ANIMAL CONTROL

FOX FACTS:

You may be surprised to discover that foxes live in your neighborhood, but any fears are almost completely groundless.

Foxes aren't dangerous to humans, except when they are rabid (which is very rare) or are captured and handled. Even then, it takes a lot of handling for a fox even to defend himself by biting. Quite the opposite: the fox's natural tendency is to flee rather than fight.

Do foxes eat pets? By and large, foxes seem to pay little heed to adult cats, recognizing that they're dealing with an animal often almost their same size, with a well-deserved reputation for self-defense**.**

Tolerance

In fact, the fox is not a bother at all. If left alone, he will probably do most homeowners a service by performing a little free rodent control as he passes by.

Repellents

No repellents are registered expressly for use on foxes, although the many products sold to repel domestic dogs from yards and gardens undoubtedly will have a similar effect on a passing fox.

Remove sources of food

- Never compost meat scraps.
- Store trash securely or place it outside only on the morning of collection.
- Don't leave pet food outside.
- Never deliberately feed wild animals such as foxes.
- Keep area under birdfeeders free of spilled seed.

Is that fox rabid?

It's not all that unusual to see a fox out during the day. Foxes prey on squirrels and birds, who are only active during the day. So if you see a fox out during the day, he's as apt to be looking for a meal as sick and disoriented. Take time to observe the behavior of the fox before calling for assistance. Look for:

- Partial paralysis of limbs.
- Circling.
- Staggering as if drunk or disoriented.
- Acting unnaturally tame.

Don't approach the fox yourself. Call your local animal control officers Dick Snow or Rick Reeves at: 610-853-1298 ext. 2205 if you see an adult fox showing any of these signs.