



# All Creatures Animal Hospital

1894 Ohio Pike  
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Cincinnati, OH 45230  
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## Hedgehogs As Pets

**Average Lifespan: 5-10 years**

### Diet

- Hedgehog food is available but high quality cat food will also be sufficient.
- Fruits, vegetable, mealworms and crickets can be given as supplements and treats.

### Grooming/Bathing

- Nails must be trimmed regularly.

### Spay/Neuter

- Suggested but not necessary.

### Housing Recommendations

- Hedgehogs are great climbers so it is suggested to use a home with a secure and high top, and/or slippery sides to prevent escape.
- Use caging with a solid bottom so your pet does not get caught in metal grating.
- Places to hide must be provided for comfort.
- Paper, pine, or aspen bedding can be used (avoid cedar).
- Hedgehogs do best in temperatures between 60-80° F. Anything above may cause heat stroke and anything below will cause hibernation of your pet.

### Annual Exam Recommendations

- This time spent with our exotic veterinarian allows us to form a preventative plan for your pet. We can analyze your current husbandry and make suggestions.
- Fecal examinations check for internal parasites.
- Hedgehogs can contract external parasites so these must be checked for as well.
- Physical examinations by our veterinarian check for any physical abnormalities and dental disease.

### Senior Screening

- Blood work may be required to check the functioning of your older hedgehog's organ systems and check for cancer.

### Common Medical Conditions

- Internal parasites can occur causing diarrhea and loss of appetite.
- External parasites such as fleas, ringworm, and mites. Watch for hair loss and itching.
- Respiratory infection can occur along with sneezing, nasal discharge, and trouble breathing.
- Hedgehogs can contract the respiratory disease *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, or "Kennel Cough," from dogs.