

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 > Eye/nose discharge

> Loose stool > Coughing > Lethargy > Paralysis

> Panting/labored breathing

1-4 years old

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

Common Health Concerns

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