

FOX FAQs



HEALTHY FOXES POSE VIRTUALLY NO DANGER TO HUMANS! FOXES CAN GROW ACCUSTOMED TO HUMAN ACTIVITY BUT ARE SELDOM AGGRESSIVE TOWARD PEOPLE. ELIMINATING HEALTHY FOXES IS NOT WARRANTED BASED SOLELY ON HUMAN SAFETY CONCERNS.



What can you do to discourage a fox from becoming a fixture in your backyard?

- Remove potential food and water sources, such as pet food and bowls.
- Eliminate fruit on the ground from fruit trees, bird seed on ground from feeders
- Keep pets indoors at night.
- Supervise pets when outdoors during the day.
- Scare them! They are afraid of humans, make noise!
- Coyote urine is a natural fox deterrent and may be found at garden centers.
- Balloons are very scary to foxes, especially when they move in the breeze. Punch balloons are inexpensive and hardy, and a small handful of beads or pebbles placed inside before inflating will make scary noises.



How do I know if a fox is sick?

- It is normal for foxes to be out and about during the day, so that alone is not cause for concern.
- If you see any of the following behaviors below, contact Animal Control at 908-722-1271:
 - Aggressive behavior
 - Unsteady gait or inability to move well
 - Circling or staggering as if drunk
 - Being unafraid of humans



What about mange?

- Mange is a parasitic infection that results in patchy or entire hair loss.
- The fox may be biting or scratching its skin.
- May be mistaken for a rabid fox due to sickly appearance and lack of fear.
- Mange can be spread to dogs through direct contact with the fox or its den.

CAN FOXES BE RELOCATED?

- Foxes are not displaced guests in the suburbs, they are part of the normal landscape.
- Only the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife is authorized to remove foxes and relocate them. To report a nuisance fox and request relocation residents can call 908-735-8793.