



ARCTIC FOX

Kingdom: *Animalia* **Phylum:** *Chordata* **Class:** *Mammalia* **Order:** *Carnivora* **Family:** *Canidae*
Alopex lagopus

Description: The white bushy coat of the Arctic Fox makes it almost invisible to its prey in the snow.

Length: 1.5-2 feet with a tail of 11-13 inches

Height: 10-12 inches

Weight: 10-18 pounds

Habitat: Tundra

Distribution: Mainly in the Arctic circle

Diet: Small mammals, birds, dead fish and carrion

Life Span: 60 years

Status: Stable

Special Characteristics:

- In the autumn the coat turns light brown.
- The small, compact body helps this fox to maintain its body heat. The ears are short and well furred to minimize heat loss.
- The feet are covered in thick hair on the soles to insulate the Arctic Fox against the cold ground.
- The Arctic Fox lives in a den or burrow dug into the side of a hill, cliff or riverbank. During the winter there are several interconnecting tunnels in the snow.
- They do not hibernate and some even migrate south to the coast or treeline of northern Scandinavia.
- It will store food in a cache in its den or rock crevices and marks it with a territorial scent.
- The Arctic Fox only starts shivering at -94 degrees.

Reproduction:

- Sexual maturity at 1 year
- Gestation is 51-57 days
- Litter size can be 4-11 cubs
- Females can have 2 litters per year
- Both parents care for the young
- Weaned at 6 weeks

