

# African pygmy hedgehog

Prohibited invasive animal

Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23



- It is illegal to import, keep, breed or sell African pygmy hedgehogs in Queensland.
- Grows up to 21 cm long.
- Can compete with native species for food and resources.
- Can carry exotic diseases such as foot and mouth disease.
- Early detection and reporting helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

## Description

The African pygmy hedgehog (*Atelerix albiventris*) is a nocturnal insectivore which originates from equatorial parts of Africa. It is a small mammal that can grow up to 21 cm long, females sometimes larger than males. They have a pointed muzzle and short legs, around 2.5 cms with four toes on each foot. The spines are 0.5–1.7 cm long, vary in colour, but mostly have a white base and tip. The body is grey, brown and white on the back, sides and underneath. The body fur is grey, with brown around the muzzle with a white face and underparts.

## Biosecurity risk

African pygmy hedgehogs have been illegally imported into Australia without going through quarantine health checks.

The African pygmy hedgehog is a prohibited invasive animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23. You cannot keep an African pygmy hedgehog as a pet in Queensland. Penalties may apply.

They have the potential to introduce and spread exotic animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease. Other diseases carried by hedgehogs include Salmonella, Q fever and Toxoplasmosis which are all capable of being transmitted to humans. They can also impact native species affecting insects, snails, lizards and ground-nesting birds.

## What should I do?

If you think you have seen an African pygmy hedgehog, or have information about someone keeping them, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or scan the QR code to access our reporting web page. Until an authorised officer contacts you, please take reasonable and practical steps to prevent the African pygmy hedgehog from escaping, such as shutting doors or windows to contain the animal or placing it in a box or cage.

## More information

Contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

