

Hibernating Animals

Don't Hog the Hedge!



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What Is Hibernation?

Animals such as hedgehogs, dormice, toads, bees and bats hibernate to escape the cold of winter.

Hibernation is when an animal goes into a very deep sleep during the winter.

During hibernation, animals breathe much more slowly and their body temperature becomes very low.



Hedgehogs



Hedgehogs like to eat insects, snails and worms. In the winter, when it is really cold, it is harder for them to find food. This is why they hibernate.

They lose a lot of weight when they hibernate because they aren't eating, so when they emerge from their sleep, they need to find food very quickly.

Hedgehogs make a nest of dry leaves and grass to keep themselves warm during hibernation.

Hedgehogs hibernate anytime from November to January. They will then stay in hibernation until the spring.

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Dormice



Dormice hibernate between October and April.

They roll themselves into a ball and go to sleep on the ground, in a nest of leaves and grass.

In order to survive hibernation, dormice need to eat lots of food during the summer and autumn.

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Toads



Common toads usually hibernate between October and March.

They hibernate in damp places, such as the bases of hedgerows, under deep piles of leaves, in logs, burrows or drainpipes.

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Queen Bumblebees



Queen bumblebees can hibernate for up to nine months of the year.

They hibernate in soil. The queen bee will dig down about 10cm below the ground. She will then make a little hole to hibernate in.

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Bats



Bats go into hibernation from November until March or April.

They often hibernate in disused buildings, old trees or caves.

Bats might hibernate on their own or in small groups.

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