

# RED FOX

## *Did You Know?*

Red foxes are not all red! Other common 'red fox' colours include brown, black and silver. Even foxes that come from the same litter can be different colours!

## APPEARANCE

The red fox is a small mammal with a pointed face and a light body build that allows it to be quick on its feet. The red fox is known for its long bushy tail and rusty or orangish-red fur. It has a dark muzzle and black ears and paws. Its tail-tip, throat and under parts are generally white. While male and female foxes look similar, the male fox is called a dog and is usually slightly larger than the female vixen.



## FOOD

The red fox preys primarily on small animals such as voles, mice, lemmings, hares and rabbits. They also like the taste of chicken and have been called chicken thieves by many farmers! However, the red fox doesn't just eat meat. It also likes to eat plants, fruits and berries. Even when the red fox is not hungry, it will keep hunting and gathering food to store for its next meal.



## HABITS

The red fox generally lives on the edges of wooded areas, prairies and farmlands. Foxes only use dens when they are breeding. These dens are usually dug in sand and soil. When building the den, the fox makes sure

there is more than one entrance in case of danger. When the red fox is not breeding, it sleeps in the open and keeps warm by wrapping itself with its long bushy tail. Red foxes are nocturnal, but it's not unusual for them to be spotted during the day. They also have exceptional sight, smell and hearing abilities which makes them excellent hunters. Unlike other mammals, the red fox is able to hear low-frequency sounds which help them hunt small animals, even when they're underground!