



Mercia Marinas Mammal group Newsletter

April 2017

Issue 4

BEATEN AGAIN

The weather has struck. All ready to start with the mammal trapping and then it turns really cold again. Will wait a bit first as it needs to be a bit warmer before leaving little creatures overnight in a trap.

Never mind, what we can do is start to get the footprint trap out. This is primarily to help us identify if we have any hedgehogs. So, we now have two traps, they have been out for a night, one of which has been out in the woodland, beside one of the new habitats and the other behind the lodges. Result, nothing behind the lodges but two different prints in the other one. One looks like cat the other we are struggling to identify at the moment as it has been smudged. Will probably put the camera trap on it see what is happening.

We had reports that a hedgehog had been seen at the bottom of Heron steps. Had the camera trap on that for two nights but nothing recorded except a cat and a Robin. However there does seem to be a hedgehog sized aperture going into the long grass so will keep an eye on that.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust says they have not heard of any sightings anywhere this year yet. Hope the hogs are just late coming out and it is not anything worse as they are in so much trouble already. In fact, they are disappearing from our countryside as fast as tigers are worldwide.



The once common hedgehog is now under threat from development and habitat loss caused by the reduction of

hedgerows and increase in intensification of our agricultural landscapes. In just the last 10 years, hedgehog numbers have fallen by 30%, and there are now thought to be fewer than one million left in the UK.

What can we do?

Provide nesting sites

Log and leaf piles, wilderness areas and purpose-built hedgehog homes make great places for hedgehogs to nest and hibernate.

Fallen leaves also make the perfect nesting material, so make sure you don't clear all of these away!

Try to pile these in quiet, undisturbed corners to allow hedgehogs a safe, secure area to breed and hibernate

Grow a wide variety of plants

Attract plenty of natural hedgehog food by keeping a wide variety of habitats. Encourage plenty of earthworms, woodlice and beetles, wood piles encourage a rich feast of earwigs, centipedes and woodlice! Don't be afraid to let grass grow a little wild and leave some leaf litter – as both are important homes for the hedgehog's prey including ground beetles and leatherjackets!

What to do if you find a sick or injured hedgehog?

If you're concerned about underweight hedgehogs or hedgehogs active in winter, provide tinned cat or dog meat and fresh water. Contact your local rescue centre for advice before intervening.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society can offer advice and help you find a rescue centre near you.

PLEASE KEEP EYES OPEN AND LET THE GROUP OR OFFICE KNOW IF YOU SEE A HOG.