

There are two species of fox in Georgia, the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and the gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*). Both weigh 8-14 pounds and primarily eat small mammals, such as mice and voles. However, foxes will also eat dead animals and soft and hard mast, such as berries and acorns. Although foxes are usually nocturnal hunters, it is not uncommon to see a fox during the day.

HOW TO IDENTIFY

▼ RED FOX



Red foxes are deep reddish brown to yellowish red in color with a characteristic bushy tail tipped with white.

GRAY FOX ▼



Gray foxes are grizzled gray in color with patches of reddish fur on the neck, flanks, legs, and underside of the tail.

CONFLICTS

Simply seeing a fox is not a cause for concern. Foxes can easily adapt to human-dominated environments, so it is common for conflict to arise from sharing space with people. Use the following tools to help resolve or prevent conflicts with foxes:

- Do not feed or approach foxes.
- Secure food attractants, such as garbage, pet food, and bird seed.
 - » Feed pets indoors when possible. If pets must be fed outside, remove food bowls when finished.
 - » Remove excess bird seed on the ground that may be attracting mice to your yard, which in turn attracts foxes.
- Haze, or scare, foxes out of your yard. Foxes are naturally wary of people. Consistent hazing helps keep this fear of people intact.
 - » Bang pots and pans, yell, or use an air horn.
 - » Use a water hose or motion activated sprinkler to move foxes a safe distance away.
- Close off crawl spaces to prevent foxes from using these spaces as dens.

DISEASE CONCERNS

Foxes can carry diseases transmittable to pets and humans. Securing food sources on your property and monitoring your pets minimizes your contact with foxes and can reduce your and your pet's risk.

Rabies (gray and red foxes)

- Common symptoms: lack of coordination, lethargy, paralysis, and aggression.
- **Can be transmitted to humans and pets through bite or saliva of an infected animal.**

Canine Distemper (gray foxes, rare in red foxes)

- Common symptoms: coughing, sneezing, diarrhea, and nasal discharge.
- **Can be transmitted to pets through contact with an infected animal.**

OPTIONS FOR REMOVING FOXES:

If non-lethal methods are not working and foxes continue to cause conflicts, lethal removal is an option. Check local ordinances regarding the discharge of firearms.

- During regulated trapping or hunting seasons, you can remove foxes yourself.
 - » Consult [Georgia DNR's Regulations](#) for season dates and trapping regulations.
- If it is not trapping or hunting season and foxes are causing property damage, you can obtain a [nuisance wildlife control permit](#) from Georgia DNR.
- To hire someone to trap and remove foxes from your property, a list of Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators can be found on [Georgia DNR's website](#).