



Stash Your Food and Trash

Allowing kit foxes access to human food and garbage is reckless and deadly.

Kit foxes primarily hunt insects, rodents and rabbits for food, but will take advantage of whatever is available, including garbage and pet food.

- Put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over.
- Remove sources of water, especially in dry climates.
- Do not leave pet food outside.
- Put away bird feeders at night to avoid attracting rodents and other kit fox prey.
- Pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles.
- Ask your neighbors to follow these tips.

When wild animals are allowed to feed on human food and garbage, they lose their natural ways - often resulting in death for the animal.

Please respect and protect wild animals. Keep them wild.

www.keepmewild.org

For More Information

Contact the California Department of Fish and Game

Sacramento Headquarters, (916) 322-8911

San Joaquin Valley, Southern Sierra Region
Fresno, (559) 243-4005, ext. 151

Contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
San Joaquin Valley Branch
Sacramento, (916) 414-6600

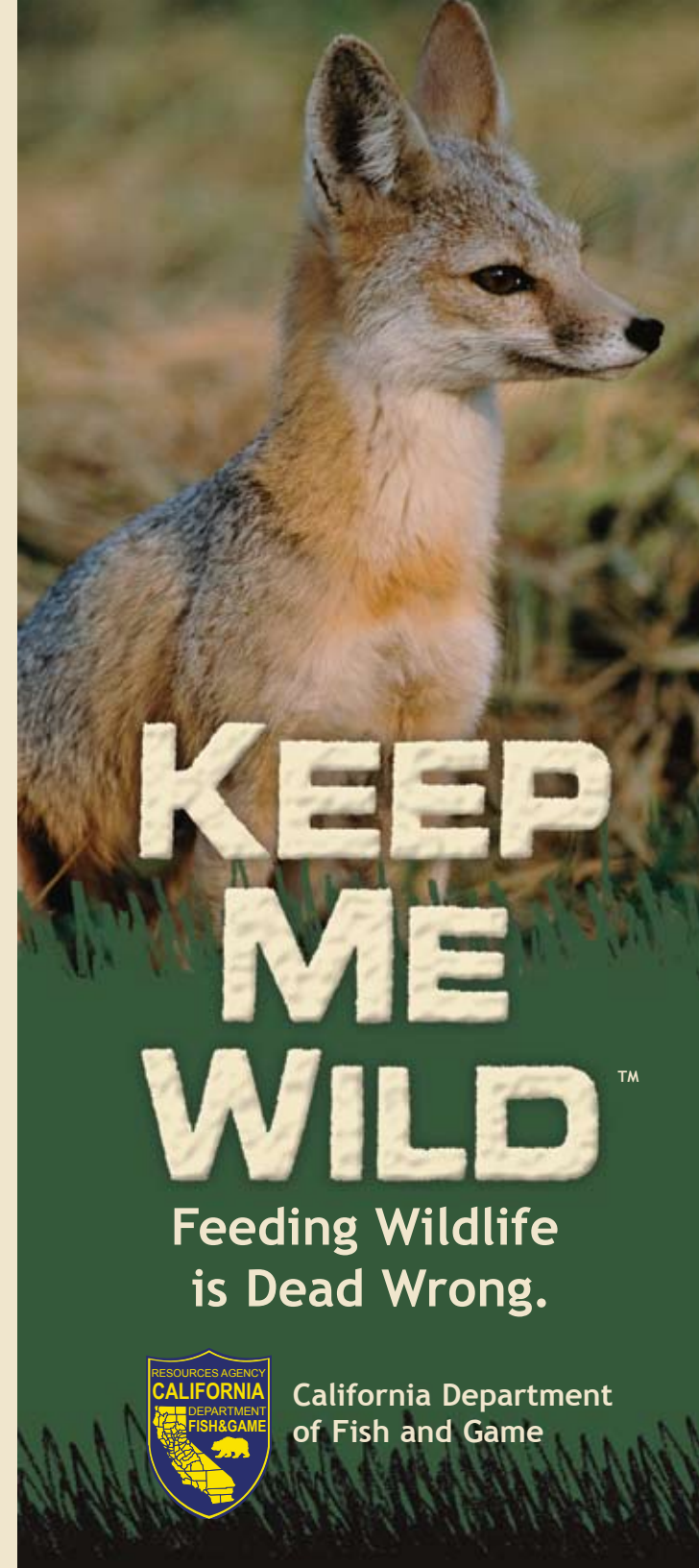
Contact California State University-Stanislaus
Endangered Species Recovery Program
Bakersfield, (661) 835-7810

Contact CALM - California Living Museum
Bakersfield, (661) 872-2256 x15

Alternate communication methods are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, contact the Department of Fish and Game, (916) 322-8911 or the California Relay Service serving deaf and hearing-impaired residents using TTY/TDD phones, and speech-impaired callers, at (800) 735-2929.



A campaign for all wild animals.



KEEP ME WILD™

Feeding Wildlife is Dead Wrong.



California Department of Fish and Game

Wild Animals Ruined, Even Killed by People's Carelessness!

The San Joaquin kit fox is a federally listed endangered species and is listed as threatened by the state of California. Kit foxes play an important role in the ecosystem, but because they are adapting to changes in the landscape that are caused by urban development, sometimes humans find themselves in conflict with this typically shy and fearful animal.

The cities of Bakersfield, Taft and Coalinga are unique because kit foxes have become established in those urban settings. When kit foxes have easy access to trash and pet food, their behavior changes. They lose caution and fear. They end up getting closer to people and get exposed to danger, from sports nets to poisons to vehicles - and often are injured and even killed.

Because of federal and state endangered species laws, it is unlawful to handle a kit fox that is causing conflict in an urban environment. Well-intentioned attempts to do so may result in injury or even death to the kit fox, and could further threaten their persistence in certain areas.

Help prevent deadly conflicts for these beautiful and rare wild animals: don't keep pet food outdoors, secure trash bins, and when not in use remove threats such as nets, which can entangle foxes and cause severe injury. Please prevent deadly conflicts with our wildlife.



“Kit fox country” precautions

To prevent accidents with kit foxes from occurring again, the following tips are offered:

- NEVER feed a kit fox, other wildlife, or stray cats; keep pet food indoors.
- Don't trap stray cats in areas used by kit foxes. Trapped foxes could get injured, and their pups are vulnerable when unattended. Talk to a professional or CDFG about how to avoid trapping kit foxes.
- Seal trash containers to prevent access by an opportunistic kit fox.
- Never attempt to touch or handle a kit fox, as they likely will bite in self-defense.
- Never fill or destroy a burrow that may be used by kit foxes. State and Federal laws protect kit fox burrows, so consult a professional or CDFG for assistance.
- Take down sports nets at schools, parks, and other recreational facilities when not in use: store furled and out of reach, especially at night when kit foxes are active.
- Avoid the use of rodent poisons in areas used by kit foxes
- If in doubt as to what to do, ask your local Fish and Game warden, park ranger, or wildlife biologist. Or visit our Web site:

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www.keepmewild.org



This young female kit fox lost a rear leg after she was found entangled in an elementary school volleyball net that was left on the ground. Unfortunately, what happened to her was not an isolated incident in the Bakersfield area. Prior to 2009, there were 11 known incidents in the area of foxes caught in nets, and seven of those animals died. During 2009, there were a total of seven incidents, killing two pups. The most common nets causing these accidents include soccer goals, baseball batting cages, and volleyball nets.

Fortunately, people can help with this problem. Follow the precautions listed elsewhere in this brochure and do your part to help keep the San Joaquin kit fox population healthy.

