

## Lesser Hedgehog Tenrecs



The lesser hedgehog tenrec is a small, nocturnal mammal native to Madagascar. While they are very similar in appearance to hedgehogs, they are a completely different animal. They are primarily solitary animals. They are omnivores. They enjoy a large variety of insects in their diet as well as some fruits. In captivity, diets also may include a high quality feline kibble, yogurt, boiled chicken, eggs, and even pinkies along with a variety of calcium dusted insects. Water should be provided in a bowl. They are escape artists. Their enclosures must be escape proof with narrow wire spacing or well ventilated vivarium style and climber friendly. A UVB basking light is important for captive tenrecs to help support calcium absorption. Sand, not dust, should be provided for bathing. Lesser hedgehog tenrecs spent approximately three to five cold months of the year in torpor. Torpor is a form of hibernation. During torpor their activity is reduced. They sleep a great deal, eat very little. As torpor ends, tenrecs become more lively and enter their mating season. Tenrecs, mainly males, excrete a white fluid from their eyes and nose. The milky fluid is used to mark territory. While both sexes can excrete the milky substance and both have scent glands, males have a more potent scent and excrete more often. Neither sex have externally distinguishable sex organs. While there are some appearance differences between males and females, a dna test must be used to confirm sex. Tenrecs also have relatively lower body temperature than other animals, therefore they often feel cool to the touch. While these very social, friendly animals may appeal to some exotic pet owners, it is important new owners do adequate research and preparation prior to acquiring a lesser hedgehog tenrec.

## Lesser Hedgehog Tenrecs Supplies

When looking for answers on the proper care, diet, handling, and housing of Lesser Hedgehog Tenrecs, you will find an enormous amount of debate among owners and breeders in the United States. While these animals have been kept as pets successfully for many years in other countries, they have only recently begun gaining popularity in the US. Until now the population of tenrecs in this country has been very low and information was based on the limited experience of those who owned them. Too often, they were treated as hedgehogs based solely on their appearance.

Our care plan may vary somewhat from other breeders. We have opted to lean more heavily on knowledge gathered from owners and breeders overseas because of their years of success in keeping and caring tenrecs as pets. Keeping of any exotic pet requires lots of research and often times you need to be prepared to learn as you go. Ultimately, it is up to you as a responsible owner to do your own research and make educated decisions concerning what is best for you and your pets. It may not always be easy, but it can be truly rewarding.

Below you will find a few supply options to get you started.



Cage Option #1 Critter Nation

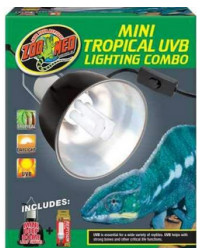


Cage Option #2 Vivarium style enclosure



Cage Option #3 DIY Tote style enclosure

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UVB Lamp Can be used on a timer to mimic daylight thus helping provide useful Vitamin D, which is vital in the absorption of calcium.



Food & Water Bowls 3 Ergonomic bowls and 1 flatter dish/ plate. Bowls for water, kibble, and insects. Dish or plate for kitchen treats.



Hides Tenrecs like all types of hides. Plastic, wood, or fleece.



Exercise Wheel Wire wheel 8"-12"



Calcium Sand Used for sand baths.



Small litter pan Perfect for sand baths.

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Kibble Options #1 Royal Canin Mother & BabyCat

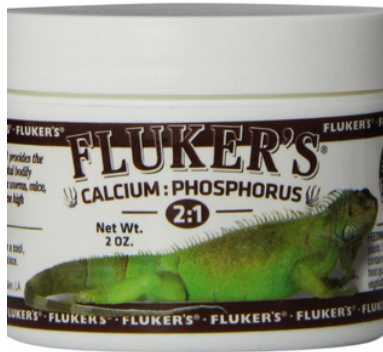


Kibble Options #2 Hedgehog Precision



Kibble Options #3 Instinct Brand kibble

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Calcium - For dusting feeder insects.



Super worms - feeder insects



Meal worms- feeder insects



Wax Worms - feeder insects



Horned Worms - feeder insects

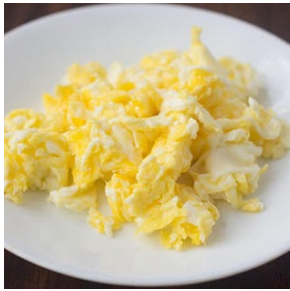
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Yogurt - options from the kitchen



Boiled Chicken - options from the kitchen



Eggs - options from the kitchen



Baby Foods - options from the kitchen