

CANIDS OF MAINE

MAINE CANID CHRONICLES: FOXES!



EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the first issue of the Maine Canid Chronicles!

The purpose of this 3-part series is to share information about the canids (red foxes, gray foxes, eastern coyotes, [and maybe wolves?]) who call the state of Maine home. While this series includes some canid natural history and other facts, it is also meant to be a space where Maine community members can share their experiences, artwork, and appreciation of canids.

I want to offer a sincere thank you to all who took the time to submit and share your work for this first issue, to all who take the time to read it, and to Melissa Schaefer who inspired and encouraged me with her own creative projects based on her love of the natural world. This series is meant to be fun and educational, and I hope there is a little something for everyone here as we take a look at Maine's red foxes and gray foxes.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Note.....	1
About Canids of Maine.....	2
Land Acknowledgment.....	4
Fox Natural History.....	5
Meet Maine's Furbearer Biologist.....	9
Interview with a Wildlife Rehabilitator.....	10
Maine's Fox Farm Industry.....	12
Fox Tales.....	13
Art of Poetry.....	14
Qaqsoos.....	16
Felted Treasures.....	18
Maine Wildlife Park.....	19
Fun Fox Facts.....	20
Nonfiction: The Fox and the Turkeys.....	26
Fox Mandala.....	31
Felted Fox Pattern.....	32
Call for Submissions.....	33
Fox Stickers.....	34
Injured Animal Resources.....	35
Coexistence Tips.....	37
Thank You.....	38

CANIDS OF MAINE

ABOUT CANIDS OF MAINE

Canids of Maine is a research and educational outreach initiative that aims to learn more about the canids (red foxes, gray foxes, eastern coyotes, and potentially wolves), who reside in Maine. Dr. Tammy Cloutier, an ethologist and writer, is passionate about animal behavior, art, and nature. Her PhD research focused on one of her favorite canids, endangered African painted dogs, and now she is excited to study canids in her home state of Maine.

While there is general knowledge about Maine's canids, there has been little specific research conducted for these species here in Maine, particularly in recent years. Changes in habitat, climate, populations, and more impact our wildlife. The more we learn, the better we can work to manage / coexist with them as basing decisions on outdated information or incorrect assumptions can have a negative impact on wildlife, the environment, and us.

Canids of Maine is currently gathering data on where people are seeing foxes, coyotes, and wolf-like animals throughout the state. Future research includes expanding collaborative efforts to investigate topics such as diet, genetics, behavior, and interactions between canids and humans, as well as canids and other species.



**FOLLOW CANIDS OF MAINE
ON FACEBOOK AND
INSTAGRAM!**

CANIDS OF MAINE

ABOUT CANIDS OF MAINE CONTINUED

Want to participate in Maine canid research but not sure how? It's easy!

1. Share fox, coyote, and wolf-like canid photos with the Canids of Maine project on the iNaturalist app (<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/canids-of-maine>)
2. Complete the Maine Wild Canid survey by **OCTOBER 31, 2024** (see information below)
3. Share the Maine Wild Canid survey with friends, family, etc.
4. Follow Canids of Maine on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/canidsofmaine>) and Instagram (@canids_of_maine) to learn about future opportunities



Feedback from community members throughout Maine is important to understand our knowledge of and attitudes towards foxes and coyotes. This information will be used to direct future educational and research efforts. A survey has been created that is **ANONYMOUS** and should take **NO MORE THAN 10 minutes** to complete. The survey can be accessed through either one of the links below or by scanning the QR code on the image below.

Maine Wild Canid Survey Link 1

Maine Wild Canid Survey Link 2

Are you a MAINE RESIDENT with a few minutes to spare? Share your thoughts about Maine's foxes and coyotes!

Scan the QR code below to complete this quick survey!

Canids of Maine
@canids_of_maine
/canidsofmaine

CANIDS OF MAINE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As our society works to right some of the wrongs of colonization, I feel it is important to recognize and honor the sovereignty of the Wabanaki Confederacy (the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and MicMac peoples) who stewarded this land now known as the State of Maine for generations prior to the arrival of colonizers. I support the Wabanaki Confederacy's efforts for cultural healing and recovery, as well as land and water protection and restoration.



Vintage Maine map and fox by Maine artist Patricia Pendergast

Find more of Patricia's work at <http://www.ppendergast.com>

CANIDS OF MAINE

NATURAL HISTORY



Original watercolor by Maine artist Sarah Hyland

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RED FOXES & GRAY FOXES

This natural history section on red foxes and gray foxes is by no means all inclusive, but rather, is meant to provide general information for both species. Keep in mind that there are always exceptions to the rules.

ANCESTRY

Foxes belong to the family Canidae, which also includes wolves, coyotes, jackals, and dogs. Red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and gray foxes (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) share a common ancestor, with the gray fox lineage being older than the red fox. Both fox species are native to North America and have expanded or changed their range due to habitat and climate changes, adaptations to urban environments, etc.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Red foxes weigh between 7 and 15 pounds, are approximately 3 1/2 feet long from nose to tail, and stand about 15-16 inches tall. They have reddish / orange fur with a white chest, black legs, and bushy white-tipped tail. They tend to look bigger than they are when they have their fluffy winter coats!



CANIDS OF MAINE

NATURAL HISTORY CONTINUED

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Gray foxes weigh about 10 pounds and are approximately 3 feet long from nose to tail. They are shorter and stockier than red foxes and stand about 12 inches tall. Gray foxes have a “grizzled” gray coloration due to a combination of white, gray, and black banded guard hairs. They also have areas of red around the ears, neck, legs, and abdomen with a black stripe down their tail and a black tip at the end of the tail.

Maine photographer Jeanne Marie Coleman captured the gray fox image below.



DIET

Both red foxes and gray foxes are omnivores, meaning that their diet can include, among other items, fruit, nuts, insects, reptiles, small mammals, and carrion (or carcasses left by other wildlife). Fox diets change based on seasonal variability and their environment, but they no doubt enjoy some delicious Maine blueberries in the summer months. It has been noted in other regions that gray foxes have a more plant-based diet than red foxes, but it is uncertain if that is also the case in Maine as there has been little published research about Maine fox diets.

HABITAT

Foxes can survive in different habitats, including areas with a mix of fields and forests, brushy/deciduous forest, and residential areas.

Both Maine fox species have home ranges (also referred to as territories). These home ranges may be between 6 and 12 square miles for the red fox. Gray foxes may have ranges from < 1 square mile up to 7 square miles, although more research is needed.

Red foxes are found in all 16 of Maine's counties, while gray foxes are generally only found in southern, central, and mid-coast regions of Maine. However, gray fox sightings have been reported in the Moosehead Lake region and even in New Brunswick, Canada.

REPRODUCTION

Both fox species are considered monogamous with breeding seasons that fall within the December-March timeframe. Baby foxes (or kits, pups, or cubs) are born in the spring (usually between March and May) after an approximately 50-60 day gestation period (or pregnancy). The average number of kits is 3-6 per litter.

Foxes use dens to protect their young. A den may be a brush pile, rock crevice, hollow log, underground burrow, steep bank, etc., and as many readers may already know, human structures such as decks or sheds provide great cover and protection too. Dens may be reused year after year.

Red and gray foxes are typically more active at dawn and dusk, but can be seen during the day and at night. This is especially true when they have to increase their hunting efforts to feed hungry kits in the spring and summer months.

CANIDS OF MAINE

NATURAL HISTORY CONTINUED



MORTALITY

Average lifespans:

- **Red fox:** up to 12 yrs in captivity / 2-6 yrs in the wild
- **Gray fox:** up to 15 yrs in captivity / 4-6 yrs in the wild

Wildlife face many challenges. Below are some of the primary causes of death for foxes (in no specific order).

- Diseases such as distemper, parvovirus, rabies, and sarcoptic mange
- Hunting/trapping
- Parasites such as lice and tapeworms
- Predation
- Rodenticides
 - (direct or indirect from eating poisoned prey)
- Vehicles
- Wildlife control / conflict agents
- Wildlife killing contests

ADAPTATIONS

Foxes have an excellent sense of smell and hearing. They can hear low frequency sounds such as prey rustling under leaves from about 100 ft away!

Both fox species can climb, but gray foxes have semi-retractable claws with a greater curvature, as well as greater front leg rotation, that allows them to be better climbers than red foxes.

Foxes have some felid, or cat-like, traits (vertical slit pupils rather than round pupils and sensory hairs on their muzzle and forelegs). One theory about foxes having these cat-like traits is that they co-evolved with felids and these adaptations made them more competitive in that environment.

Red foxes have a dense inner layer of fur that provides insulation while the outer layer of guard hairs help shed moisture to keep the inner layer dry, allowing them to live in colder climates.

CANIDS OF MAINE

POUNCING FOR PREY

This may be a familiar sight to some readers - the pounce.
Foxes can jump about 6 feet!



Images courtesy of Yellowstone National Park

CANIDS OF MAINE

MEET MAINE'S FURBEARER BIOLOGIST: SHEVENELL WEBB!

I have always loved the canine family, which reminds me so much of my own dog. When I was a young biologist, I got to watch a curious gray fox that lingered nearby when I was working on a fisher study in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. This was special because gray foxes were not common where I grew up in central Maine at the time.

Now, I am a wildlife biologist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife in Augusta. I specialize in the management and conservation of furbearers, which covers a wide scope of activities, including research and monitoring, policy and regulations, and outreach and communications. One aspect of my work that has been particularly interesting is tracking the expansion of gray foxes throughout the state in recent decades. Although both gray and red foxes have always occurred in Maine, gray foxes were historically restricted to parts of York and Cumberland Counties. There have been relatively few studies of gray foxes in the northeastern United States, so there is still much to be learned on their ecology and interactions with other species, especially as they expand into new areas.

Both fox species are doing well in Maine, but diseases and parasites like rabies and canine distemper appear to play an important role at influencing fox populations. The Department receives many calls about foxes each year and continues to provide technical assistance to encourage people to take steps to avoid conflicts such as securing small livestock in predator-proof pens and removing attractants. We initiated a mesocarnivore camera study to collect occurrence data across the state on marten, fisher, and other species during the winter. The photo below is a red fox that visited a camera site near Ashland last winter.

If you document a gray fox in northern Maine, please take a photo and reach out to me at shevenell.webb@maine.gov.

Red fox image below courtesy of Shevenell Webb, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife



CANIDS OF MAINE

INTERVIEW WITH A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR



MEET JACQUE FANNING OF WARREN BROOK WILDLIFE REHABILITATION!

Jacque graciously took time in between feeding and cleaning for a chat about wildlife rehabilitation. She provided a wealth of information during our talk, but in the interest of staying on topic with this issue, I am only including a portion of the highlights, particularly relating to foxes.

Jacque has been a wildlife rehabilitator for orphaned and rescued wildlife for 8 years. She provides support to a variety of mammals in Oxford County and specializes in neonates. Examples of some of the species she helps are red and gray foxes, skunks, opossums, squirrels, and even snowshoe hare and New England cottontails (Maine's only true native rabbit that is endangered).

Animals may arrive at Warren Brook for various reasons such as injuries that leave them unable to hunt or avoid predators, orphaned, hit by car, and illness.

One of these illnesses is mange. The fox in the image below has mange. Notice the squinty eyes and missing fur (including no fluffy tail). It is difficult to see in this photo, but there may also be some crustiness around the eyes, muzzle, and ears.

Animals with mange suffer terribly. Their hunting is affected because they can't see, which means they're not eating as they should, and they constantly scratch due to the intense itching, which causes lesions and sores that can become infected. Mange is also contagious so fox parents can potentially pass it on to their young.



CANIDS OF MAINE

INTERVIEW WITH A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR CONTINUED



The good news is that **mange is treatable!** While some animals who are brought to a wildlife rehabilitator are unfortunately past the point where they can be helped, others can be treated and released.

Of course, even sick and injured wildlife can be difficult to catch (they don't know you're trying to help them). So there is also the option to try to treat them where they are. There is a process to follow, so please contact a wildlife rehabilitator for more information. A list of Maine wildlife rehabilitators can be found on page 35.

Again, Jacque had a lot of wisdom to share, and although not fox-specific, here are two more pieces of valuable information. I believe most people try to do the "right thing," but sometimes what we humans think is helpful can be detrimental or deadly to our animal friends.

1. Almond milk is poisonous to squirrels!
2. Wild animals are sometimes kept as pets, which can leave both them and companion animals such as dogs and cats, susceptible to diseases. Even though companion animals may be vaccinated, this does not necessarily provide overall protection to them or the wild animal.



Learn more about Warren Brook Wildlife Rehabilitation on Facebook

(<https://www.facebook.com/WarrenBrookWildlifeRehabilitation>) or on Warren Brook's website

(<http://warrenbrookwildliferehab.dx.am/>)

*All gray fox images on this page and the previous page are courtesy of Jacque Fanning

CANIDS OF MAINE

MAINE'S FOX FUR INDUSTRY

Fox fur farms existed in Maine in the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. They were present in various locations throughout the state, including Lincoln, Dover, Auburn, and Borestone Mountain (which is now part of Maine Audubon's Borestone Mountain Sanctuary).

Silver black, black, platinum, and even blue foxes (all of which are fur variations of the red fox) were bred for their fur so people could wear the latest fashion. While people got into this business to support themselves and their families, there was a dark side to this industry. Odd colored baby foxes were "discarded" until people started to value "mutant" colors. The timing and methods may have varied among the fox fur farms, but foxes were killed around 10 months of age. Examples of killing methods included strychnine (which causes painful convulsions), automobile exhaust, and chloroform.

One business owner stated the "slaughtering is merciful and painless" to which a journalist responded, "now doesn't that make your lovely silver fox rest more comfortably on your shoulders?" (Soutar, 1947, p. 5). High levels of inbreeding made some foxes susceptible to hemophilic (or blood) disorders, causing some females to bleed to death while giving birth.

The fox farming business became illegal in Maine in 1952.



Reynard digital illustration by
Maine artist Stephanie Bell
Follow @redfoxgurl on Instagram

References

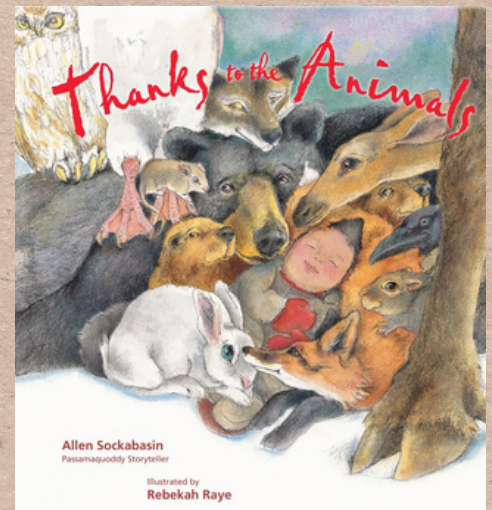
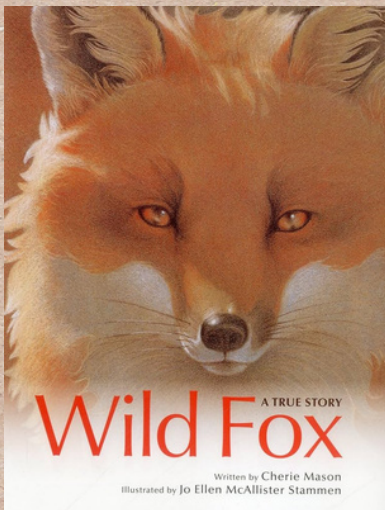
- William R. Sawtell (1994), *Fox Business with Accounts from Fox Farms in Maine*
Emily Burnham (May 2, 2020), *For a brief time, fox farming was one of Maine's most lucrative industries*
Maine Historical Society / Maine Memory Network



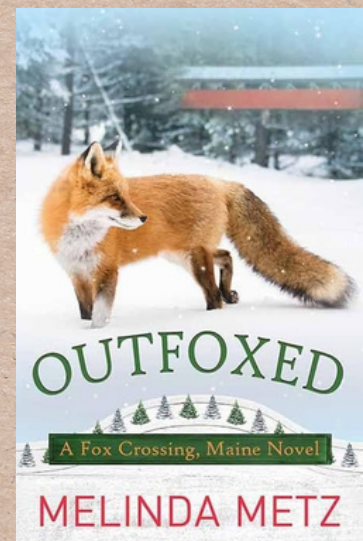
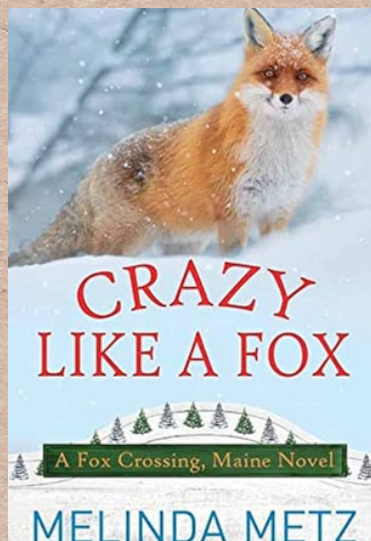
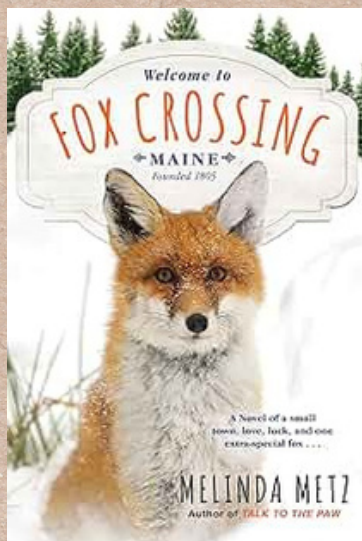
CANIDS OF MAINE

FOX TALES

MAINE AUTHORS



MAINE BASED SERIES



CANIDS OF MAINE

THE ART OF POETRY

I am honored to share the poetic and artistic works of award-winning Maine poet, Matt Bernier, and world-renowned Maine artist Dahlov Ipcar (with permission from Bob and Charlie, Dahlov Ipcar Art Collection).

Death of a Fox by Matt Bernier

I always knew it would end like this:
a cold night, around the end of March,
when I snowshoe out to a woodshed
and reach for some last pieces of dry oak,
embers of sunset already turning ashy,

and you rise from a bed of torn hay bale,
blinking, for I've disturbed your sleep,
dead weeds tangled in your auburn hair,
staring at me through rheumy black eyes,
your biting criticism finally failing you;

in old England they would have hounded you
for your beauty and purity of white breast,
but here in New England you bounded
over stone walls in your own steeplechase,
kits running around as you played vixen,

so I retreated from the outbuilding silently,
shivering woodless through a subzero night
as ice clinked in rivers flowing like cocktails,
and in the morning you were for the ages,
tail swept over your face like a fur collar.

Matt Bernier lives on an old farm in Maine and works professionally as a civil and environmental engineer, working to restore sea-run fish like endangered Atlantic salmon to Maine rivers and streams. His poetry has appeared in various online and print publications, including the Maine Sunday Telegram and Maine Public's Poems from Here. In 2023, Death of a Fox placed first in the Maine Postmark Poetry Contest, affiliated with the Belfast Poetry Festival, and was first published in The Maine Review.



Original watercolor by Maine artist Sarah Hyland

CANIDS OF MAINE

THE ART OF POETRY CONTINUED

Red Fox at Dawn

from WHISPERINGS AND OTHER THINGS,
written and illustrated by Dahlov Ipcar ©1967

The fox glides like a flame through frozen fields of morning,
On black velvet feet.

His jet-black pointed ears prick up as he hears
The first cocks crow on far off farms.

He pauses, listening.

Then yawns a delicate yawn and licks his chops

And swiftly flows into the glowing dawn,

Passing like a comet out of sight,

Trailing his tail-a plume of firelight-

As bright tongues lick across the morning sky,

And all the frosted grass bursts into life

With rubies, garnets, diamonds sparkling.

The red fox slips across red jeweled fields,

On feet of night.



CANIDS OF MAINE

QAQSOSS

While attending the Dawnland Festival of Arts & Ideas in Bar Harbor, Maine, the fox (or Qaqssoss, pronounced weak-soss) print on the next page stood out to me amongst other works of art by Wabanaki artist, Norma Randi. Norma is a member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and was raised in her Passamaquoddy mother's ancestral lands at Sipayik, Maine. She has roots from her father's clan of the Hidatsa and Mandan people of North Dakota. Norma is a painter and digital art creator who uses acrylic, oils, watercolors, and an iPad as her mediums.

Norma draws inspiration from her ancestral heritage and life lived with her husband. She has love for the various landscapes and palettes of Maine skies, earth, and waters; experiencing the beautiful Maine environment that her maternal ancestors called home and traversed for 12,000 plus years. The focus on her heritage is also a teaching tool for herself to be aware of the history of her ancestors, how their lives were lived prior to colonization and after, their culture, their environments and ecology, and the people within the communities who continue carrying on traditions despite the initial setback of assimilation. It is a form of self healing and expression.



Norma graciously shared the story behind her Qaqssoss artwork.



My husband and I live on his childhood home property of 13 acres with mixed natural conditions of field, woods, and lawn. For quite some time now, probably 5-6 years, we have observed foxes who live in our neighborhood and travel through the different properties. There is a clear beaten down fox path that skirts the perimeter of our property and then follows our mowed walking paths in the field.

We also have chickens and I used to be concerned when they were free ranging about them crossing paths with the fox. When I started to see the fox in the daytime walking through our yard, I simply kept the chickens confined to their pen. It was a relief knowing that there was enough room for all of us to coexist.

I also enjoyed watching the fox trotting through our yard and hunting. We have seen him/her(?) in the winter walking through our fields and hunting for mice; it was adorable and amazing to watch them do their iconic stalk and pounce from the air move. Then to transition in the spring and summer, the fox was like clockwork in the mid-morning and would come strolling by our gardens and freshly mowed lawns looking for some good eats.

Seeing the established perimeter trail of the fox is the inspiration for my linoleum cut fox design, knowing they make their way through the ferns and wild flowers coming up had me daydreaming of their experiences.

CANIDS OF MAINE

QAQSOSS ARTWORK

Can you see the ferns and wild flowers that the artist mentions in her story on the previous page incorporated into this piece of art?



Fox, or Qaqsoos, artwork by Wabanaki artist Norma Randi

View Norma's prints, paintings, and other handmade items at <https://www.normarandi.com>

CANIDS OF MAINE

FELTED TREASURES



Felted red fox by Maine fiber artist Debra Laplante

Debra's precious piece is made of felted wool roving from Maine, and in a sense, allows a fox and sheep to become one. Debra's family has always enjoyed the thrill of seeing foxes on their property and considered themselves lucky to have witnessed a mom and her two little ones playing in their yard.



Gray fox pattern by Maine artist Susan Bennett of Downeast Thunder Farm

Susan graciously agreed to share her pattern in this issue and encourages others to make this in any form (such as ornaments, felting, quilting, applique, etc.). The gray fox pattern is on page 32 of this issue or visit her site at <https://www.downeastthunderfarm.com/susans-critters/>

CANIDS OF MAINE

MAINE WILDLIFE PARK

Disappointed you haven't personally seen a fox?
Consider visiting the Maine Wildlife Park!

The park is home to over 30 species of Maine wildlife who cannot be returned to their natural habitats for various reasons. This includes injuries, being orphaned, and /or being dependent on humans (such as raising a wild animal as a pet).

Visit the [Maine Wildlife Park](#) website for more information.

In the meantime, enjoy these photos* of two foxes who currently reside at the park.

*Photos are from the Maine Wildlife Park Facebook page where they post information about their resident wildlife, hours, events, and more. Be sure to take a look!

Check out the silver fox (a melanistic form, or morph, of the red fox) in the top photo.
This coloration is less common than the typical red / orange color seen in the bottom photo.



CANIDS OF MAINE

FUN FOX FACTS



A group of foxes is commonly called a skulk, but other phrases include a troop of foxes, a leash of foxes, a lead of foxes, and an earth of foxes.



Female foxes are called vixens and male foxes are referred to as tod, reynard, or dog fox.



Both fox species make a variety of sounds to communicate including growls, yelps, barks, whines, whimpers, squeals, yips, and yaps.



In Germanic language, “foxy” became a synonym for crafty and cunning. The Irish word for fox, sionnach, is believed to be the root of “shenanigans,” to play tricks.

CANIDS OF MAINE

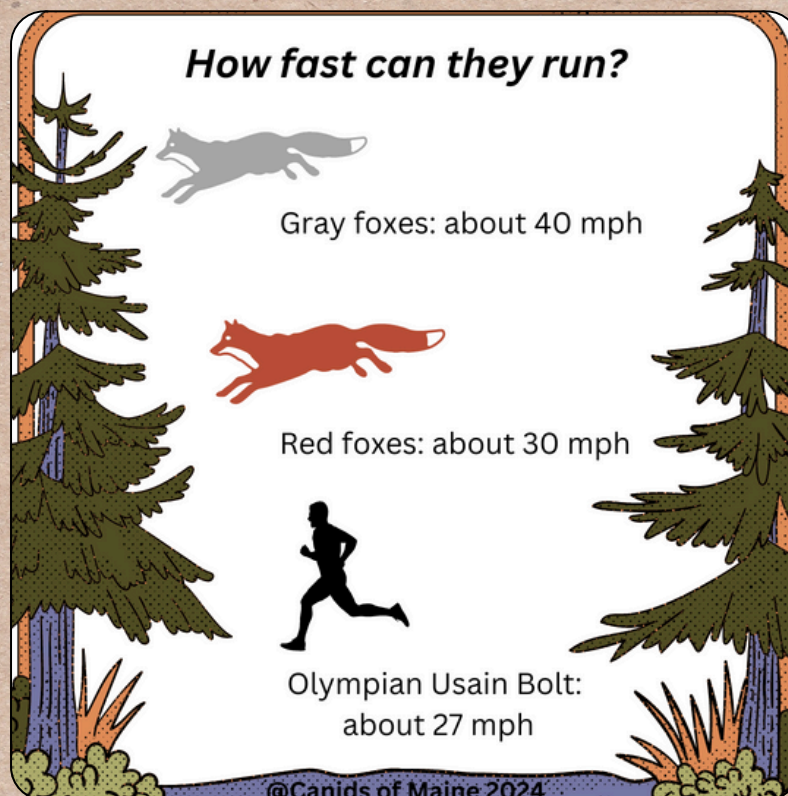
FUN FOX FACTS CONTINUED



Red fox kits are born with charcoal-colored coats that change around 5 weeks of age. Their coats change to the reddish / orange adult color at about 10 weeks of age.



Gray fox kits can hunt on their own and are independent by 7 months of age!

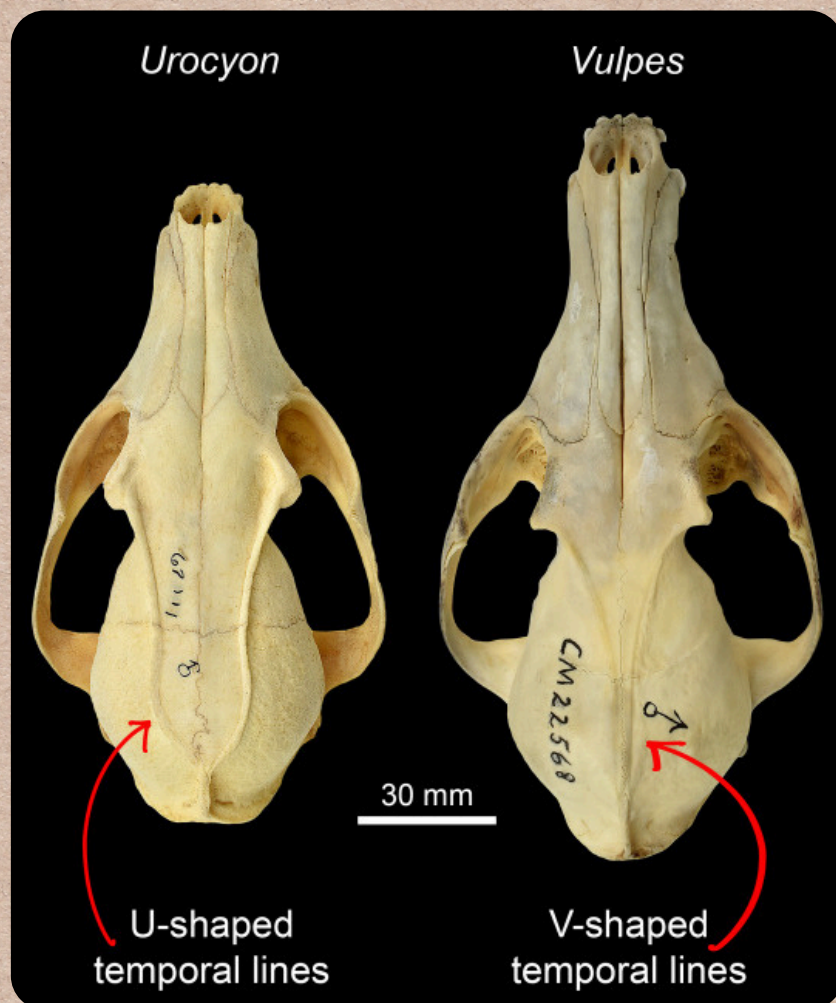


CANIDS OF MAINE

MORE FUN FOX FACTS

The following information was shared by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History:

Red and gray foxes "are distinguished by their coats, as well as a useful feature on their skulls. Mammals that have strong chewing muscles have prominent ridges on their skulls for muscle attachment. These are called temporal lines. As seen in the photo below, the gray fox skull on the left has U-shaped temporal lines (i.e., U for *Urocyon*) and the red fox skull on the right has V-shaped temporal lines (i.e., V for *Vulpes*). A convenient coincidence for biologists!"



CANIDS OF MAINE

FOX SKULL COMPARISON

Gray Fox Skull and
Mandible (Lower jaw)



Red Fox Skull and
Mandible (Lower jaw)

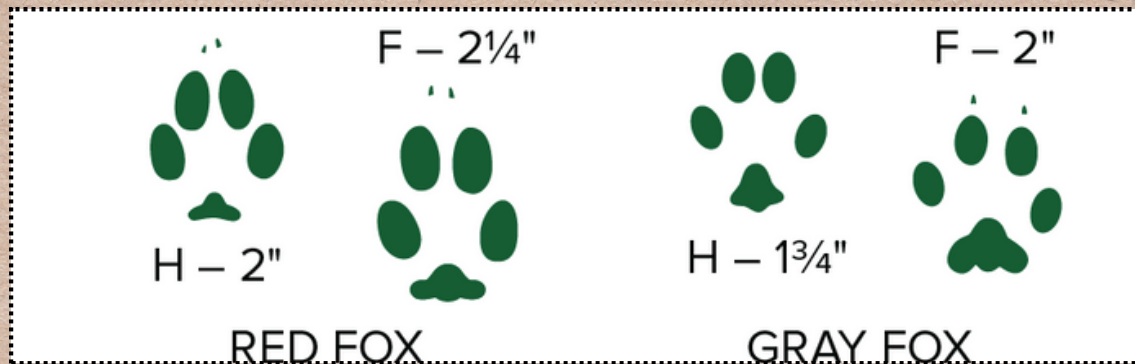


Foxes have 42 teeth (humans have 32)
that include incisors, canines, premolars, and molars.

Images above courtesy of University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology, Mammal Division Specimen Images
These materials are licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/mam1ic/57760/57760E?chaperone=S-MAM1IC-X-57760+57760E;size=50;view=entry>

CANIDS OF MAINE

FOX TRACKS



F = front paw print, H = hind paw print

TRACK PATTERN



Tracks and Track Pattern Images Above Courtesy of the
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Pocket Guide



POCKET GUIDE TO
MAINE ANIMAL TRACKS

CANIDS OF MAINE

A COAT OF MANY COLORS

Gray fox coloration doesn't typically vary too much; however, sometimes red foxes diverge from their usual red / orange coloration (called morphs). Images courtesy of journal article by Berteaux et al. (2017), which is cited at the bottom of this page.



Dominique Berteaux, Nicolas Casajus, Anders Angerbjörn & Eva Fuglei (2017).
Foreword to Supplement 1: research on a polar species—the Arctic fox. Polar Research, 36,
Supp 11. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17518369.2017.1347411>

CANIDS OF MAINE

NON-FICTION: THE FOX & THE TURKEYS

by Jeanne M. Coleman, Maine Nature Photographer

January 31, 2024. It was approaching dusk when I saw the fox trotting across the back of our field. He went a couple hundred feet, briefly pawed at a spot, and then sat down. As I started to grab some photos, I noted that he had something he seemed to be gnawing on. I was attempting to confirm what it was ~ concluding that it was most probably a bone ~ when the turkeys came into view. I had not noticed them previously because they had blended in so well with the deep shadows along the wood line.

I found it odd that they would approach so close to the fox., but was not at all surprised that they moved off quickly when he looked directly at them. The fox sat for a few moments longer, and then got up and followed his nose to a different spot a little further back. When he stopped, the turkeys approached him once again and then literally formed a circle around him. The fox essentially ignored them and eventually they backed away and split up.

The fox remained for a short while longer, surveyed the field, and then took off and quickly disappeared beyond the knoll. The next day I went down to investigate what the fox had been foraging, but found no remnants. I know that I looked in the correct spots because the tracks were still perfectly clear.

I found this encounter rather inexplicable and was admittedly intrigued by the entire, albeit brief, event. I am a nature photographer, but first and foremost, I am a nature lover. The light, distance, and terrain made documenting this episode with my camera quite challenging. But I was not trying to capture images for my portfolio. I was capturing them for my personal collection so I could share and discuss the event with others.

Jeanne's sequential images of this event can be viewed on the pages that follow. Check out <https://www.facebook.com/JeanneMarieColemanPhotography> to see more of her work.

NON-FICTION: THE FOX & THE TURKEYS CONTINUED

by Jeanne M. Coleman, Maine Nature Photographer



NON-FICTION: THE FOX & THE TURKEYS CONTINUED

by Jeanne M. Coleman, Maine Nature Photographer



NON-FICTION: THE FOX & THE TURKEYS CONTINUED

by Jeanne M. Coleman, Maine Nature Photographer



NON-FICTION: THE FOX & THE TURKEYS CONTINUED

by Jeanne M. Coleman, Maine Nature Photographer



Have others witnessed this type of encounter?
What do you think was happening between these two species?



Original print made using linoleum and watercolor by Maine artist Taylor Newbeck.
Taylor has always loved foxes and admires their intelligence and beauty.

CANIDS OF MAINE

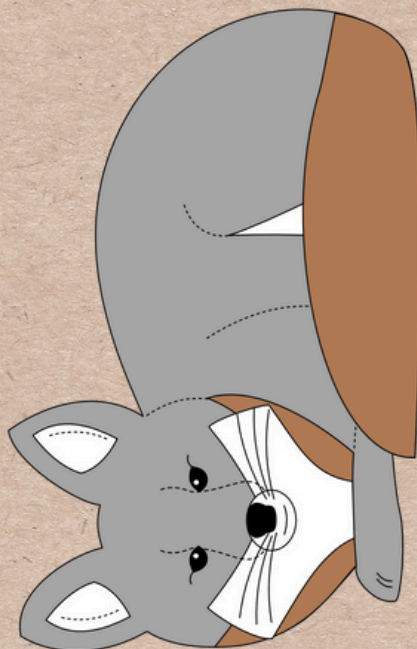
ACTIVITY: FOX MANDALA

For those who may want to take a moment to relax and color,
download and print this fox mandala created via Adobe's AI assistant.



Downeast Thunder Farm Gray Fox

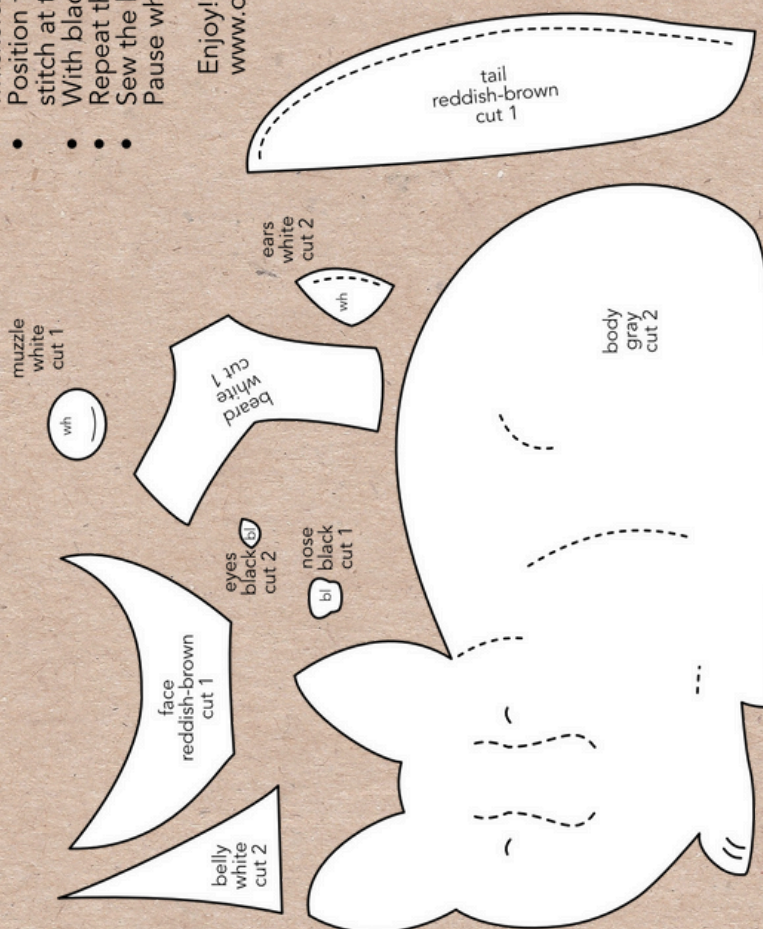
Copyright 2024 Downeast Thunder Farm
Reprinted with Permission



- Position the belly and tack with white floss.
- Position the ears and tack with white floss. With gray floss, sew running stitches along the outer edge.
- Position the tail and tack along the inside edge with matching or gray floss.
- Position the face using the markings that define the leg as a guide. Tack with gray or matching colored floss
- Position the beard aligning it with the bottom of the face. Tack with white floss.
- Position the muzzle and sew a white blanket stitch around the edge. Position the nose and tack with a black floss.
- With black floss sew back stitches for the mouth.
- Using one strand of black floss, sew the running stitches that define the nose.
- Sew a few long straight stitches with one strand of black floss to form the whiskers.
- Position the eyes; tack and finish off with a seed bead. With black floss, add a stitch at the outer corners or the eyes.
- With black floss, sew the running stitches that define the head, legs, and feet.
- Repeat the belly and the the stitches that define the head on the back.
- Sew the bodies together with a blanket stitch using two strands of gray floss. Pause when you are 1.5" from the end, lightly stuff with fiberfill and finish off.

Enjoy!

www.downeastthunderfarm.com/2023/02/the-secretive-gray-fox/



CANIDS OF MAINE



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



The submission period* will be opening in 2025 for the second issue of **Maine's Canid Chronicles!** This limited edition series is part of **Canids of Maine's** community outreach and is meant to celebrate Maine's canids from the diverse perspectives of Mainers throughout our state. **This second issue will focus on eastern coyotes.**

Hi! My name is Dr. Tammy Cloutier. I'm an ethologist, writer, and founder of the Canids of Maine community science project. Born and raised in Maine with a science background and love of nature and art, my purpose for creating this publication is to have Maine community members share information about Maine's canids in a fun and different way. This will be done by providing a space for people to share stories, experiences, poetry, and art relating to foxes, coyotes, and wolves. The content of each issue will vary, but may include interviews, written pieces, research projects, events, and images.

If you're thinking about submitting an item for consideration, but aren't sure what you should submit, here are some questions that may help:

- Did you have an unexpected or interesting encounter with a coyote here in Maine?
- Maybe you wrote a poem or a short fiction or nonfiction story about or involving a coyote?
- Are you a Maine artist or photographer (amateur or professional) who created a coyote painting or sculpture, or caught that perfect image of a family of coyotes?
- Have you had an internship or job where you worked with/researched coyotes here in Maine? If so, was there a specific moment that stayed with you, or did you learn something you found surprising?
- Do you have specific questions about Maine's coyotes? If so, please share and I'll do my best to answer them in the publication. Don't be shy! The person asking the question will remain anonymous, and other people most likely have that same question. We're here to learn :)

Submission Categories:

- Fiction (1,000 word limit)
- Nonfiction (1,000 word limit)
- Poetry
- Visual Art (photography, paintings, sketches, sculpture, etc.)
 - High resolution image of your piece (minimum 300 ppi)
 - Include a few words or short paragraph about the background of your piece (why you created it, what it means to you, what it represents, etc.)

File types accepted:

For Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry

- .doc
- .docx
- .pdf
- File-Sharing link (DropBox, Google Drive, etc.)

For Visual Art:

- .gif
- .jpeg
- .pdf
- .png
- .svg
- .tif
- File-Sharing link (DropBox, Google Drive, etc.)

*Any submission must be the property of the individual submitting them. While all voices are encouraged and welcome, no graphic images or literary submissions that include intentionally inflicting abuse, torture, or injury to an animal will be permitted or accepted. There is no submission fee and no compensation offered for items that are accepted for publication.

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 1, 2025	MAY 31, 2025	SEPTEMBER 2025	SPRING 2026
Submission Period Opens	Submission Deadline	Submitters Notified of Acceptance	Publication Available: Exact Date TBD

Follow
Canids of Maine on
Facebook and
Instagram!



@canids_of_maine



<https://www.facebook.com/canidsofmaine>



Please send submissions
and questions to
canidsrule@gmail.com

CANIDS OF MAINE

FOX STICKERS!

In celebration of the Maine Canid Chronicles Fox issue,
two limited edition fox stickers are available:
one for red foxes and one for gray foxes.

There are **only 10 of each design**, so get them while you can!

Stickers measure **3 inches by 3 inches** and are **\$2.00 per sticker**
(includes postage if you want one mailed to you).

Email canidsrule@gmail.com and specify whether you want a
Fabulous Red or **Feisty Gray**. First come, first serve 😊



CANIDS OF MAINE

FOUND AN ANIMAL THAT NEEDS HELP?

STATE OF MAINE LICENSED WILDLIFE REHABILITATION SERVICES OPEN TO INTAKES OF ORPHANED, INJURED, OR ILL WILDLIFE (current as of 2024)

CATHY COSTON, FORT FAIRFIELD, MAINE,

ADAM FARRINGTON, POLAND, MAINE, 207-210-1366

MISFITS REHAB, JENNIFER MARCHIGIANI, AUBURN, MAINE, 207-212-1039

KRIS BEAUDOIN, SEBAGO, MAINE, 207-807-1986

KAPPY SPRENGER, BRIDGTON, MAINE, 207-647-5593 (WATERFOWL)

ACADIA WILDLIFE FNDN, ANN RIVERS, MOUNT DESERT ISLAND, MAINE, 207-288-4960

CRITTERVILLE WILDLIFE, SUSAN WOTTON, BROOKLIN, MAINE, 845-549-2407

NANCY FOX, SURRY, MAINE, 207-667-5130

AVIAN HAVEN, FREEDOM, MAINE, 207-382-6761 (hours 9-5pm)

BRIDGET GREEN, WISCASSET, MAINE, 207-631-0874

BETSY PRATT, BOOTHBAY, MAINE, 207-583-3617

CARSTENSEN'S KEEP, KATRINA CARSTENSEN, OTISFIELD, MAINE, 207-583-2105

WARREN BROOK WILDLIFE, JACQUE FANNING, No WATERFORD, MAINE, 207-583-6266

WILDERNESS MIRACLES, KATHI McCUE, BOWDOINHAM, MAINE, 207-720-0074

SANDRA STONE, FRANKFORT, MAINE, 207-223-4213

SACO RIVER WILDLIFE CENTER, BETHANY BROWN, LIMINGTON, MAINE, 207-702-1405

THE CENTER FOR WILDLIFE, CAPE NEDDICK, MAINE, 207-361-1400 (hours 9-5pm)

JENNIFER HALE, LEEDS, MAINE, 207-524-2071

WILDERNESS WAY, LIBBY PECK, YORK, MAINE, 207-351-6752

PAM MIEIR, WALDOBORO, MAINE, 203-903-2708 (TURTLES ONLY)

FLIGHT PLAN REHAB, FREEDOM, MAINE, 207-322-3226 (TURTLES, PHOEBES, SWIFTS)

(List courtesy of Warren Brook Wildlife Rehabilitation and The Douglas Foundation)

CANIDS OF MAINE

FOUND AN ANIMAL THAT NEEDS HELP?

There's an app for that!



Animal Help Now has a website and an app that can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play. Click on the image above to go to their website for more information.

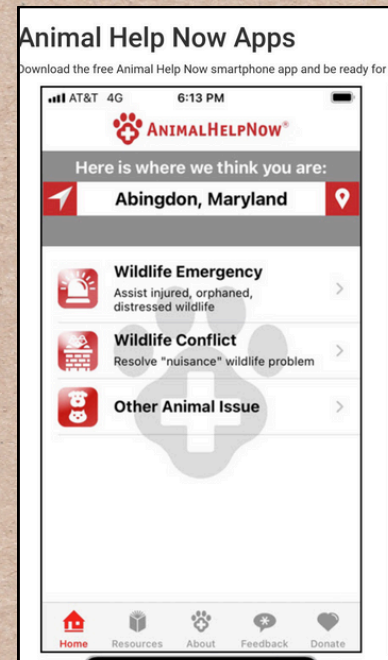


Image above is a screenshot of their app that can be used anywhere in the US - provided there is cell service.



CANIDS OF MAINE

COEXISTING WITH OUR WILD NEIGHBORS

Most people have good intentions, but we also create the conditions for interactions between people and wildlife by deliberately or inadvertently providing animals with food and shelter. Changing both people and animal behavior is key to reducing conflicts.

Actions people can take to reduce encounters with wildlife

- Reduce/remove food that can attract wildlife
 - Keep trash / compost bins secure
 - Remove fallen fruit from ground
 - Remove bird feeders
 - Don't leave pet food outside (or only leave out for short, limited time period)
- Plant wildlife friendly native plants
- Fence yard if possible
- Install motion activated lights
- Make loud noises (air horns, whistles, pots/pans, clapping hands) if you see an animal in your yard to discourage them from approaching
- Repair broken fences / floorboards / etc. (especially openings of 6" or more)
- Eliminate dense vegetation near house
- Block access under buildings BEFORE spring and baby season: it is suggested to use hardwire cloth/galvanized welded wire (16-12 gauge recommended). Chicken wire is not recommended but it has kept the skunks and other critters from getting back under our shed again!
- Install "skirts" underground so animals can't dig under buildings
- Install wire at least 6 ft tall with a no climb overhang
- Strong/secure enclosures for livestock, poultry, etc. – especially at night
- Responsible pet ownership (contain / watch small pets when possible, don't let pets chase wildlife)



CANIDS OF MAINE

THANK YOU!

Once again, a huge thank you to all contributors who
shared their creativity and stories.

Stay tuned for the second Maine Canid Chronicles issue on
Maine's eastern coyotes in 2025!



Vintage fox in American traditional style
Digital illustration by Maine artist Stephanie Bell