

# Behavior



Basics

Self-Anointing

Hibernation

Hedgehogs are nocturnal and solitary.

They tend to avoid each other at night while looking for food.

They only come together during mating .

The European species may hibernate in the winter and the African species may aestivate in the hot, dry season.

Hedgehogs have a strange behavior called *self-anointing*.

Scientists are not sure why they do this.

Self-anointing is when hedgehogs lick things with their tongues until foam comes out of their mouths. Then they twist their heads around to smear the foam on their spines.