



LET'S TALK ABOUT  
**HARRY'S**  
HIBERNATION  
TIPS

AN APH CARE GUIDE

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By Happy Quills

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# HIBERNATION TIPS

## Harry's Hibernation Tips

As most of you know 'Wildies' hibernate in the winter. For a successful hibernation a hedgehog needs to weigh at least 600g to have enough fat reserves to survive. The main difference between a wildie and an APH is that APH's CANNOT survive hibernation as we do not have the fat reserves/weight to survive ( a typical healthy APH weighs 300g-500g)

However, due to our genetics we do have hibernation attempts. They also do not just occur in winter, we can have them all year round when temperatures fluctuate from morning to night . Good news is that I, Harry the Hero , am here to give you Hibernation Attempt Tips.

The first thing to note is that us APH's need a stable heat source. Hedgehogs need their enclosure to be kept between 21 - 25 degrees Celsius. The temperature should never drop below 18 degrees Celsius or rise above 28 degrees Celsius. Older hogs generally prefer a hotter environment as more susceptible to hibernation attempts. You will also need a thermostat to help monitor the temperature of the enclosure.

So what are the signs of a hibernating hog? At our worst we would be tightly balled, unresponsive, and not unballing ( commonly confused to us just being a grump ) If not too far into hibernation you may hear a few huffs. The start of a hibernation attempt could be just having a cold belly and wobbling all over the place like I am drunk and disorderly.

If you discover us like this the best remedy is skin to skin contact, with or without the use of another heat source such as a snuggle safe. Place us on your chest and wrap blankets over the top of us. Our core temperature needs to increase gradually to come round from our hibernation attempt. Under no circumstances should we be placed in hot water or have a sudden temperature change. Depending on how cold we are depends on how quick we come round from our hibernation attempt. Some hogs can take hours to come round, just keep that skin to skin contact ( it will hopefully be the only time we don't pewp on you). Trust me, you will never be more happy when you start hearing us huff slightly and start to uncurl.

Once we start to recover we will be unsteady on our little tootsies, continue to keep us warm at this stage until no longer wobbly and do not feed us. To prevent another hibernation attempt (once attempted more likely to occur) it is advised to increase our enclosure by a couple of degrees in temperature.

It is advisable to check your hog morning and night, so that you have a higher chance of saving us if we have attempted hibernation. We might not appreciate you waking us in the morning after a hard nights wheeling, but a huff means we are not rough