

Hedgehog

Ireland is home to the European Hedgehog - *Erinaceus europaeus*

The Irish name for Hedgehog is Gráinneog



The hedgehog gets its name from its peculiar foraging methods while rummaging in the undergrowth, it emits pig-like grunts—thus, the name hedgehog!

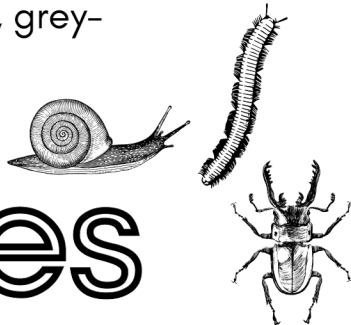
An adult hedgehog has an average

 5000

spikes which cover all of the upper body with the exception the face, chest, belly, throat and legs which are covered with a coarse, grey-brown fur.

Hedgehogs are

omnivores



feeding on a varied selection of invertebrates and such as slugs, snails, beetles and caterpillars. They also feed on fruits and berries, especially in the early autumn when these food sources are readily available.

