

---

## SCIENCE in the Park

# Eastern Gray Fox

*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*

**Family: Canidae**

**Predator/ Omnivore**

Native to Virginia



The Eastern gray fox ranges from southern Canada to northern South America and prefers dense brush and wooded habitats. It is often referred to as the tree fox because of its unique ability to climb trees. It is thought that when large predators, like coyotes, are present, the growth of red fox populations decreases. This creates an opening in the ecosystem for the gray fox to move into, as it can avoid these predators by climbing trees.

---

## Fun Facts

- A distinguishing feature of the eastern gray fox is its bushy tail with a median black stripe and tip.
  - The eastern gray fox is smaller than the red fox, having an average weight of only about eight pounds and a length of 30–40 inches.
  - A female can have between one and seven pups in a litter.
  - The eastern gray fox has scent glands on its face, the pads of its feet, and even inside its anus! These glands can be used for both territory marking and attracting mates.
  - This fox is the only member of the North American Canidae family that can climb trees, and can den as high as 30 feet off the ground.
-