

# How You Can Help

## Donation:

- I would like to help the island fox by donating \$\_\_\_\_\_
- radio collar sponsor (\$300)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) — \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed  
payable to: *Friends of the Island Fox*

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All donations are tax-deductible under  
Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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Please mail to:  
**Friends of the Island fox**  
**c/o Channel Islands Park Foundation**  
1901 Spinnaker Drive  
Ventura, CA 93001

# Thank You!

## Sponsor a Radio Collar

For \$300, you can sponsor a radio collar and protect a fox.

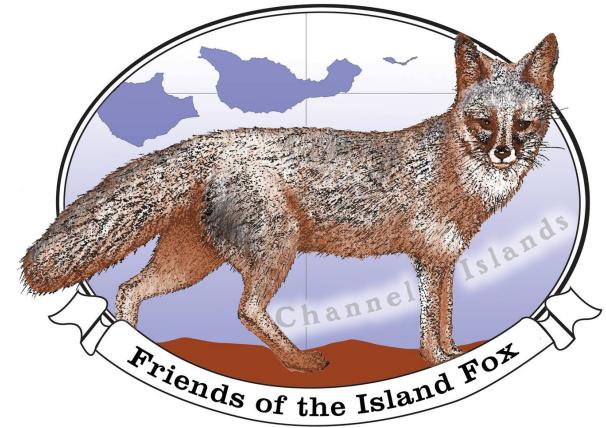
Radio collars are a first alert system for introduced diseases, injuries, golden eagle attacks, fire, and other threats to island foxes. A radio transmitter on a small collar allows biologists to track individuals and respond quickly when island foxes are in danger.



Photo by Keri Dearborn

## Who Are We?

**Friends of the Island Fox** is a program of the Channel Islands Park Foundation, and a joint effort of conservation professionals and concerned private citizens. We strive to create public awareness about the endangered island fox and the California Channel Islands and to raise funds to support education, research and conservation measures to ensure the island fox's survival.



A Program of the  
Channel Islands Park  
Foundation

Working together to  
save the Island Fox

**Friends of the Island Fox**

1901 Spinnaker Drive  
Ventura, CA 93001

[www.islandfox.org](http://www.islandfox.org)

[www.ciparkfoundation.org](http://www.ciparkfoundation.org)

[admin@islandfox.org](mailto:admin@islandfox.org)

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A Program of the  
Channel Islands Park Foundation

A 501 (c) (3) charitable and  
educational corporation

# About the Island Fox

The island fox (*Urocyon littoralis*) lives on six of the eight California Channel Islands. Four of the six subspecies are listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

In the late 1990s, foxes almost disappeared on the northern islands of San Miguel, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz, and were threatened by disease on Santa Catalina Island. On both San Miguel and Santa Rosa only 15 individuals survived from historical populations of 450 and 1,750 respectively. Similar declines occurred on Santa Cruz and Santa Catalina Islands. Successful captive breeding programs, from 2002 to 2009, increased the endangered populations.

The island fox is one of the smallest canid species in the world, about the size of a house cat. They weigh approximately five lbs and only stand 12-13" high, 20% smaller than their closest relative, the mainland gray fox.

## Why have they Declined?



Photo by Alan Varsik, Santa Barbara Zoo

In 1993 biologists recognized a large decline in the island fox populations on San Miguel, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands in Channel Islands National Park. Eight foxes were radio-collared for a study in 1998. In just a few months four of the eight foxes were killed. A feather found beside a dead fox identified the culprit as a golden eagle.

Historically bald eagles had lived on the islands. Bald eagles feed primarily on fish and not on island foxes. By the early 1960s bald eagles went extinct on the islands due to high levels of the pesticide DDT in ocean fish. Birds ingesting DDT lay eggs with thin shells which break before hatching.

The island fox historically had no predators and therefore hunted during the day. Native chaparral plants, which would have provided cover, were reduced by introduced grazing animals. Golden eagles, which had never bred historically on the islands, were now supported by the abundance of feral piglets on Santa Cruz. They also discovered the easy-to-catch island fox. Within a short amount of time, golden eagles dramatically reduced the numbers of island foxes to near extinction.

In 1998 island foxes on Santa Catalina Island contracted canine distemper virus from an animal transported to the island. The fox population plummeted by 85% because the island foxes had evolved in the absence of such diseases.

## Your Contributions Will Help

- » Provide education programs for school children and the public to raise awareness about the island fox.
- » Pay for essential island fox needs:
  - » \$25 supports a fox health check
  - » \$50 vaccinates 5 island foxes for a year against disease
  - » \$100 supports education and vital research
  - » \$150 microchips 15 island foxes with life-long identification
  - » \$300 sponsors a radio tracking collar to ensure the safety of an island fox



Photo by Keri Dearborn