

Gray Fox Natural History



- **Scientific name: Urocyon Cinereoargenteus**
- **Average overall adult length is 35-44” including tail of 12-15”, height is 15” at shoulder and weight is 8-11 pounds.**
- **Coat is mainly salt & pepper gray - the darkest color extends in a suggested stripe along the top of the back down to the end of the tail. Rusty red fur on ears, ruff and neck. Belly, throat and chest area are whitish in color. Black tipped tail. Dark eyes**
- **Claws are strong and non-retractable**
- **Average lifespan of 3-5 years in the wild**
- **Nocturnal and Omnivorous**
- **3 major mortality causes: hunting, trapping and road kills, the latter increasing in late summer during dispersal of juveniles**
- **Capable of speeds up to 26 mph**

Gray Fox Reproduction



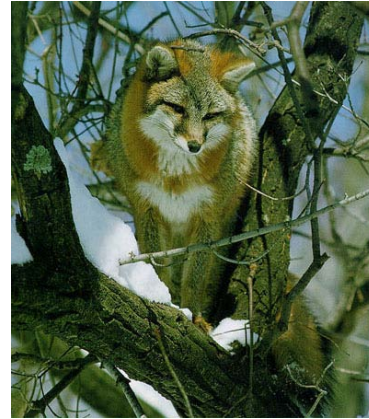
- **Gestation period of 53 days, producing an average litter of 3-7.**
- **Gray fox vixens have 6 nipples**
- **Breeding season January-May with peak in late February, early March**
- **Dens are usually underground cavities and the same dens are often used year after year. On rare occasions, grays will raise their young in a hollow tree twenty or more feet above ground. Gray fox are thought to mate for life.**
- **Female remains in the den for the first four days, leaving only to eliminate**
- **Males bring food to denned up female and assist in teaching the pups to hunt**
- **Young begin to hunt with parents at 3 months and hunt on their own at 4 months**
- **Stay with parents until fall then disperse, usually within 1-2 miles of birthplace**
- **Female sexual maturity at 10 months, males at 12 months**

Gray Fox Development



- About 71-119g at birth. Blind, deaf, dark skinned and almost hairless
- After the fourth day a short dark fur will develop, *tip of tail will be black*
- Eyes open at 10-12 days and the fur becomes dense
- At 3 weeks they can walk and at 5 weeks they come to the den entrance
- Usually weaned at 8 weeks and begin to go out on short forays with the vixen
- At 12 weeks they begin to hunt with the parents
- At 4 months they will have the appearance and behavior of adults but will stay with the family another 3-5 months, being trained by the parents
- Disperse late August-October, males first

- Gray fox can climb vertical trees, and they seem to love doing it!



- Gray fox are very resistant to mange



Gray foxes at 3 months old, Aug 2004

- Gray fox have a **BLACK** tipped tail and dark eyes



Red Fox Natural History



- **Scientific name: *Vulpes vulpes fulva***
- **Average overall adult length is 35-54" including tail of 12-20", height is 14-16" at shoulder and weight is 8-16 pounds.**
- **Coat is russet or red with white on the chin, breast and belly. Black trim on ears, tail and feet and legs black . Tip of the tail is always white and the eyes are yellow or amber in color**
- **Claws are strong and non-retractable**
- **Average lifespan of 3-5 years in the wild**
- **Nocturnal and Omnivorous**
- **3 major mortality causes: hunting, trapping and road kills, the latter increasing in late summer during dispersal of juveniles**
- **Capable of speeds up to 28 mph**

Red Fox Reproduction



- **Gestation period of 53 days, producing an average litter of 4-5.**
- **Red fox vixens have 8 nipples**
- **Breeding season December - April with peak in late February, early March**
- **Dens are usually underground cavities and the same dens are often used year after year. Dens are only used during breeding season and while raising young. Red fox mate for life.**
- **Vixen remains with young for the first two weeks, only leaving to eliminate**
- **Male brings food to den and assists in teaching the pups to hunt**
- **Young begin to hunt with parents at 3 months and hunt on their own at 4 months**
- **Stay with parents until fall then disperse although females often remain close to birth den and assist in rearing next season's cubs**
- **Female sexual maturity at 10 months, males at 12 months**

Red Fox Development



- About 81-150g at birth. Blind, deaf, dark skinned and almost hairless
- After the fourth day a short dark fur will develop – *white tipped tail*
- Eyes open at 11-14 days and are pale blue and fur is dark brown to black
- At 3 weeks they can walk and at 4 weeks they come to the den entrance
- By 5-6 weeks cubs have short reddish colored fur, weigh between 1-2 lbs and are eating solid foods
- Completely weaned at 8-10 weeks
- At 4 months they will have the appearance and behavior of adults but will stay with the family another 3-5 months, being trained by the parents
- By September or October they weigh 8-9 pounds and begin to disperse

- Red fox color variants:
black



- Silver



- Cross



- White



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