

Wild about Clifford *Newsletter*

Issue 35
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Clifford Chambers...



a hedgehog friendly village

Ten years ago, hedgehogs were rarely seen in Clifford and long-term residents bemoaned the decrease in hog numbers since their younger days.

And so began Wild About Clifford's first project, to foster, release and care for our village hedgehogs. It's worth reminding ourselves of all these lest we neglect and lose our village hogs once more.

Working with Warwickshire Hedgehog Rescue, WAC collectively fostered more than 10 baby hedgehogs that had been bought to the rescue centre. Typically, these hoglets were too small to survive the winter so were kept in large cages outside and provided food, water and clean bedding until ready for release back to the wild in the spring.



For a number of years, the rescue centre used Clifford as a release site for rescue hedgehogs with nowhere else to go and we released c25 hogs over a 3 year period from 2016-2019. An education programme and hog house building days saw up to 40 hog houses and feeding stations set up around the village. The result has been a thriving

hog population for the last few years. Preston on Stour have also seen a rise in hog numbers this year and we wonder whether some of those may have come from Clifford initially? Hogs can travel 2 miles or more in a single night!



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So far so good, but conservation is a journey, not a destination and we need to keep up the effort. Hedgehogs have declined mostly due to loss of habitat and our gardens are especially important if we can help vulnerable hogs with small, simple garden changes such as log piles, compost heaps, leaf piles, a pond, a 'wild' corner and a wildflower patch.

kitten food – chicken flavour is often recommended. And remember, hogs are lactose intolerant so **please do not give them milk**. Bread is fairly worthless to them too.

Be aware that putting any food out will attract all sorts of wildlife and not just hedgehogs. To avoid the food you put out being eaten by pets or foxes you could make a feeding station that is difficult for anything larger than a hog to access.

Of course, to see a hedgehog in your garden they need to be able to get into it. If you have walls or fences you need to make it hog accessible by making a hole - 13cm by 13cm

No single garden is large enough for a hog population, and no single garden can offer everything they need. Think of your garden as part of a local network. If you team up with neighbours who do the same you will have your own hedgehog superhighway!

So, there you have it, if you want Clifford to continue to have hedgehogs and you want to see them in your garden...

- 1) Give them access to your garden
- 2) Put out water and suitable food, especially in dry or colder times
- 3) Leave wild spaces in your garden and/or provide a well sited hog house

See www.hedgehogstreet.org for more detailed information on how to help hedgehogs...



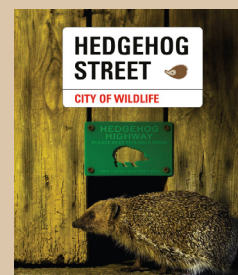
Any and all of these are good for encouraging the earthworms, ground beetles, caterpillars, earwigs and millipedes that make up most of the hog's natural diet. And of course they are good for other wildlife too.

square is sufficient for any hog to pass through. This will be too small for nearly all pets.

Even so, during cold or dry periods, these creepy-crawlies become much scarcer in gardens, so hedgehogs benefit hugely from a dish of water and feeding at these times. They will love any combination of meat-based wet dog or cat foods, or dry cat/



Excuse me,
but can you
help please?



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For more information: Contact trevor.acreman@gmail.com

