

Red Fox

Vulpes vulpes

Description

The Red Fox is a member of the canid family, and has very similar features to the dog, with long legs and a slender body. Red Foxes live out in the open by themselves most of the time, unless they are raising a family (starting in the spring). They dig dens and live as a family until the pups (also called kits or cubs) are ready to go out into the world on their own (in the fall). The males (called dogs or reynards) are a bit bigger (Red Foxes weigh from 5 to 8 kg) than the females (called vixen) and their beautiful rust-coloured, full, bushy tails are about 2/3 of its body length. This tail is very useful to a Red Fox, because if it is cold or sleeping out in the open, it can wrap its tail around its body to keep warm. The Red Fox is a carnivore that hunts mice, voles, gophers, hares, frogs, insects, and birds' eggs. They do eat some plants, often just the fruits and berries. Red Foxes hunt and store food even when they aren't hungry, just in case their next meal is hard to find. Watching a Red Fox hunt is fun because they crouch down low and then pounce on their prey, acting very much like a cat.

FUN FACTS

- Not all Red Foxes are red, their colouring ranges from red to brown to black or silver-tipped.
- Foxes only use dens when they are breeding. Other times they sleep open with their tails wrapped around them.
- Red Foxes are found in every province and territory in Canada; they are one of the most wide-spread mammals.
- The Red Fox has such a good sense of smell they can find prey even under a blanket of snow.

If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-214-1312** for tips, instructions and advice, or visit the website for more information www.calgarywildlife.org



Contact Us

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