



WILD FACTS

UK WILDLIFE RESCUES



Hi Rachel

Autumn is here so, with Bonfire Night coming up soon, let's stay closer to home this time. There's a small spiky species here in the UK which needs your help, can you guess what?!

Hedgehogs are awesome hunters and, with nights now drawing in, they're preparing for hibernation. They need to fatten up to survive till spring. So at night they're busy looking for food, including slugs, worms and snails.

But the UK has less than one million hedgehogs, down from 36 million in the 1950's. Sadly, you've guessed it, their main threat is people. Thousands are killed on the roads and loss of habitat is a big problem as new roads, houses and fences are built. But there are lots of ways you can help look after your local hedgehogs.

From

*Laura*

Laura Gosset  
Wild Crew



**How to help**

Have a word with your parent or guardian, there is so much you can do! First - remember remember this 5th of November to check any bonfires before they're lit for nesting hedgehogs. It's best to build and light a bonfire the same day. Please don't use floating Chinese lanterns as they can endanger wildlife.

Help hogs to fatten up by providing meaty cat or dog food (dry or tinned) with a shallow dish of water (milk and bread aren't good for their tummies). Make sure fences have holes as a hedgehog can travel up to 2km a night looking for food and this means they can safely pass through gardens, without going on roads.

Also, avoid using slug pellets as these are poisonous to hedgehogs AND slugs are an important food source. Let the hogs get rid of slugs instead! Garden ponds can be a deathtrap, so make sure they have gently sloping sides. Keep any netting or wire above ground to stop hedgehogs getting tangled.



**Wildlife champion**

Meet Tarnya Knight, Born Free's own wild animal rescuer. Last winter she 'overwintered' 40 juvenile hedgehogs, born too late in the year to survive the cold weather on their own. Since January she's rescued 276 animals including many hedgehogs, roe deer, tawny owls, three duck families, goslings and even a mouse! Most of these animals have been returned to the wild.



Sooty and Sweep were little hoglets when they arrived at our office in Horsham, UK having been found on a main road. They were taken in by Tarnya and, after her expert care, were ready to be released.



Apollo was brought to the Born Free office after being found out during the day. After a short stay with us he was returned to the wild. A feeding station was set up for Apollo and here he is enjoying an evening meal.

"I thought you might like to see this short video," says Tarnya. "Apollo got released in September after being brought to me as a hoglet in the summer."

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

**What do you think about Wild Crew?**

There's still time to take part in our survey. Everyone who responds will receive a free wild gift! Closing date is 31st October.

[START SURVEY HERE](#)



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