

The Fox Project

An overlooked initiative regarding an unjustly demonised animal

By Henri Nanushi

London is a very special city; the Capital is heavily urbanized but also full of green spaces. One important thing that makes London stand out among the other metropolises, is the many species of wild animals that live in the urban areas.

These animals are mostly squirrels, magpies, seagulls, but also badgers and foxes.

Squirrels and foxes are the most common animals you'll see around.

Squirrels are seen as harmless, but the same can't be said about foxes.

Sadly, they're often targeted by people who are ignorant, misunderstand them, or have bad intentions.

Foxes are a vital part of London's wildlife and environment.

They first started making London their home in the 1930s. Today, there are more than 10,000 foxes in Britain's biggest city, and they're usually called "Urban Foxes."

Living in urban areas has always been a problem for foxes.

They often get hit by cars and are even the target of violence and cruelty.

For example, recent articles from national newspapers like The Independent had headlines like: "Foxes 'tortured and set on fire with lighter fluid' by group of men in London."

Because foxes are constantly at risk, it was inevitable that an organization would be created to protect them.

The Fox Project is a charity that was founded in 1991 by Trevor Williams.

The main goal of the charity is to protect and rescue the British red fox.

The Fox Project operates in Southeast London, Kent, Surrey, East and West Sussex and includes a Wildlife Hospital that admits and treats over 1,000 foxes per year, including 250 cubs.

It appears regularly on TV, radio, and other media and has received awards from the RSPCA and the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

When interviewed about the work of the charity, Trevor Williams, founder and administrator of the Fox Project, said: "The importance of The Fox Project, as we see it, is to get people to understand and tolerate sharing their environment with foxes."

One of the main focuses of the charity is rescuing these animals.

What should people do if they come across a wounded fox?: "If someone finds or needs to report an injured fox, they should contact the RSPCA or their local wildlife rescue group - there are around 450 in the UK - for help and advice."

When asked how people can join and support The Fox Project, Mr. Williams said: "People become supporters of The Fox Project simply by making a donation or a purchase for a minimum of £10, for which they will receive two newsletters per year. They can do this by phone, email, through our website, or through various fundraising platforms to which we belong, such as JustGiving, Give as You Live, etc."

Wendy Sela, who works in Richmond, was asked about the initiative that also operates in her area.

She said: "I see foxes every day. I'm glad that someone is finally taking action. Foxes are beautiful animals and deserve to be protected properly. I fully support The Fox Project."

When we talk about foxes, we have to remember that we're the ones taking over their habitat and not the other way around.

It's important to spread awareness and not demonize them.

It's important to avoid common misconceptions that portray these animals as violent and harmful to humans.

In the end, foxes are very shy animals that mostly come out at night.

They're not pets, so it's still crucial to avoid direct contact, but at the same time, they're far from the ruthless predators portrayed in myths and fables.



British Red Fox