prevent clogging of pores. After a bath the hedgehog must be completely dry before you put it back in the cage.

Additional note: If your hedgehog is constantly sneezing, lip-smacking, licking its nose it's an early indication of a respiratory infection. One or two sneezes might just be of a nose irritation caused by dust or something in the air.



Health:

- **Mites:** Hedgehogs can suffer from tiny mites that can cause serious skin irritation, but you are unlikely to encounter fleas on them. Repeated scratching and soreness are typical signs of the presence of mites, if not sure, seek veterinary advice to obtain a confirmative diagnosis. Recommended product: Revolution for kittens or Broadline for kittens. These products act also as a dewormer.
- **Obesity** is a common problem in adult hedgehogs and may lead to inactivity, metabolic derangements, and health problems. A wheel is a good cure for an obese hedgehog.
- **Fatty Liver Disease-** This is very often linked to obesity and diabetes. Incorrect diet is the most common cause
- **Diabetes-** Also can be linked to Fatty liver disease and obesity.
- **Hibernation** can be deadly for an African Pygmy Hedgehog. They cannot hibernate like the indigenous South African Hedgehog. When an African Pygmy goes into hibernation their organs shut down and they can die in 3 days' time. There-fore it is very important to keep their room temperatures constant and warm.
- **Some respiratory pathogens** have included *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and *Pasteurella multocida*. Clinical signs may include dyspnoea, nasal discharge, and/or sneezing. Predisposing factors for upper and lower respiratory tract infection include sub-optimal environmental temperature, dusty or unsanitary bedding, malnutrition, concurrent disease and other causes of immune compromised. For this you need antibiotics.
- **Intestinal parasites ("worms" and protozoa).** De-wormer for kittens can be used. Be sure of the right measurements according to weight. Product recommended: Milpro for kittens / NexGard For kittens / Revolution for kittens.
- **Dry Skin** – can be cured by a few drops of Vitamin e / Coconut / Linseed oil in his bath water.
- **Infections-** intestine-infection, urinary infection, wound infections, all requires vet treatment (bloody stools etc)
- **Cancer** – hedgehogs are prone to get cancer as they age. Cancer can be any type of cancer.

- **Metabolic Bone Disease** – Imbalances of calcium intake. This can be deadly if not be cautious regarding diets. Follow prescribed diet to avoid risks.
- **Vet's advice to be obtained when conditions look serious.**
- See our website for more detail on diseases, www.awesomekrimparkies.com

Basic List of supplements / products for hedgehogs:

- 1) Brunel Vitamin Syrup – Vitamins- Immune booster / improve appetite. Can be bought at Checkers or chemists. Mix ½ teaspoon on 500 ml water. Give this mixture for 7 days as drinking water, skip one week and repeat.
- 2) Protexin- Probiotic – Good for sick/ recovering hedgehogs/ pregnant females/ females with babies. Can be bought at pet shops or vets. Tip of a knife point over food daily for 7 days, skip 7 days and repeat.
- 3) Linseed oil- Dry Skin- can be bought at chemists. Mix 25% linseed oil on 75% baby shampoo
- 4) Revolution for Kittens- mites and worms – Pet shops & Vets. One drop behind the head, repeat after 3 weeks.
- 5) NexGard for Kittens- mites and worms- Pet shops, Vets. Half a tube drop-on, repeat after 3 weeks
- 6) Dewormer – Milpro for Kittens – Pet shops, vets. Crush half the tablet, mix with water and give with a syringe. Repeat after 3 weeks with the other half of tablet.
- 7) F10 Barrier Cream- wound treatment – Pet shops and vets
- 8) Virbac Vitabest- Vitamin syrup- Pet shops and vets
- 9) Mirracote Vitamin supplement- Pet shops and vets.
- 10) Colloidal Silver for wound cleaning, minor infections and ailments (antifungal, anti-viral Immune booster)
- 11) Heptonic- Liver support.





Colloidal Silver can never replace antibiotics, but if a hedgehog is a bit under the weather, or you are awaiting a vet's appointment it will help if you give your hedgehog a bit of this. (5mls in 500 ml water) Do not give this longer than a week. It works great for wound cleaning and prevent fungal build up in drinking water. It helps with minor gastric issues as well.



Heptonic is a wonderful recovery product for sick, recovering, overweight and underweight hedgehogs. It supports the liver and help preventing of further liver support.

Medicine List



Dewormer Tablets for hedgehogs:

Milpro for Kittens

Drontal for Kittens

Crush tablet in half, mix with a small amount of water and give orally with a syringe. Repeat after 3 weeks with the other half.

Mites & Dewormer Drop- On for hedgehogs:

Revolution for Kittens

Drop 1 drop behind the head, and repeat after 3 weeks again, until finished

Nex-Gard for Kittens

Half a tube behind the between the quills, repeat after 3 weeks with the other half

Supplements & Vitamins for hedgehogs:

Brunel Vitamin Syrup

Virbac Vitabest Syrup

Mirra-cote Vitamin Syrup

Syrups: 1/2 teaspoon mixed with 500 ml water, replace drinking water with mixture for 7 days, skip one week and give clean water for 7 days, repeat.

Protexin

Tip of a knife point (0.03 grams) over food daily for 7 days, skip 7 days and repeat.

Heptonic

One drop (0.05 ml) daily for 7 days, skip 7 days, repeat

Other products and remedies:

Linseed Oil

Coconut Oil

Mix one teaspoon of oil to bath water.

F10 Shampoo

F10 Barrier Cream- antiseptic ointment

Betadine antiseptic ointment

Antiseptic cream for minor skinscrapes and wounds. Dissolve 1/2 teaspoon of Betadine in bath water for a Betadine bath

Rooibos Tea- Rooibos tea bath- add 4 -6 teabags to clean bath water

Oats- handfull of dry oats in a old sock for a bathing method. Soaked rooibos tea bag can be used to treat minor eye injuries or minor infections.

For more info



072 090 3479

More on health...



Hedgehog daily water intake chart

Weight (g)	Water intake (ml)
50 g	2.5 ml
100 g	5 ml
150 g	7.5 ml
200 g	10 ml
250 g	12.5 ml
300 g	15 ml
350 g	17.5 ml
400 g	20 ml
450 g	22.5 ml
500 g	25 ml
550g	27.5 ml
600 g	30 ml
650 g	32.5 ml
700 G	35 ml
750 g	37.5 ml
800 g	40 ml



Hedgehog noise chart

Compiled by Awesome Krimpvarkies

Sound	Meaning / Cause
Squeaking	Hungry hoglets in nest
Chuffing like a steam train	Angry
Clicking & "popping"	Stressed
Grunting & snuffing like a pig	Hedgehog is exploring and on the lookout for food
Hissing	Angry
Purring	Happy
Purr with body trembling	Fear , anxious
Screaming	In pain & distress
Whistling & chirping	Looking to mate / mating

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APH weight chart

Healthy weight :



- The hedgehog is able to roll into a proper ball without the face / nose showing.
- When completely balled up – the body makes a perfectly round circle.
- Hedgehogs with a healthy body shape typically weighs between 350 g & 500 g.

Underweight :



- When the hedgehog is balled up , it has clear dents in the sides. Dents can also be seen looking at the back of your hedgehog from above.
- Underweight hedgehogs attempt to weigh 350 g or less.

Overweight :

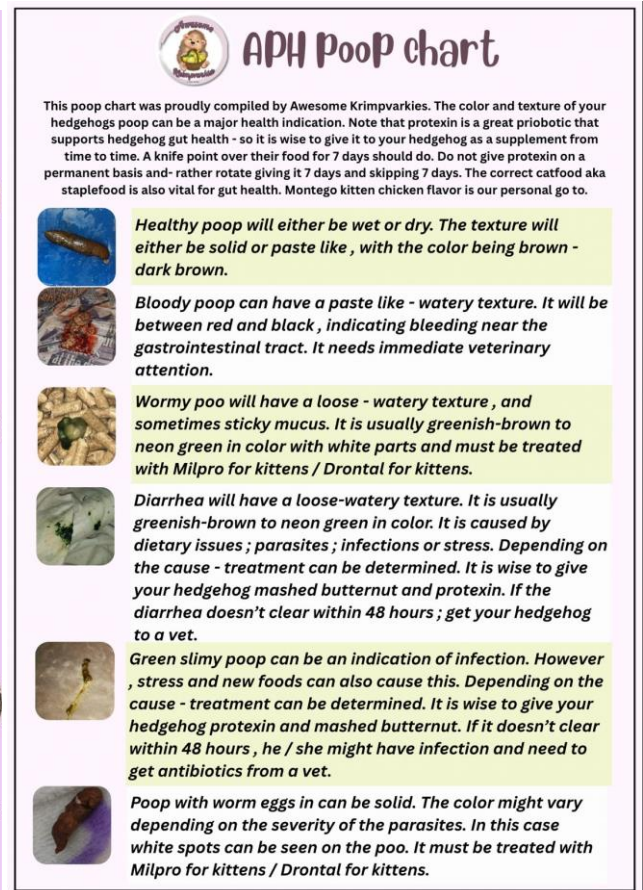


- When the hedgehog is balled up – the face or nose still shows. Hedgehogs that are extremely overweight might show a bit of stomach as well when balled up.
- Overweight hedgehogs typically weigh 500 g and above.

Hedgehog body language and behaviour chart

 About to poop Tail up	 Anointing Foam substance on tongue , licking quills	 Balling up On the ground or in your hands , unstable , unsafe	 Balled up Nose and face covered in a solid ball , very scared / hibernating
 Exploring Elongated body , flat spines	 Furrowed brow Raised forehead spines , eyes covered : scared	 Interested Licking nose - smelling / tasting something they like	 Intrigued Approaching with twitching nose
 Needing space Spikes up , face covered	 Relaxed Flat spines	 Sleeping Position differs from hedgehog to hedgehog	 Spikes up Needs space : face slightly covered
 Splooting Too warm / uncomfortable On you : relaxed	 Stretching Preparing to run a marathon	 Unsure Head lowered , looking away	

Note : This document was compiled by Awesome Krimpvarkies with the help of our group members on our socials.



Breeding:

When breeding with hedgehog's it is important to ensure that you have a market available before attempting breeding. It is your responsibility as breeder to ensure that your babies go to a good home. Ensure that you can proof that the hedgehogs you are breeding with are free of any genetically carried over diseases.

- Females must be 6 months of age for first time mating, to avoid underage breeding. Also, important to know if a female is older than 1 year 6 months of age and was never mated, that you cannot risk breeding with her as their pelvic bones grows together (fuse) and cause for difficulties when giving birth. Ethical breeders do not breed with a female after the age of 2 and a half years to prolong the female's life. As well it is recommended not allow for more than 4 litters in a female's lifespan between the ages of 6 months and 2 and a half year. It is recommended to give them a rest period of 5 to 6 months between litters. Having planned winter babies is unethical breeding.
- Always keep your males and females separate, hedgehogs do have seasonal heat periods but comes immediately in heat when in contact with a male. Otherwise, you will have nonstop babies, shortening your female's lifespan.
- Make sure you know the history of your hedgehogs, example; you cannot use a hedgehog that have history of genetically carried over diseases. It is important to keep record of your hedgehog's gene pool.
- If the male is left with the female, both might turn on the babies and eat them.
- Pregnancy duration is around 35 – 38 days. Mark your calendar on when you can expect babies.
- Always put the female in the male's cage, it will give him a bit of confidence to "perform" better. After around 5 days, you can put the female back in her own cage. Then repeat it after a week, to ensure that the mating was successful.
- When the male and female got together, they will chase one another around. (To prevent injuries, remove all objects in cage besides water, food and sleeping box). They will chirp and make a lot of noise, which is all part of

the courting ritual. When the female is finally ready, she will lay down with her quills flat and the male can do his job.

- From at least 2-3 days before the expected birth date, refrain from cleaning out the cage. Keep strangers away from your hedgehog cage, as any kind of loud noises and strange smells (dogs etc) can result in the female abandoning her babies or eat them.
- When the female comes out of her nest after giving birth, you can use the opportunity to have a quick peek to count the babies. Scoop dead babies up with a spoon, do not touch her blankets or the babies at all.
- Keep all strangers away from your cage. Hedgehogs have a very sensitive sense of smell, and it might upset the new mom.
- When the babies are 2 weeks old, you can start taking them out daily for a few short minutes. Pick them up, and when they uncurl in your hand, put them back. This will ensure that the babies are getting used to human handling. A Good mother will allow you within the first week to look and handle her babies, only do this when you are an experienced breeder and have a good bond with their mother.
- From 5 weeks old the mom will start weaning them, as they can eat on their own at this stage.
- At 6 weeks you can take the babies away. Remember not to keep the youngsters together in one cage, as they can mate as from young as 7-8 weeks! This is not recommended because of their young age; they can die during birth or have growth abnormalities.

IMPORTANT: Do not breed with a temperamental / moody hedgehog. The babies will inherit their mother's bad temperament and the little ones will be replicas of their moody mother! This is fascinating and true. If you have a friendly female, you will have friendly babies! This behaviour is transfer genetically and behavioural: The mother huffs and puffs when you are at her cage and the babies learn that association with humans.

KNOW YOUR HEDGEHOG'S AGE:

<u>Ouderdom :</u>	
OUERDOM VOLGENS KALENDER	GELYKE MENSE JARE
2 Maande	10 Jaar
6 Maande	20 Jaar
14 Maande	30 Jaar
3 Jaar	40 Jaar
3 Jaar en 6 Maande	50 Jaar
3 Jaar en 8 Maande	60 Jaar
4 Jaar en 2 Maande	70 Jaar
5 Jaar en 4 Maande	80 Jaar
6 Jaar en 2 Maande	90 Jaar
7 Jaar en 8 Maande	100 Jaar

A 5-year-old hedgehog is about 76 in people years, so if your hedgehog lives 5-7 years it has lived a full life, but five years is longer than the national average.

Colours:

In South Africa we currently have 12 colours. The **primary** colours are Standard, Black, Grey and Chocolate. All the others are dilutes from the primary colours. The total 12 main colours consist of: Black, Standard, Grey, Chocolate, Lilac, Brown, Copper, Cinnamon, Cinnicot, Fawn, Apricot, Albino. These colours come with a variety of shades and mutations. We don't count for example Light Brown as a separate colour, as it still falls in the Brown range, as with Grey, Apricot.

What makes hedgehogs colours further-more interesting is facial markings and body patterns. It is important to know that Pintos, Roans, Snowflakes are not actual colours, but mutations that presents a colour. Pinto's, Snowflakes and Roans are indicated in the colour chart, but it is for how they represent the base colour.

Please note that although included, Albino's are NOT an actual colour. Albino is a genetically carried over skin pigmentation disorder, where the animal's real colour is lacking the pigmentation to show his real colour.

The complete Colour Chart of South Africa, you can find it on the South Africa's Hedgehogs Breeders Association or visit the Awesome Krimpvarkies website.

Colours currently (2025) available in South Africa



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