**Ouchmouse House Housing Guidelines:**

When considering options to House your hedgehog you need to put safety above style or cost, you need to be prepared to spend the necessary money for the correct setup.

A barred cage will allow for climbing and although hedgehogs can climb they are clumsy and are at high risk of falling. The fall itself is not a huge worry as their quills act as shock absorbers but a leg trapped in between bars at the time of a fall will snap! There is also the risk of spinal damage from a fall. Bars can also trap a hedgehog causing serious injury if they are flexible enough for the hedgehog to force its head through.

Fish tanks and terrariums do not provide the adequate ventilation for a hedgehogs sensitive respiratory system.

Zoozones and tortoise tables can be an excellent hedgehog home providing the room you house your hedgehog in is free from drafts and warm, the open tops will cause heat from your chosen heat source to escape.

Many people have had success converting cabinets into hedgehog homes, especially multi level hedgehog homes. If you choose to do this remember the base needs to be non porous or sealed to prevent urine damage, you need to be able to safely fit your heat source, there must be measures taken to prevent escapees, all stairs and levels will need rails to prevent falling and most of all you must add ventilation.

The preferred housing by most and certainly by us is the use of vivariums. They hold heat well, are protected from urine and are ventilated. Some reptile vivariums need additional ventilation to be used for hedgehogs. TVT vivariums are our preferred brand as these are made specifically for APH with correct ventilation and safety specifications. We also love the fact that not only are TVT vivariums the most suitable houses but also the most stylish.

APH must be housed in no smaller than 4.5 square feet, (the bigger the better) and hold an ambient temperature of around 23/24 degrees, be well ventilated and safe.

*Written by Rebekah Allen-Crawford of Ouchmouse House*