



Fox Squirrels - Quick Reference Sheet¹

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Table 1.

Common Name:		fox squirrel
Other Names:		Sherman's fox squirrel, mangrove fox squirrel
Scientific Name:		<i>Sciurus niger</i>
Appearance:	Length:	about 24 inches, including 12 inch tail
	Weight:	between 2 and 2½ pounds
	Color:	rusty tan body and tail; dark head and white on nose and ears; dark forms occur, but white on nose and ears is still evident
Range:		dry sandy pinelands statewide; endangered south of Lake Okeechobee
Habitat:		upland pine forests, usually dominated by longleaf or south Florida slash pine
		rarely found in urbanized area
Diet:		mostly pine seeds in summer, acorns at other times
		rarely vegetation, bird eggs, nestling birds and insects
Reproduction:		2 to 4 young per litter; up to 2 litters per year

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Behavior:	active during day, sometimes foraging on ground
	natural shyness can disappear when fed
	distinctive loping gait when active on ground
Problems:	roosting in attics, crawl spaces, etc. in homes
	chewing on ornamental and potted plants
	eating fruit, nut and vegetable crops; digging in yard
	raiding bird feeders and other pet food
	damaging screens
Solutions:	removing attractant (e.g., bird food) is effective when feasible
	repellents, scare devices and ultrasonics are not effective, although taste repellents may solve short-term chewing problems to non-edible objects
Legal Aspects:	Fox squirrels are protected in Florida and may not be trapped or killed unless permitted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation commission or during legal hunting seasons.
Fact Sheet Available:	yes