

# Hedgehog Heating Supplies:

## **Heat Source:**

Here at Cape Cod Hedgehogs we have rooms dedicated just for our hedgehogs. We use a large space heater that has a thermostat built right into it. But there are times when we have to have a hedgehog outside the room and have to set up their own heat source and we really like the reliability of using a CHE. (We link above in our Hedgehog Supplies List section where you can find everything you will need as we talk about it. the links are places we have found the items you would need at the least cost. This is great when you have one hedgehog, and costs a lot less than keeping a room through out the winter at 85+ degrees.)

We keep our hedgehog room at 85 degrees because it puts the temps in the cages right between 78-82 depending on where the cage is located. 78-82 is the best temp for these guys. its not to hot and not to cold, and will help your hedgehog to not attempt hibernation.

Hibernation is very serious with domesticated hedgehogs. If they ever attempt this, you will want to take your hedgehog and place them in a sleeping bag. Put them in your shirt and put a sweat shirt on or a jacket to warm them up slowly with only your body heat. You never want to put you hedgehog in a warm bath to try to warm them. Then you will have a wet hedgehog that will get even colder when you take them out. Signs of hibernation can be many things. Your hedgehog could be wobbling around the cage, they could be a sleep and not wake quickly. If you pick up your hedgehog and his or her belly is cool, you will want to up their heat in their cage a little more. Hedgehog thrive with heat between 78-82.

You also need to remember that a hedgehog can have problems if they are over heated and these problems can result in death. You really want your heat source to be regulated by a thermostat.

What we set up for our animals when we have them in our common rooms is a CHE (Ceramic Heat Emitter) this link is a smaller one, we like the bigger one, but as you can see in the photos, it has a ceramic top and where the bulb screws in. You never want plastic, as the bulb will melt it and could cause a fire. You will need a ceramic bulb that only produces heat (NO LIGHT) these bulbs come in black and white in color, but the color does not matter. What does matter is the watt. We like the 150 watt bulbs. With the 150 watt, it heats the cage up quickly and when reached the desired temperature, the thermostat will shut the lamp off. then when it falls below, the thermostat will turn it back on. With all the links above, these brands are not required, but they are ideas of what you need to look for.

No hedgehog adopted from us will leave our care without proof of having the entire heat set up and it has been tested at least over night before pick up. We want to make sure everything is running correctly prior to the animal going home.