



GRAY FOX

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata Class: Mammalia Order: Carnivora Family: Canidae
Urocyon cinereoargenteus

Description: The Gray Fox is sometimes called the Tree Fox because it climbs trees to rest, feed or hide from predators.

Length: 2-2.5 feet with a tail that measure 4-12 inches

Weight: 5-15 pounds

Habitat: Deciduous woodlands

Distribution: North America, Central America and the northern tip of South America

Diet: small mammals

Life Span: 12 years in captivity

Status: Stable

Special Characteristics:

- Their short, powerful legs give them balance and agility. The back claws help push them up the tree while the front legs grip the sides of the trunk similar to a cat.
- The long bushy tail balances the Gray fox as it leaps from branch to branch. They differ from the Red Fox because they have a black tip on its tail.
- They have oval shaped pupils instead of the slit-shaped ones that are common to most other foxes.
- It has good night vision and hearing.
- This shy fox hides at the slightest disturbance.
- They are slow runners on the ground and must use their camouflage to surprise their prey.
- Pairs mate for life.
- Males are called dogs and females are vixens.
- Their calls are often confused with those of the coyote.

Reproduction:

- Sexual maturity at 10-12 months
- Gestation is 60-63 days
- Litter size is 2-7
- Both parents raise the cubs.
- Kits are weaned at 6 weeks
- The dog brings back food for the entire family to eat for the first 5 months as the cubs are being taught to hunt.

