

# Red Fox



Red foxes are Wisconsin's second-smallest member of the canid, or dog, family. Red foxes have the largest worldwide distribution of any carnivore and can be found in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. Historically associated with farms and edge habitat, red foxes have thrived in urban areas because of the abundant sources of food available. Red foxes primarily eat small mammals like rodents and rabbits, and are important for rodent control. They are charismatic animals that have become well-adapted to urban areas.

## Don't Feed Wildlife

- Don't store pet food out of doors and keep pet food bowls inside when not in use.
- Do not keep trash out of doors, or keep it secure with tight-fitting lids.
- Do not provide food and water for other wildlife. Foxes eat rodents and insects that are attracted to birdseed, so remove bird feeders if you are seeing foxes in your yard.
- Pick up any fallen fruit from fruit trees and keep compost secure.

## Protect Your Pet

- Keep cats indoors and watch dogs and other pets when outside. Only leave pets unattended when they are secure in a kennel with a covered top.

## Discourage Foxes

- Fencing 6-7 feet high and buried approximately 1 foot deep can help keep all but the most determined foxes out of an area.
- Fence or block the bases of sheds and the areas under porches to prevent foxes from denning under them.
- Scare tactics can be used to deter foxes. If you see a fox in your yard, yell or shake a can filled with rocks and make noise, throw sticks, shoes, or anything handy in the direction of the fox, or spray the fox with a hose. You can also buy ultrasonic dog repellents or pocket-sized air horns.
- If a fox begins to den in your yard or under your porch, leaving a radio playing continuously near the den may encourage the foxes to relocate.
- Keeping bushes trimmed and brush cleared from your yard will eliminate cover for both foxes and their common prey species like small mammals and rodents.
- Single wire electric fence set at 6 inches can help to repel foxes that are raiding chicken coops. Please check with your local government to ensure adherence to local ordinances involving electric fencing.



## Quick Facts

- Red foxes usually only use dens when they are raising their young in spring and early summer. Other times of year, they find cover to hide in to rest.
- Red foxes typically have 4 to 6 young. The males help the females raise the young by bringing the females food when the kits are very young and hunting for them once they get a little older.
- Fox trapping and hunting is legal year-round on your property without a DNR license. Many municipalities have regulations about the discharge of firearms. Please check with your local government to ensure adherence to local ordinances.
- Relocated animals can spread disease, move problem animals to other areas, and lower animal survival rate from lack of food and habitat. As such, the DNR suggests humane euthanasia for foxes causing damage.



For more information, visit our webpage:  
[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

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