



KEY FACTS

- Red and Grey Fox are born between March and April. The gestation period is 52 days for red foxes and about 61 days for grey foxes. There is usually one litter per year.
- Foxes are born with grey fur and their eyes and ears closed. Red foxes have a white tip at the end of their tail
- Foxes cannot thermoregulate and require additional heat as kits.
- At 2 weeks their eyes open and their fur is now dark brown. They can't focus well at this point.
- Foxes grow quickly. At three weeks they are trying to walk and at 4 weeks they are starting to play with littermates.
- Red foxes have longer legs with black fur and a white tip at the end of their tail. Grey foxes are shorter, have a black stripe along the back. Colors for both types vary.



Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association of Massachusetts

NESTS

Fox dens can be found under porches, decks or any other low shelter. They can also dig their own den or take over an old den abandoned by another animal. Red fox usually make their den near water or a marsh

IF A YOUNG FOX IS FOUND

As the kits get more active, they may wander out of the den while the mother is hunting. It's common for them to be taken by people afraid that they are orphans.

It is best to watch the den first to see if the mother returns. If a lactating mother has been killed, the kits should be taken to a rehabber. Foxes co-parent, so if one is killed and the kits are weened, the other parent should be able to care for the young on its own, so no intervention is needed.

Mange



Red Fox are susceptible to mange caused by the sarcoptic mites that burrow into their skin. This causes itching, scratching, and increased inflammation.

Grey foxes rarely get mange possibly because the mites do not survive on them. Mange can be transferred to dogs.

Mange is treatable if a fox can be caught and brought to a wildlife center. It is illegal to trap an animal so unless the animal is easily catchable, not much can be done to help.

Leaving mange treatment bait out is illegal, dangerous, and even lethal to other wildlife that may eat it.

Foxes are a Rabies Vector Species. Never approach an animal that is acting strangely. Always wear gloves when handling wildlife.