

PISCES

PET EMPORIUM



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Hedgehog

Erinaceus europaeus

Lifespan: 6-8 years.

Size: Hedgehogs vary in weight and size depending on type. On average they will reach 7 to 12 inches long and weigh approximately 250 to 600 grams.

Maturity/Breeding: Hedgehogs become sexually mature around 2 months of age. Sexually mature adults will continue to breed all year long. Male and female Hedgehogs are extremely territorial and should be kept individually, unless you want them to breed.

Enclosure: Hedgehogs should be kept in a well-ventilated, smooth-sided enclosure. They are extremely active animals, so a cage measuring 39" L x 24" W, or a 40-gallon aquarium, is ideal for one pet. Aspen shavings, or other soft absorbent bedding should be used. Avoid using Cedar or pine shavings in your Hedgehog tank because the vapors are harmful to the eyes and skin. A corner litter box is also recommended, but try to avoid any types of litter that can clump on toes, in eyes, nose etc.

Pisces recommends: Yesterday's News Rabbit Litter.

Heating: Hedgehogs are extremely sensitive to temperature changes. Maintain an ambient temperature of 23 °C to 32 °C (72 °F to 90 °F) with the use of ceramic heat emitter. If the temperature drops below 18° C (65° F) your Hedgehog may enter a state of listlessness and inactivity. *Caution: do not place the heat lamp over your Hedgehog's house or hiding spot, or above any drinking sources.

Pisces recommends: Exoterra Porcelain wire lamp and 60W-100W Exoterra ceramic heat emitter.

Feeding: Hedgehogs are nocturnal, so feeding should be done at nighttime. Because Hedgehogs are so active, they will consume up to their own body weight in food every day. Pisces recommends feeding a dry food specifically for Hedgehogs, as well as a variety of insects (i.e., crickets, meal worms etc), fruits and veggies, hard-boiled eggs (fed sparingly), cooked meats (un-seasoned), and low-fat cottage cheese (also fed sparingly). Some people also like to give them cat food, but this alone is not an adequate diet and it can lead to disease. Fresh water should be available at all times from either a bottle or dish. **Pisces recommends: Vita Prima Hedgehog Diet.**

Vitamins, Supplements & Treats: If your Hedgehog is fed a well-balanced diet, it should not require an additional vitamin or mineral supplement. However, a pinch of calcium powder sprinkled on insects or kibble 2-3 days a week can be beneficial especially if your hedgehog is a picky eater and will only eat a lower quality diet. Hedgehogs love treats and giving treats is an excellent way to bond with your pet, but treats should be given in moderation. **Pisces recommends: Sun Seed Vita Prima Wigglers and Berries and Fluker's Repta Calcium with vitamin D and phosphorus free.**

Handling: A new Hedgehog, or one that isn't accustomed to your scent, will roll itself into a prickly ball, which can result in the Hedgehog being dropped. It is recommended that you use a small towel while handling your new pet until it recognizes you as its owner. Once your Hedgehog knows your scent it will run onto your hand unrolled.

Health Care: Hedgehogs are prone to respiratory infections, parasites (internal or external) and some types of cancers. They are extremely good at hiding illnesses, so an annual veterinary exam is recommended.

Grooming: When your Hedgehog is exposed to an unfamiliar scent it will do a behavior called Self-Anointing. It will salivate profusely, producing foam that the Hedgehog will spread through its spines. You can bathe your Hedgehog occasionally with a mild oatmeal puppy/kitten shampoo and warm water. Gently scrub them clean with a soft, clean toothbrush. It is also recommended that you trim their nails as needed. ***Pisces recommends: Tropiclean Hypoallergenic Gentle Coconut Puppy Shampoo.***

Exercise/Toys: Your Hedgehog will be most active at night. This is when he will run on his wheel, dig, eat, and make noise. There are many other things that your pet will find amusing, such as cardboard boxes, tunnels, paper bags, ramps etc.

Safe Handling of Small Animals*: As with all living creatures, small animals can carry microorganisms which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

This care sheet is designed to provide you with some basic information on your new pet. To learn more about how to care for your pet, please refer to online resources.

Recommended Supplies:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Well ventilated, smooth sided cage <input type="checkbox"/> Aspen or Carefresh bedding <input type="checkbox"/> Ceramic food dish <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle or dish <input type="checkbox"/> Vita Prima Hedgehog Diet <input type="checkbox"/> Large Wheel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> House <input type="checkbox"/> Nail clippers & Styptic powder <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Set Up <input type="checkbox"/> Mealworms/and or crickets <input type="checkbox"/> Corner litter box <input type="checkbox"/> Yesterdays News Litter |
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Your New Pet: It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness.

Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat.

A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.



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