

SCIENCE in the Park

Red fox

Vulpes vulpes

Family: Canidae

Predator/ Ominivore

Native to Virginia



The red fox is a cunning hunter that has adapted easily to human impact. Foxes are most active during the early morning hours and prefer small animals such as rodents, rabbits, and birds, but will also eat fruits and vegetables. When living amongst humans, foxes will also dine on garbage and pet food. Foxes meet in the winter to mate, and females give birth to between 2 and 12 babies in the spring. The red fox is considered a pest by many people, especially farmers and home owners, and is sometimes hunted or trapped. Fox fur is a popular choice for fur garments.

Fun Facts

- The fox stalks its prey much like a cat; it gets as close as it can and then pounces.
- Foxes use their tails as a warm cover during cold weather and to communicate with other foxes.
- When first born, the red fox is actually grey or brown. Its coat will usually turn red within a month.
- Not all red foxes are red; some may be golden, reddish-brown, silver, or black.
- Unlike other mammals, the red fox hears low frequency sounds very well and can hear small animals digging underground.