



## Gray Foxes - Quick Reference Sheet<sup>1</sup>

2

Table 1.

<b>Common Name:</b>		gray fox
<b>Scientific Name:</b>		<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>
<b>Appearance:</b>	<b>Size:</b>	head and body 21-29 inches long
		tail 11-16 inches long
	<b>Color:</b>	salt and pepper coat with buffy underfur
		black strip down total length of its long bushy tail
		rusty-yellowish sides of neck, backs of ears, legs and feet
<b>Range:</b>		occur statewide, except Florida Keys
<b>Habitat:</b>		dense cover in thickets, forests, or swamps
<b>Diet:</b>		small mammals, insects, fruits, acorns, birds, and eggs
<b>Reproduction:</b>		breed from January to March
		gestation period 50-55 days
		usually have 3-7 pups

1. This document is WEC-QRS-016, one of a series of the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville 32611. Published: June, 1991 as "Gray Foxes". Reviewed: December, 1998. Minor Revision: July, 2001. Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

2.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. For information on obtaining other extension publications, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office. Florida Cooperative Extension Service/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences/University of Florida/Christine Taylor Waddill, Dean.

**Table 1.**

<b>Behavior:</b>	most active during early hours of darkness and very early morning hours
	basically solitary except during breeding months
	den in hollow logs or in ground burrows
<b>Problems:</b>	predation on small farm animals and birds
	canine distemper occurs occasionally
	rabies outbreaks rarely occur
	dig holes in yards
<b>Solutions:</b>	keep brush cut from around ranch or farmstead
	eliminate routes of connective vegetation from habitat to potential predation sites
	after dark, repel with white flashing lights or bright continuous lighting
	barking dogs may be temporarily useful
	confine pets and small farm animals at night
<b>Legal Aspects:</b>	gray foxes are protected in Florida and may not be trapped or destroyed
<b>Fact Sheet Available:</b>	yes