



# Spring Season for FOXES



Sometimes a fox will den and give birth to its young under a porch, deck, or shed. If possible, allow them to stay until the young are two months old and begin accompanying the adults on hunts.

If you need the foxes to move sooner, then you can encourage them to move out by using repellents, such as soap shavings, vinegar, commercial fox repellents, or coyote urine.

If there are young present, the adults will need time to locate an alternate den and return to remove each pup.

Trying to live trap and “relocate” a family of foxes is a futile effort and usually ends up creating orphans.



For more information on wildlife in our area, please visit:

[wildlifehelp.org/animals/new-york](http://wildlifehelp.org/animals/new-york)



Springtime signals the arrival of wildlife offspring in our area, including Fox pups. The pups are typically born in March and April and an average litter size of 3 to 6 pups. They are weaned after 12 weeks.

Parents often move young to new dens every few weeks to protect them from predators. Both red and gray foxes are largely active during dawn and dusk hours, but are also nocturnal. However, it is not uncommon to see either species foraging during the day, especially during the breeding season.

Foxes den in burrows, wood piles, and hollow trees, as well as under sheds and decks. They tend to be opportunistic feeders, consuming small mammals, rabbits, birds, eggs, insects, fruit, and poultry.



Foxes adapt to urban and suburban areas. They are afraid of humans and will typically avoid them unless habituated or sick. Do not feed foxes or try to ‘domesticate’ them.

In rare cases, foxes may carry rabies. If you or your pet is bitten by a fox, call your doctor, veterinarian, or local Health Department immediately.

Foxes can carry mange – a skin disease caused by parasitic mites. Mange is communicable to other animals and people, but not without close contact.

[websterny.gov/174/Animal-Control](http://websterny.gov/174/Animal-Control)

