Holistic Pet Care
Exotic Animal Guide - Hedgehogs

Basic Information
- Average size: 7-12 inches
- Lifespan: 4-5 years
- Average weight: 0.5-2 lbs
- Omnivore / Insectivores

Habitat and Toys
- Small cage with solid bottom; make sure escape proof
- Have soft bedding such as recycled paper, small animal bedding, or paper shreds for easy digging for burrows
- Food and fresh, filtered water bowls
- Spot clean daily; deep clean once a week
- Hiding hole boxes, running wheels, bright colored toys, enclosed tunnels or tubes

Diet/Treats
Proper diet: Daily
- Mealworms and crickets
- Hedgehog kibble (mashed up insects + vitamins / minerals)

Treats: Offer once or twice a week
- Unseasoned meat (chicken, beef, pork, fish), scrambled eggs,
- Carrots, pumpkin, apples (not seeds), bananas, watermelon (ensure all fruits and veggies are nicely chopped in size)
Health Guide

Positive Health Qualities:
- Active and inquisitive
- Bright eyes, clean nose
- Eating/Drinking daily
- Urinating/Defecating daily
- Calm temperament
- Active at night (nocturnal)
- Quills shed evenly

Red Flags of Concern:
- Weight loss
- Loose stool
- Lethargy
- Panting/labored breathing
- Eye/nose discharge
- Coughing
- Paralysis

1-4 years old
Physical examinations annually
Nail trimming 3-4 weeks
Clean paws and quills when dirty
Brush teeth daily

Common Health Concerns

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Health Concern</th>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>Actions to Take</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental Disease</td>
<td>Bad breath, gingivitis, tartar build-up</td>
<td>Have examined by veterinarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>Overeating, poor diet, limited exercise</td>
<td>Limit food intake, exercise more, limit treats. Possible visit to veterinarian if things do not change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mites</td>
<td>Tiny parasites; itching, rashes, small lumps / bumps</td>
<td>Visit veterinarian to determine type of mites and treatment options</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respiratory Infection</td>
<td>Runny nose, sneezing, watering eyes, fluid discharge</td>
<td>Visit veterinarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wobbly Hedgehog syndrome</td>
<td>Genetic for specific hedgehog breeds</td>
<td>Visit veterinarian</td>
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