

## **Willamina Coroka Fabulous Foxes**

The Magpie Apprentice June 8, 2026 Dunbarton Garden Club

Owner , Ecoeducation Designer

### **Foxes of the World**

37 species in the world

Family Canidae

Only 12 true foxes

No true foxes in south America- but have others related to other species such as, crab eating, cerdocyon (fox dog)

**Asia:** 5 fox species, Tibetan sand, Blandords and Bengal-hot environment: yellow coat with black line to absorb light for hunting, red fox overlaps

**Africa:** large ears for hot climate, blood goes to ears to cool down body such as Fennec-thick coats that change per season, smallest-3.5 lb;

**Europe-** dainty and more British, nuisance, are domestic, artic fox-white

**Australia** red fox only, introduced into ecosystem,

**North America-**mid western belt, kit fox in-SW Calif. and northern Mexico, losing habitat, arctic fox in Canada and Alaska; survive extreme weather, white in winter, brown summer coat, red fox, gray fox -related to wild dogs and jackals

**Japan** nyctereute-fox dogs, only ones to hibernate-

**New Hampshire-**

gray fox oldest 3.6 M years ago, climbs trees with wrists that rotate

Red Fox- seen more, broader range, more visible, 8-15 LB, Tail length 1-1.15 ft

Life expectancy 5-7 years, can jump, climb, swim

**T/F**

Red Fox Year

Has Pups in spring 3-5 pups after 6 weeks,

Tod is male who delivers food to female in den

Eyes blue, at 4 weeks emerge from den, red coat develops early, dependent on mom for warmth, will have white tip on tail, black legs, at 5 weeks turn red, rely on mother's milk for 4 weeks.

scat fox- found in high spaces, such as logs and rocks, marking territory,

Find dens in spring, tidy but stinky smell- often use urine around gardens to keep deer away

Foxes are hungry- chicken easy prey so make good fences

Summer- pups venture out on own exploring, looking for good food source,

Do not partner not for life only until pups are dependent on mom

Solitary adult, pups fight over food and may not survive 7 months due to competition for food; June pups are playing so when hear barking in September it is sibling rivalry, pups look similar to adults, may have same type of furs like adults, kicked out by adults once grown,

Female will use same den each year

Female may stick around, males will be pushed out by father

Tracks are similar to dogs

Clever fox: have a good memory, store food to take a break from hunting and will remember where they stored the food

## **Winter**

Red fox do not migrate, must tolerate winter, sleep but do not hibernate, tail covers their mouths when air is cold

Countercurrent heat exchange-veins and arteries are close together

When hunting in winter; when oriented due North, will catch food more accurately

Can hear 3 ft under snow for mice and other rodents using their ears

January is courtship displays to attract mates, nocturnal activity and mating- fox sound like something dying, vixen call is very loud, 5-7 mile terrain,

## **Why not good pets**

Stink

High 5-7 miles range

Poop in high places

Very disruptive

Illegal to own, better off in the wild

**Important:**

Foxes are adaptable so will live everywhere, if have a family living under a building, let them stay as the period is short until the pups leave for on their own.

Presentation notes compiled by: Deb Foster.