



Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

Order: Carnivora Family: Canidae

SIZE: Weight, 5-13 lbs.; total length, 37-40 inches. Males slightly larger than females.

DESCRIPTION: A grayish body with reddish patches on the back of the head and neck. Throat is white and the chest, sides and belly are reddish. Tail has a black "mane" on top and black tip. Prominent ears.

LOCOMOTION: Has been clocked running at 28 mph for short periods. Able to climb trees to escape an enemy or capture prey.

COMMUNICATION: Growls, dog-like bark and yap.

HABITS: Found in deserts, open forests, brushy habitats, woodlands and canyon country.

Mostly nocturnal, but will sometimes forage during the day. Keen intelligence has allowed it to maintain its numbers. Often found within city limits where there are areas of cover.

DIET: Rabbits, rodents, birds, insects, lizards, snakes, fruit and plant material. If they have leftover food, they may bury it to eat later.

RANGE: Found in most of the United States, also northern Mexico and Baja California.

FAMILY LIFE: Mate when they are approximately one year old, sometime between January and March. Gestation period is two months, after which 2-7 blind pups are born. Male remains with female until young are weaned at about 6 weeks. They begin hunting for themselves at 4 months.

NESTING: Dens can be in holes in the ground, hollow logs or trees, small caves or among boulders.

ENEMIES: Dogs, bobcats and man.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

- They will eat scorpions, stinger and all.
- The gray fox is the only American canid with true climbing ability.
- Tree and scent posts marked with urine help define territories.
- Besides being able to climb trees to chase prey, the gray fox also uses its perch to ambush victims from above.

Track

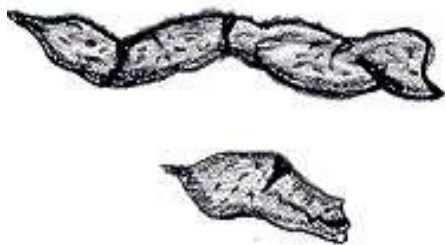
Front 1 5/8 X 1 1/2

Hind 1 1/2 X 1 1/2

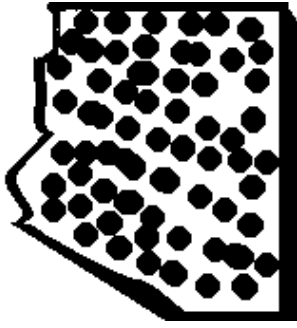


Hind

Front



Scat



Range

Throughout the United States, Southwestern Canada, to Southern Mexico.