



## General Information:

- Foxes have long silky rusty reddish coloured fur with black tipped ears, legs and tail. The chest and belly is a creamy colour. The fur of the young is short, thick and lighter in colour than the adults.
- Adult foxes can reach a length of 3.6 feet (1.1 metres) with a tail measuring 13.8 to 16.5 inches (35 to 42 cm). The average weight usually ranges from 8 to 15 pounds (3.6 to 6.8 kg). However, individuals have been recorded at 30 pounds (13.6 kg).
- Foxes can live up to 12 years. However, in the wild three to four years is the average lifespan.
- Foxes breed once a year and the babies are born in the spring. There are usually five babies in one litter.
- Foxes are generally shy animals and prefer to avoid confrontations with people.
- Foxes are usually solitary animals, outside of the breeding season and prefer to hunt alone.
- It is common to see a fox out during the day but they are most active at dawn or dusk.
- Foxes do not hibernate and are quite active during the winter.
- Coyotes are one of their main predators as are hawks, owls, dogs and man. In habitats where coyotes are present, foxes prefer to live in close proximity with humans as a means of protection.
- Foxes are omnivores but their diet consists mainly of meat.



## Habitat

- Foxes prefer open, grassy regions, with bushy fence lines and woody stream borders.
- They usually take over the dens of smaller animals like the groundhog. They will also make their dens in hollowed out trees.
- In an urban environment they will make their homes under decks, sheds and woodpiles in our own backyards.

## Unusual Behaviour

Signs of illness may include: staggering, falling down, inability to walk, unprovoked aggression, biting at its own limbs, attacking inanimate objects.

## Safety Tips

- Keep away from the den site area.
- Carry a flashlight, umbrella or personal alarm to scare foxes away if they cross your path.
- Enclose areas underneath patio decks, sheds and other potential den sites to keep them away from your yard.
- Keep your cat indoors during key activity hours of dusk until noon.