



AFRICAN HEDGEHOG

(Atelerix algirus)

ANIMAL FACTS

WILD LOCALITY:

Central & Southern Africa

HABITAT:

Savannas, Wooded Areas, Scrublands

LIFESTYLE:

Terrestrial & Subterrestrial (ground-dwelling or underground)

DIET:

Insects, larva, other invertebrates, & occasional carrion (insectivore)

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

4-7 years in the care of humans (less in the wild)

ADULT SIZE:

300-500g

ACTIVITY:

Nocturnal (active only at night)

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Least Concern

THREATS:

Habitat Loss

FUN FACTS:

African Hedgehogs are insectivorous nocturnal predators. They are often found living around, under, or inside of termite mounds on African savannas, which provide them shelter as well as lots of tasty termite treats. When it gets dark, they are typically very active, and can run anywhere from two to twelve miles every night! Contrary to popular belief, Hedgehogs are not related to porcupines, and are not rodents. They are more closely related to shrews. Their amazing defense mechanism is their ability to roll into a tight ball, and flex their dorsal spines (which are modified hairs) in order to stay safe from almost any predator. The main enemy of the African Hedgehog is the Milky Eagle Owl, who can pick them up easily with their long talons.