

# What Color is a Red Fox?

Would you know a red fox if you saw one? Or would you be “outfoxed” by its appearance? In spite of its name, a red fox may not be red! This wild dog usually has rusty red fur, a white belly, black ear tips and legs, and a white tip on its bushy tail. Usually it does, but not always. The “red” fur can be light gold to a dark reddish brown. The red fox also has other color phases. Some red foxes are called “silver foxes.” Their fur can be almost white, silver, or even black! Other red foxes have reddish brown fur with a black stripe down the back and another across the shoulders. They are sometimes called “cross foxes” because it looks like they have a “cross” on their back. Rarely, some red foxes can be “agouti,” with bands of red, brown, black, and white on each individual hair!

All of these colors are natural and can occur in the same litter of pups! All of these colors of red fox have been seen in Colorado! So how will you know a red fox when you see one? The red fox can always be identified by its white-tipped tail. Colorado’s other wild dogs—coyote, kit fox, swift fox, and gray fox—do not have white-tipped tails.

