The Gray fox is the most common fox in Texas and found statewide. They have gray hair on their back and a black tip on their tail, and they also have reddish hair on their chest, legs and ears. Foxes act like cats and have some of the same adaptations, but they are actually in the canine family like dogs. Like cats, they use their long tail to balance; this is very important for the gray fox when moving along tree branches. Gray foxes are found in different habitats but are commonly found in places with trees like a forest. The reason they need to live somewhere with trees is because they are arboreal. This means that they can climb and live in trees. Gray foxes are one of only two members of the canine or dog family that can climb trees. They will den in trees and other places like underground burrows or between gaps in rocky places. Like the red fox, they are omnivores and will eat different foods like rabbits, fruit and insects.

Breeding Season & Litter

The breeding season for the gray fox ranges from February to March. During this time, it is not uncommon for males to fight aggressively in competition for females. After mating, a male will stay with a female to provide her with food during denning and to assist in caring of the young. After a gestation period of 53 days, young are born in a litter ranging in size from one to seven pups.

Tips on avoiding Interactions

Do not feed wildlife! This increases the chances that the animal will lose its natural fear of humans.

Do not leave small pets outside unattended. Left outside at night, small pets may become prey for mountain lions. Properly secure domestic birds to reduce their risk of becoming prey.

Do not move "abandoned" baby foxes! Fox mothers leave their babies alone while they hunt for food. Baby foxes found alone are typically not orphaned.

Keep your dogs on a leash! When out on a walk, keep your pets leashed to greatly reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.