# British Animals

In this document, you will read about animals and their lives. You will learn about their diet, life style and where to find them. There are many different types of animals. Some examples are badgers and the now rare, red squirrel.

The Barn owl

The Barn owl is a very interesting bird. The wing span of a Barn owl is 90cm you can see how big the wings are when they are open. There wings are actually bigger than themselves. A Barn owl is 30 – 35cm tall. Barn owls lay 4 – 7 eggs; the chicks start to fly after 8 – 10 weeks after hatching. Barn owls have heart shaped faces and are usually seen over farms and over open spaces searching for rats /field mice (Owls eat animals smaller than itself). A barn owl like most owls will swallow the prey whole and regurgitate the bones. Most owls are predators.

Hedgehog

A hedgehog has two names hedgehog and Erinaceus (the scientific name). We do not know as much about hedgehogs as we think we do. They roll up in a ball, they are prickly and they look cute. So, I would like to tell you more about them. They are around 20 – 30cm tall hedgehogs also weigh 1 to 2 kg (kilograms). They also give birth to live young; they normally give birth to 2 – 7 hoglets (baby hedgehogs). However, they mostly live for 3 -5 years. Sometimes people will adopt ill hedgehogs.

Once we had a hedgehog

Now I would like to tell the story of the hedgehog we once had. My brother named him Mr Prickles. My brother loved Mr Prickles, more than our pet dog. Eventually we had to take him to the vets. Mr Prickles was being eaten by a maggot. “He must have been attacked” I told my family. We had to keep our dog away. If you didn’t know, hedgehogs have special fleas which are so big you could see them.

Red fox

We rarely see a fox but there have been sightings. My parents have seen 1 fox in all the years they have lived on our estate. The reason is, we live near a wood with many of the creatures listed in my document. Foxes are normally 50 – 80cm tall. Their weight is 2 – 7kg and their life expectancy is 2 – 4 years. When they breed in winter foxes are very loud. When the give birth they normally have a litter of 4 – 5 cubs.

Weasel

Weasel are 15 – 25 cm tall. They only live for around 1 – 2 years. People sometimes have pet weasels. A weasel weight is 50 – 100g so they are not that heavy. They have 3 – 8 young. In Northern Europe a weasel fur will turn white to blend in with the snow.

***Super fact***

Weasels sometimes leap around strangely because of a worm that lives in their nose.

In conclusion, there are many fascinating animals in England that you can learn many things about.

The End