



Kit Fox

(*Vulpes macrotis*)

Order: Carnivora **Family:** Canidae

SIZE: Weight, 3-5 lbs.; Average length, 30 inches.

DESCRIPTION: Small, slender animal. Ears are large and triangular. Color is pale or buff. Tail is tipped with black. Light-colored fur, large ears, and fur covered toes help them keep cool in the hot desert. The Kit Fox is a subspecies of the larger Swift Fox.

LOCOMOTION: Over short distances can reach speeds up to 25 mph.

SENSES: Sight and hearing are keen. Excellent sense of smell.

COMMUNICATION: Barking and growling for intimidation, fear or alarm.

HABITS: Found in desert scrub and desert grasslands. They move around frequently, abandoning dens and moving to new ones. Solitary and primarily nocturnal, although they may occasionally be seen during the day.

DIET: Rodents, squirrels, rabbits, insects, birds, lizards, snakes and plant matter.

RANGE: Found mainly in the Southwest, but also north to southeastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho.

FAMILY LIFE: Young born in March or April. Litter size is 4-7. Males provide food for female while she nursing. Young are on their own after 4 to 5 months. These foxes are monogamous for a breeding season, but the pairs are not necessarily the same from year to year.

NESTING: Den in underground burrow usually found in loose desert soil. May have several entrances with openings just large enough to admit a kit fox.

ENEMIES: Eagles, coyotes and man.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

- The ears of the Kit Fox have a large surface area to help the animal lose body heat.

Track

Front 1 5/8 X 1 1/2

Hind 1 3/4 X 1 1/4



Front



Hind



Scat



Range

Found mainly in the Southwest, but also north to southeastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho.