

# Windows on Wildlife

## Red Foxes



### Living the Yuppie Lifestyle

Foxes are now a common sight in our towns and cities and thrive on the waste we leave behind. People feed foxes, however feeding foxes may make them dependent on your supply of food.

### Did you Know?

For a long time it was believed that foxes were solitary animals. We now know that foxes live in family groups and have a complex social life.



### Fox Fur

Foxes in winter have very thick fur which often makes them appear larger than they actually are. If you find red fur on a barbed wire fence then it is very likely to be from a fox.

### Cat-like Canine

Foxes have semi-retractable claws which makes them very good at climbing. It's not uncommon to see a fox up a tree, on a shed roof or watch it scale a high fence.



## Looking Out for Foxes



### Tod's Tracks

Fox prints are similar to dogs although more diamond in shape. Fox poo is often left in prominent places, has a musty smell and a characteristic point at the end. If you look at them closely you will see that they contain a lot of fur.



### Feeding the Cubs

For the first four weeks the cubs are reliant on milk from their mother. After this they will start to chew and eat food brought back to the den by the adults. Watch for the adults carrying food from late March onwards.

### Breeding Season

Foxes only breed once a year and they are able to mate when only 10 months old. They mate during December and January and at this time there are often phone calls to the police from people who think they've heard a women's blood-chilling scream but it is actually just a fox.

