



How Students can help save Britain's Hedgehogs

By: Lovisa Martinell

My name is Lovisa Martinell and I am a Final Year Law with International Business student at Northumbria University. I am 21 years old and came to Newcastle from Sweden in 2015. Ever since I was a child I have been very passionate about animal welfare. I raised money for the Worldwide Fund for Nature as a child with my sister and grew up around a range of different pets and animals. I am now a Campus ambassador for Hedgehog Friendly Campus for my University. As a student, most of us do not have gardens so we may feel like there is nothing we can do to help - but luckily that is not true! In this article I have compiled a few ways students can help to save Britain's Hedgehogs from extinction.

Add your sightings to the BIG Hedgehog map

It helps us understand where hedgehogs are and where they are missing. So that we can see why they are missing and make changes in those areas to make it a better habitat. It only takes a minute to add your hedgehog sighting to the map!

Volunteer at a hedgehog rescue

While at University it is good to get involved in charity work for the work experience and to have a positive impact on your community. I was especially interested in helping Hedgehogs and chose to spend this time volunteering at a local hedgehog hospital instead of doing something more career-focused. This was so rewarding and one of the best things I have done. I learned so much and made great friends. In the North East area there is for example Prickly Pals North East, Northumbrian Hedgehog Rescue Trust, Dipton Hedgehog Hotel, Bernies Hedgehog Rescue . If you can not volunteer, hedgehog rescues are usually always in need of donations of food and towels etc.



At the annual fundraiser, we raised £2000 for the Hedgehogs at Pricklepad Hospital that day! Photos by Michelle Williams from Pricklepad.

Sign and share petitions on your social media

This is a great way to make a difference and spread awareness of issues hedgehogs are facing. Examples of petitions to sign: Here and here. Petitions on the parliament website are especially useful because the government will respond to all petitions that get more than 10,000 signatures and will consider petitions for debate once they reach 100,000.



HEDGEHOG FRIENDLY CAMPUS



Don't litter!

You can also get involved in community litter picks, such as the Hog-Friendly Lock-down Litter Pick Challenge. You can also keep an eye on your Universities website for community litter picks!



Encourage your friends and family to make little changes

If they have a garden, help them to make their gardens hedgehog friendly. Click here for a useful guide!

Everyone can do something to help Hedgehogs survive. It does not matter how small - every effort makes a difference. I hope this article has been useful and provided you with some good ideas on how to get started!