



SWIFT FOX

Kingdom: Animalia **Phylum:** Chordata **Class:** Mammalia **Order:** Carnivora **Family:** Canidae
Vulpes velox

Description: This buff-colored fox has tan-orange sides and ears

Height: 30 cm

Length: 3 feet

Weight: 3-9 pounds

Habitat: Short grass prairies

Distribution: North America

Diet: Small mammals and carrion

Life Span: 3-6 years in the wild, 14 years in captivity

Status: Endangered

Special Characteristics:

- Can travel at speeds up to 60 mph.
- Smallest canid in North America.
- Their bushy tail has a black tip on the end.
- They have a low tolerance for wind and on windy days stay below ground in their dens.
- Their burrows will have 4-9 entrances.
- They may dig their own burrow or confiscate abandoned prairie dog burrows.
- Usually mate for life.
- Nocturnal

Reproduction:

- Sexual maturity at 1-2 years
- Gestation 50-60 days
- Litter size is 2-6 kits
- Kits are born in an underground den.
- Although weaned at 7 weeks, they stay with their parents for several months.

