



BRACKLEY HOGWATCH

A community conservation project dedicated to growing a strong hedgehog population in Brackley and the surrounding five-mile radius
Registered Charity No. 1188770

EASY GUIDE: Building a Basic Feeding Station

So, you're lucky enough to have a hedgehog in your garden and want to offer food and water without feeding your neighbours' cats too! A feeding station not only gives your visiting hedgehog a safe place to eat but it also keeps the food dry when it's raining, meaning your hog will stay dry too and he'll love you for it!

You can use a hedgehog house (solely as a feeding station) but one of the cheapest options is to make your own by using a plastic box. If you'd like to make your own basic feeding station, you will need:



- A plastic storage box with lid. Minimum 12"x18" but it can be as large as you like
- Strong scissors or a Stanley knife to cut the holes
- Measuring tape, sandpaper and bricks or heavy rocks
- The box can be placed either with the lid at the top or underneath – the choice is yours.
- Cut two holes around 4"x4" square at either end then using sandpaper, sand to smooth any rough edges. One entrance is sufficient, but if you have more than one visitor at a time, two entrances will give each hog a chance to escape should they feel threatened.
- Line the box with newspaper as this will make it easier to clean. Hedgehogs are notoriously messy and can quite happily eat and leave a calling card at the same time.
- Place the food/shallow water bowls inside, away from the entrance/s. Tinned meaty dog/cat food and/or crushed cat or kitten biscuits are ideal.
- Place a brick/rock on top to help weigh the feeding station down. This will help prevent any visiting foxes or cats from upending it.
- Placing bricks alongside the entrance, to act as a tunnel, will help to deter cats/foxes from gaining entry. For added security a brick can be placed horizontally across the entrance but leave enough room for a hedgehog to squeeze past.
- Check the food and water dishes each day and top them up with fresh water and food, first removing any food that hasn't been eaten (especially important for any leftover wet meat as this will help to avoid fly strike). Always clean the dishes outside (not in your kitchen) by using hot, soapy water and rinse well. This will help to reduce the risk of disease between different hedgehogs that might visit and eat from the same dish.
- Place your feeding station somewhere you can easily access it to top up food and water.
- Never feed hedgehogs bread and milk as they are lactose intolerant and milk can make them very ill.
- Do not feed mealworms, peanuts or sunflower hearts.
- Place your feeding station away from your hedgehog house (if you have one).

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