



WILD Kids



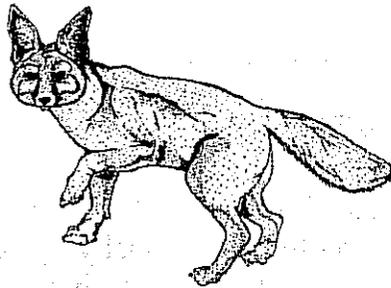
Canids in Arizona

Dog-like animals such as foxes, coyotes, and wolves are called canids (kānids). They have long snouts, pointed ears, slender legs and a scent gland at the base of their tail. Domestic dogs are also canids. Canids are carnivores –

they eat meat. Foxes and coyotes will also eat insects, berries and grasses. Canids have an excellent sense of smell and hearing which they use to locate prey. Below are descriptions of the four wild canids that live in Arizona.

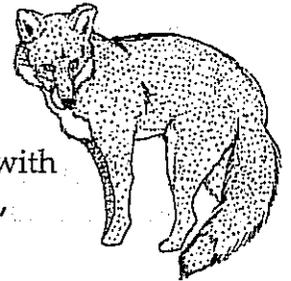
Kit Fox

The kit fox is the smallest canid in Arizona, but has the largest ears! It uses its ears like radar to help it locate prey animals in burrows. The kit fox is primarily a nocturnal (active at night) predator. It eats small mammals, insects, berries and grasses. Its calls are shrill yaps, whines, growls, and purrs. Kit foxes usually stay with the same mate for life.



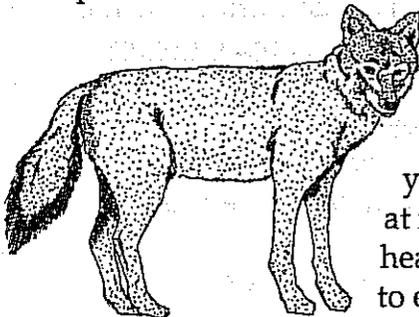
Gray Fox

The gray fox is a medium sized canid, smaller than a coyote and larger than a kit fox. It is primarily nocturnal and very secretive. The gray fox eats small mammals, insects, fruit, acorns, birds and eggs. It can run 28 miles per hour for short distances and will climb trees to look for food or escape predators. The male gray fox helps care for the young, but does not den with them. Its calls include growls, barks and yaps.



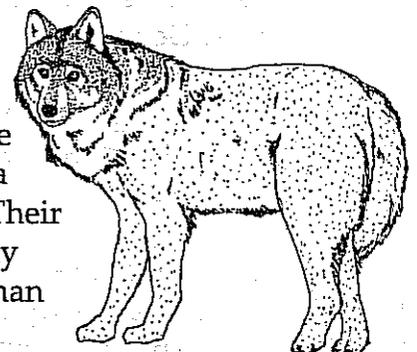
Coyote

The coyote is the most widespread canid in Arizona. Coyotes are primarily nocturnal but may be seen during the day. A true scavenger, the coyote will eat almost anything and hides uneaten food to eat at a later time. It can run 40 miles per hour for short distances. The coyote may stay with the same mate for years or even for life. If you listen carefully at night, you may hear coyotes calling to each other.



Mexican gray wolf

The Mexican wolf is the largest canid in Arizona. It is an endangered species that is being reintroduced to Arizona. Mexican wolves hunt in small family units and feed mainly on large mammals (deer and elk). The strongest male in a unit is usually the leader. Wolves have excellent hearing and can communicate with each other over a distance of 10 miles. Their sense of smell is nearly 100,000 times better than that of humans!



Canid I.D.

Foxes, coyotes, and wolves are all dog-like animals. They have bushy tails, long snouts, pointed ears, and a scent gland at the base of the tail. How can you tell if you're looking at a fox, a coyote or a wolf? It's easy! Just follow these simple steps. First, read the description of **canid #1**. Then, use the "key to canids" at the bottom of the page. Start with step one. Follow the instructions to the next step. At each step you must make a choice. Follow instructions until you find out if canid #1 is a gray fox, kit fox, coyote, wolf, or domestic dog. Try canids #2 – 5.

Canid #1: It has five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot. Its head and body length is 24 inches. It has a bushy tail that it holds between its legs when it runs.

Canid #2: It has five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot. Its head and body length is 16 inches. It has a bushy tail that it holds between its legs when it runs.

Canid #3: It has five toes on each front foot and five toes on each back foot. Its head and body length is 38 inches. It is grayish brown in color and holds its tail high when it runs.

Canid #4: It has five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot. Its head and body length is 44 inches. It holds its tail high when it runs

Canid #5: It has five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot. Its head and body length is 35 inches. It holds its tail between its legs when it runs.

Good Job!



Key to Canids

1. All members are dog-like and have a scent gland at the base of the tail. **Go to step 2.**
2. a. Has five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot. **Go to step 3.**
b. Has five toes on each front foot and five toes on each back foot. **Go to step 10.**
3. a. Head and body length is more than 30 inches. **Go to step 4.**
b. Head and body length is less than 30 inches. **Go to step 7.**
4. a. Holds tail high when running. **Go to 5.**
b. Holds tail between legs when running. **Go step to 6.**
5. Adult weight is 60 – 80 pounds, eyeshine is greenish orange, body color is usually gray, but may be black or almost white. Gray wolf
6. Adult weight is 20 – 50 pounds, nose is pointed, tail is bushy, eyeshine is greenish gold. Its voice is high-pitched yaps and howls. Coyote
7. a. Head and body length is more than 20 inches. **Go to step 8.**
b. Head and body length is less than 20 inches. **Go to step 9.**
8. Body color is salt and pepper, beige underfur, long bushy tail with a black stripe down the length of it. Tail has a black tip. Gray fox
9. Body color pale grey or beige, belly whitish, ears are very large. Body weight is 3 – 6 pounds. Found in low sandy deserts. Kit fox
10. Domestic dog. (Not all dogs have five toes on their back feet.)