

Red Fox

Vulpes vulpes

Mammal · Here all year · does not hibernate



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A slim, russet-red dog with black-backed ears, black stockings, a white throat and a long white-tipped brush. Foxes live right across the Dumfries area — farmland, woodland, riverbank and the town itself, where gardens, allotments and quiet lanes suit them well. Urban foxes are not a different animal from country ones, simply the same species exploiting a different food supply.

BEHAVIOUR

Foxes are opportunists, eating small mammals, birds, earthworms, beetles, fruit and refuse in whatever proportion the season offers, and caching surplus food. The high-pitched, almost human scream heard on winter nights is the vixen's mating call, and the triple-bark 'wow-wow-wow' is a contact call between foxes. Cubs are born underground in March and start appearing above ground in April and May.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Dogs and foxes (Canidae)
SIZE	Body 58–90 cm plus a 32–48 cm tail
UK STATUS	Widespread and common; not protected

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