

Gray Fox



What does the gray fox look like?

The Gray Fox is smaller in size than the Coyote -- usually 32 to 45 inches long, and weighs 7 to 11 pounds. Its coloration is grizzled gray on top, with a white throat extending underneath; it is rusty-red along the sides. The tail usually has a black mane along the top, with a dark-gray or black tip. Gray Foxes have elongated muzzles and forward-pointing ears.

What type of habitat does the gray fox like?

The gray fox can be found in wooded areas and among boulders on the slopes of rocky ridges in canyons and the open desert.



The Gray Fox is the only member of the dog family that can climb trees, usually to seek refuge or in search of roosting birds. It can reach a speed of 28 mph for short distances and has lived for up to 10 years in captivity; longevity in the wild is probably much shorter.



What does a gray fox eat?

Opportunistic foragers, using hunting techniques which vary from stalking to dash-and-grab, the gray fox's diverse diet is made up of birds, invertebrates, fruits and berries, rodents, small mammals, small ungulates, fish, small reptiles and eggs. Best known of the capture techniques, is the "mouse pounce," which is completed by jumping up to three feet above the ground and diving, front paws first, onto the prey. The impact of the aerial descent stuns the prey, or effectively flushes it from its hiding place, allowing the fox to catch it.



The “mouse pounce” position



Usually nocturnal, this fox is seen foraging during the day at a campsite.

What are their mating habits?

Gray foxes generally mate once a year, mating from December through April, resulting in litters with two to eight young. The "kits", as they are called, are born weighing about 100 grams, their eyes open in 10--14 days, they have begun to eat solid foods by six weeks and begin to forage independently at four months.

