

Gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)



mm; Hind foot: 100-150 mm; Weight: 3-7 kg.



Taxonomy:

Family Canidae. Fifteen subspecies are recognized in North America including *Urocyon cinereoargenteus scottii*, the regional subspecies.

Description:

Distinguished from other regional canids by its gray and red body color, red on back of ears, and dark stripe on the top of the tail.

Total length: 800-1,130 mm; Tail: 275-443

Distribution:

Occurs throughout most of the US, Mexico, and Latin America except for portions of the northwestern and midwestern US. Low to high elevations along the Wasatch Front.

Ecology and diet:

Gray foxes are mainly nocturnal, and only occasionally seen during daytime. They den in burrows, rock outcrops, abandoned buildings, or clumps of brush. A single male-single female and their offspring comprise a typical social unit. They eat a variety of plants, fruit, and small mammals. Unlike most canids, they are agile tree climbers.

Life History:

Mating occurs from early January through March. Females bear 1-7 pups following a gestation period of 59 days. Only one litter is produced annually. Age at sexual maturity is about 10 months, and maximum lifespan is 6-10 years.

References: Zeveloff 1988; Fritzell 1999.