



Foxes driving you up the wall?

# Call us today

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# FOXES: Pest Advice

London Network for Pest Solutions Ltd provides information leaflets on the following pests:

Rats • Mice • Cockroaches • Squirrels • Bed Bugs • Wasps •  
Flies • Fleas • Moths • Ants • Foxes • Birds • Spiders



## What do foxes look like?

As a member of the canine family, foxes have a slender trunk, pointed ears and an elongated muzzle. In the UK, red foxes reign supreme, characterised by an orange-red coat and white furry chest, with the back of the ears and paws dipped in black. Weighing in between 2-14 kilos and 45-90 cm in length, foxes are marginally bigger than a domestic cat.

## Where do foxes live?

Countryside foxes live in an 'earth' or a 'den', which is essentially a hole in the ground, although they have been known to use burrows made by badgers or rabbits. City dwelling foxes make the most of what shelter is available, which can range from sheds and outbuildings, to underneath the floorboards of houses.

## What do foxes eat?

With a reputation as Britain's best bin-raiders, it's well-known that urban foxes are opportunistic scavengers and love to rifle through rubbish for leftovers. However, this is not their natural diet; a more traditional menu includes small mammals, birds (and their eggs), reptiles, insects, worms, fruit, vegetables and carrion.

## Are foxes dangerous?

In short, no. Despite media reports, foxes aren't considered to be a serious danger to humans, with no known cases of deliberate or fatal attacks on humans –



### DID YOU KNOW?

Foxes are the only type of dog capable of retracting their claws, just like cats!



you're much more likely to be bitten by a dog or attacked by a cat, than a fox. However, foxes are wild animals, so you should avoid approaching or getting close to a fox as a sensible precaution. With regards to pets, foxes are naturally scared of dogs and view cats with the same apprehension, making fox attacks on pets very rare.

In terms of disease, foxes can carry certain parasites which may pose a risk to the health of dogs in particular, as they're closely related. This includes; roundworm, Weil's disease and mange, but it's important to note that as close contact with foxes is rare, humans are much more likely to contract these from dogs.

The UK has officially been free from rabies since 1902, so this poses an extremely low to non-existent risk.

## How do I know if I have a fox infestation?

The most obvious signs to look out for are unexplained holes in your garden, paw prints (if you don't have pets) and in urban areas, ripped bin bags with leftovers scattered inconveniently by your front door. And, despite being nocturnal animals, fox sightings during daylight are becoming more common, so the biggest clue might be spying a couple of foxes prowling in your garden.

## How can I deter foxes from coming onto my property?

Like most animals – including humans – foxes have very little willpower when it comes to food, so make sure that dustbin lids are firmly closed, wayward food scraps are removed from the house and garden, and pet food and bird seed debris are thoroughly cleaned up.

If appropriate, erect a solid fence to deter foxes from exploring your garden, and avoid using animal-based fertiliser.

## How to do I get rid of foxes?

Whenever possible, we don't endorse the destruction of healthy foxes, and believe that the best way to get rid of foxes is to deter them from coming onto your property in the first place – see above for preventative tips.

Long term fox control is extremely difficult and expensive and should only be attempted as a last resort, if they are causing serious damage to your property or livelihood. It's illegal to poison or gas foxes, or to block fox dens if they are occupied, under the Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 and the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Traps and free-running snares may be used, but they should be checked at least once a day and if a fox has been captured, it must be humanely killed immediately using only live ammunition.

Fox pest control is extremely specialised, and is best carried out by a licenced professional.

### DID YOU KNOW?

A group of foxes is called a 'skulk' or a 'leash'.

