

# Foxes

---

## Deterring foxes

Some people enjoy having foxes in their gardens but if they cause a nuisance, there are steps to reduce the problem:

- do not feed foxes
- make sure foxes can't get to the food put out for other wildlife or pets
- store rubbish in fox-proof containers made of metal or plastic and make sure lids are secure
- clear away any wind-fallen fruit
- provide secure fox-proof accommodation for vulnerable pets and livestock, especially at night
- human interference will often encourage foxes to leave a site. Filling in excavations as soon as they appear can prevent foxes from moving in where they are not wanted
- chemical repellents can be used to deter foxes - only approved for use for foxes repellents must be used and they must be applied in accordance with the manufacturers instructions
- in extreme circumstances a pest control operative may be employed to trap, remove and euthanise the fox - this is not a service we provide. Please note: this may not be a permanent solution as another fox may take the original foxes place

**Please note:** foxes are not classified as vermin and the council does not offer a pest control service for foxes.

## Facts about foxes

- they usually shelter and breed below ground in an 'earth' or 'den'. In urban areas they can live underneath sheds and outbuildings
- they breed once a year and their cubs are born between March and April
- their average lifespan towns is 18 months
- given the chance they will kill small domestic pets and livestock such as rabbits, guinea pigs, ducks and chickens
- they usually ignore cats and dogs
- the incident in London in 2010 where a fox attacked babies in their cots was unprecedented and unusual behaviour for a fox. Foxes tend to be wary of humans
- they can cause a nuisance by raiding bins, digging in gardens and howling at night during the mating season between December and February
- they are now established residents of many urban areas and are likely to remain so