

Hedgehog

Erinaceus europaeus

What does it look like?

Hedgehogs are nocturnal insectivores. Their back and sides are completely covered with spines and they roll into a prickly ball when disturbed, or when hibernating. They are widespread through Southland, occupying a wide range of habitats. On Stewart Island/Rakiura, they are less widespread and are found mainly around Halfmoon Bay.

In winter they largely hibernate until spring when they begin breeding.

Why is it a problem?

Hedgehogs eat mainly insects, however they eat a wide range of food if the opportunity presents itself. They are a potentially serious predator of native invertebrates, lizards, and ground nesting birds (predate on chicks and eggs).



Control methods

Trapping with DOC150, DOC200 & DOC250 wooden box traps can be used. These need to be regularly checked and rebaited (egg, fresh meat or fish)

When using traps follow manufacturers instructions and use gloves when removing caught animals

Related links

Pest Detective <https://www.pestdetective.org.nz/culprits/hedgehog/>
Predator free NZ <https://predatorfreenz.org/>

Summary of rules

Stewart Island/Rakiura Only:

You can not possess, keep, hold, enclose or otherwise harbour Hedgehog on Stewart Island/Rakiura or any other island within the site-led area (see map).

You cannot take Hedgehog to Stewart Island/Rakiura or any other island within the site-led area (see map)

For full rules please see the [Southland Regional Pest Management Plan](#) (Rule 25).

Management programme

Site-led programme

Request info

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityRFS/step/1?Subject=AnimalPests&Species=117>