



## Species Fact Sheet



### MAMMALS

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/mammals.html>

## Fennec Fox

*Vulpes zerda*



**Peoria Zoo Exhibit** Historic Entry Building

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/exhibits.html>

**Habitat:** Deserts

**Range:** North Africa, specifically the Sahara desert

**Activity Cycle:** Nocturnal– active at night

**Size:** Weighs up to 3.3 pounds  
Body length of up to 16 inches  
The tail is an additional 10 inches  
The ears can be 6 inches long.

**Social Structure:** Can live in family groups, in pairs, or alone in burrows underground that can be up to 32 feet long and 3.5 feet deep.  
Males and females mate for life, with both taking care of the young.

**Distinguishing Features:** Smallest of the world's canids.  
Long thick sandy colored fur allows them to blend in with surroundings and warm them in the cool nights.  
Large ears help keep them cool by dissipating heat and allows them to hear insects walking on the sand.

**Diet:** Rodents, insects, birds, eggs, insects, grasses, some roots, and some fruits and berries.

**Life Span:** 10-12 years

### ***Did you know?***

***The soles of their feet are protected from the hot desert sand by thick fur.***