

Healthy Hedgehog Buyer's Checklist

Use this checklist during your first visit to a breeder, seller, or rescue center. It will help you observe the hedgehog's health, ask the right questions, and decide if this is a responsible and ethical source.

1. Questions to ask the seller

- How old is the hedgehog?
- Is the hedgehog used to being handled?
- What kind of diet is the hedgehog currently eating?
- Has the hedgehog been checked by a vet?
- Can I see the parents (if applicable)?
- Do you have documentation of the hedgehog's origin?
- What is your policy if health problems arise shortly after purchase?

2. What to observe

- Clear, bright eyes (no discharge or crust)
- Clean ears and nose
- Smooth skin with no flakes or redness
- Full covering of spines (no bald patches)
- Normal movement (not wobbly or limping)
- Clean bottom and underside
- Curious and active behavior (not lethargic or overly scared)

3. What to feel or experience

- The hedgehog allows gentle handling after a few minutes
- Breathing is quiet and steady (no clicking or wheezing)
- Weight feels appropriate (not too thin or bloated)
- Spines are firm and not falling out excessively