

Hedgehog Escaping From Its Cage: Are Hedgehogs Good Climbers?

While African pygmy hedgehogs (the most common hedgehog pet breed) look timid, it is not uncommon for pet owners to find them stuck in high parts of the house.

Generally, hedgehogs are known to be good climbers. They can scale walls and hedges, which sometimes gets them trapped in obscure areas like vents and drainpipes. However, for hedgehogs to climb, they require rough surfaces and ridges; otherwise, they won't be able to move up at all.

As hedgehog owners, one of your primary concerns will have to be getting the hedgehog down. They may be skilled climbers, but they often have trouble climbing down because of their size and weight.

Are you wondering how to keep your hedgehog from escaping and climbing out of its cage?

Read on and learn everything you need about these cone-shaped spiny mammals and their climbing tendencies.

Can Hedgehogs Climb?

Yes, hedgehogs can climb higher surfaces only if they are rigged or have ledges. However, they often find it challenging to scale smooth and slippery structures.

Given the hedgehog's tiny limbs, weight, and size, you could only imagine how they needed to have something to grip on when scaling a wall, tree, or cage.

One interesting climbing method that they employ is what rock climbers refer to as "chimneying."

With this technique, the hedgehog enters a narrow opening like a pipe wedging himself inside the tight gap and pushing his body up through the sides. This movement is also advantageous as the spines provide the necessary friction to prevent accidental falling.

But going up is rarely a problem for hedgehogs. What they have trouble with is climbing down.

Do Hedgehogs Like To Climb?

Climbing may be an excellent skill for hedgehogs, but they don't really have a vital necessity for it when it comes to survival. So, you can imagine how it's generally a strenuous activity.

Falling accidents can occur as hedgehogs find it difficult to go down.

Nevertheless, hedgehogs remain incredible climbers, but they often don't go up a tree or another floor for a view.

Oftentimes, they simply find themselves in higher places out of curiosity or in the effort to look for food.

Sometimes they get bored in their cage and just want to explore their nearby environment.

In their natural habitat, hedgehogs burrow and build their nest on the ground. Furthermore, they forage for food in gardens and grasslands. This eliminates the need to climb up to higher places unless it means getting closer to their food source.

Can Hedgehogs Climb Up Walls?

Yes, there is a possibility that you find your hedgehog on top of a garden wall. However, the likelihood of that happening depends on the type of wall your pet needs to scale.

If the wall is made of brick, they could climb it by gripping the weep holes. Naturally, hedgehogs will find it difficult to climb smoother walls.

Can Hedgehogs Climb Wire?

Yes, hedgehogs can easily climb wires. Whether it's chicken or steel wire, you can expect that your African pygmy can scale them with ease.

For one, the wires provide the needed ledges that hedgehogs can just grip on. They could serve as a ladder making the climb easier for your pet.

Cages made with horizontal or checkered wire make it easier for hedgehogs to escape. That's why it's crucial to secure a lid or choose a cage that is completely enclosed.

On the other hand, if the cage is made of plastic panels, your hedgehog will probably find it trickier to escape. This is because plastic materials lack the ridges necessary for climbing, plus they can be slippery.

Why Do Hedgehogs Climb Out of Their Cage?

The most common reason why hedgehogs climb out of their cage is boredom.

Sure, African pygmy hedgehogs are solitary, but it doesn't mean they are not looking for fun things to do.

Not to mention, hedgehogs are nocturnal creatures that can sleep during the day for up to 18 hours.

Hence, when they wake up, it's not just for feeding. They crave stimulating activities like exercise or play.

If the cage you prepared lacks toys that challenge your pygmy hedgehogs, such as exercise wheels, tube tunnels, and mazes, it may push your hedgehog to climb out of the cage and explore your room.

Can Hedgehogs Escape Cages?

Yes, hedgehogs do escape their cages. But it largely depends on the type of cage they have.

Cages made of plastic panels or glass are difficult for hedgehogs to escape from. These enclosures lack ledges that allow your hedgehog to grip on.

With wired cages, it's easier for them to climb out unless they are in a vertical position.

So, if you find your hedgehog nibbling on your toe or stuck in the attic at night, you may want to check their cage's structure.

Likewise, if the walls of the enclosure lack ridges for your little pet's paw to grip on, but they still escaped, you may want to reposition some items inside the cage, such as their toys.

How To Find an Escaped Hedgehog?

The best way to find escaped hedgehogs is to search the nearby area first and listen closely to the noises they make.

Hedgehogs are big fans of hide and seek. They can even keep their cover for hours or days, and that's utterly stressful.

Consider the following tips when finding your escaped hedgehog:

- When searching for your missing hedgehog, look into dark warm places like cabinets, dressers, and empty boxes.
- Use your hands and knees to detect their tracks and movements easily.
- Look into couches and under appliances like the refrigerator.
- Don't attempt to move heavy objects like your couch. You may accidentally run over your hedgehog, and that's one disaster you can't afford to have.

- Since hedgehogs are nocturnal, so it also helps to do your searching at night using a flashlight.
- Leave some food on a piece of paper or brown bag to lure them out of hiding.
- If your hedgehog is missing during winter, there's a chance that they may not move at all from their hideout. The cold temperature encourages hibernation, so it would help to increase your thermostat.

As they say, prevention is better than cure, or in this case, prevention is better than hours of playing hide and seek with your hedgehog.

Ensure that you escape-proof your pet's cage and provide toys and an exercise wheel to block their boredom.

How To Stop a Hedgehog From Climbing Its Cage and Escaping?

There are two vital things involved in making sure that your hedgehog doesn't try to climb and escape the cage.

First, make sure you have enough items that keep them entertained and active.

Add an exercise wheel and some tunnels, and a maze to appeal to their love of exploration. You can use PVC pipes, plastic tubing, a tiny igloo, or a box. When hedgehogs are mentally stimulated, they tend to forget about escaping and simply indulge inside their cave.

Second, escape-proof the cage by installing clear vinyl or plastic sheets on the lower walls of the enclosure. If the wires of the cage are horizontal, attach the sheet using clear tape. Also, keep objects that hedgehogs can step on away from the wires.

Safety is one of your main concerns as a pet owner whenever your hedgehog tries to climb out of the cage.

Accidentally falling from a higher ledge can lead to injuries. As a precaution, you can add small cushions inside the cage.

In a Nutshell

There is no doubt that African pygmy hedgehogs are good climbers.

But that doesn't mean that they can keep themselves safe all the time. After all, they still struggle climbing down, and that's a huge thing to worry about.

On top of that, once they escape, they could subject themselves to more harm, such as getting stuck in a narrow hole, falling, or accidentally getting squeezed into their hideout.

So, make sure to escape-proof their cage and ensure that they are challenged and stimulated inside their home.