



City of Westminster

Urban Fox Deterrence Advice



The Urban Fox is classed as a Nuisance and not a Pest. Which means it does not meet the criteria as a meaningful threat to public health. As a nuisance and in consideration for members of public whose quality of life is being adversely affected by the nearby presence of foxes. City of Westminster does not provide a service for Fox related issues and nor encourage members of public to entice or provide shelter for the Urban Fox within the borough.

For private and commercial land owners this is entirely voluntary and you may believe the quality of life is actually enhanced by the presence of foxes in our city. However, please take in to account your neighbours when permitting or encouraging foxes on your land.

Deterrence advice is aimed at reducing the presence foxes in areas of the borough where they are not welcomed by the majority view. Fewer foxes will mean less mess from the marking of territory by particularly pungent defecation and noise which are the main issue from concerned residents.

The following advices for Westminster residents are measures that can be taken to significantly reduce and possibly eliminate, fox incursion. Some or all may be required according to the severity of the problem.

Harbourage

The first step in Fox Prevention Management is to deny the fox harbourage. The prerequisite of which is for property and land to be kept in good order and maintenance. This includes:

- Keeping overgrown gardens & derelict land clear of vegetation which could hide from view a Foxes Earth and make early detection possible.
- Remove structures which could provide shelter (large refuse items such as doors propped against a wall, abandoned vehicles etc.).
- Safely seal access to disused out houses and dwellings with missing bricks which could provide access to the internal under-floor area of the dwelling.
- Safely seal bases of garden sheds which do not reach the ground. If in doubt as to whether a fox is present, test this by placing light obstacles such as propping loose twigs around open areas of the shed base perimeter. If after one week the twigs are still in place it is reasonable to assume there is no activity. If still in doubt or foxes are clearly seen or heard, it is advised to wait until the season is over and the den emptied before sealing the shed base.

Route Run Disruption

Although the fox is capable of climbing most garden walls, like most animals it will usually follow the path of least resistance. Place a large and tall enough object in its way and it may be persuaded to go around it. The best way to disrupt access to a dwelling's garden is to erect a fence around the circumference of the garden and ensuring access is gated to the same height. Panels will need to be a minimum of 2 metres high and preferably have smooth non-grip top ridges. Special consideration should be given to gardens where pets in pens and chicken are kept outside, necessitating the fencing to start at least 45cms under the soil to help disrupt access by the fox digging under the fencing. Other forms of fence enhancements can have additional fixing for commercially available, 12 volt low level electrification.

Food Source Denial

Do not leave food sources for the fox, keep pet foods indoors and bird foods in feeders such as squirrel proof feeders and do not throw food scraps on the garden. Use pet flaps with electronic locking systems to prevent opportunistic foxes from entering kitchens following the scent of pet foods. Place food refuse sacks in plastic bins with lids kept closed, such as large 'wheelie bins'.

Repellents

Commercial animal repellents are available but, must be approved for use against Foxes under the Control of Pesticides Regulation 1986 and used according to the manufacturer's specification. Any home-made repellent is also required to meet this specification. Repellents have best effect when there are no other attractions for the fox to be present in the garden such as food or harbourage. The Fox's own droppings need to be cleared and the area disinfected before applying the repellent, in order to confuse the fox the garden does not form part of its run.

Noise Generators

Foxes do not like noise, devices such as the commercially available product 'Scare crow' use heat and movement detection. In addition to noise, it also shoots water, to combine a harmless deterrent both audible and physical.

ACT LAWFULLY!

Foxes are protected under several Acts and Regulations.

Further Help Advice

Fox Deterrence Helpline Telephone: 01892 826 222

Repellents

The following Repellent products are a few legally permitted and available online or, in many Garden Centres which have either the same or similar line of products.

[Water Scare Crow](#)

[Scoot Stay Off](#)

[Get Off My Garden](#)

[Wash Off and Get Off](#)

Website (recommended) for contractors dealing with Foxes

www.bpca.org.uk/

Website Information

www.foxolutions.co.uk

www.thefoxwebsite.org

www.electricfence-online.co.uk

Website Charity Information

www.rspca.org.uk/allaboutanimals/wildlife/inthewild/foxes

www.foxproject.org.uk/

<http://www.nfws.org.uk/>

Website Fox Study Leaflets

www.salford.gov.uk/livingwithurbanfoxesmay05cieh.pdf

www.bristol.gov.uk/sites/...pest_control/urban-foxes-leaflet.pdf

<http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/UserFiles/Files/sin003.pdf>