

Friends of the Island Fox, Inc.
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Island Fox Research 2008

Island Fox Behavior

Two scientific gatherings in 2008, the Seventh California Island Symposium and the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Island Fox Working Group, provided research findings on Island Fox Behavior. The following are summaries of research findings on:

- ◆ Territory Range
- ◆ Activity
- ◆ Studying Island Foxes in a Burn Area

Territory Range

On San Nicolas Island, male pups appear to disperse farther away from their parents' territory than females (Smith, 2008). In general, male island foxes have larger territories than females. However, the size of all island fox home ranges fluctuates with reproductive status. During mating season island fox territories expand and they decrease during non-reproductive periods. The territories of individual animals overlap, but the extent of overlap depends on age and breeding status. Nonbreeding, juvenile foxes appear to have little territory overlap with other island foxes (Powers, Cypher, Ralls, Randall & Moffatt, 2008).

References:

- Powers, R.M., Cypher, B., Ralls, K., Randall, J., & Moffatt, C. (2008, February 5-7). *Changes in home ranges and activity patterns of the San Nicolas Island fox over the annual reproductive cycle*. Paper presented at Seventh California Island Symposium, Oxnard, CA.
- Smith, G. (2008, June 24). *San Nicolas Island update*. Paper presented at Tenth Annual Meeting, Island Fox Working Group, Ventura, CA.



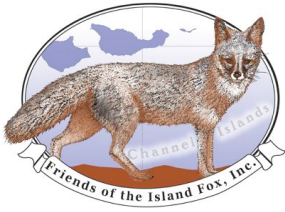
Activity

Fox activity patterns on San Nicolas Island varied with season, but typically these island foxes were most active at night and sunset (Powers, Cypher, Ralls, Randall & Moffatt, 2008).

References:

- Powers, R.M., Cypher, B., Ralls, K., Randall, J., & Moffatt, C. (2008, February 5-7). *Changes in home ranges and activity patterns of the San Nicolas Island fox over the annual reproductive cycle*. Paper presented at Seventh California Island Symposium, Oxnard, CA.





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Studying Island Foxes in a Burn Area

After the fire on Santa Catalina Island in 2007, 20 new GPS collars were deployed on 10 foxes (5 female and 5 male) that lived in the burned areas and on 10 foxes (5 female and 5 male) living in an undisturbed, normally vegetated area of similar size. The GPS collars collected data every 3 hours during the day for 7 months. Data from these collars will be analyzed later this year to determine habitat use, home range size, and seasonal activity patterns for these foxes living in two different areas (King, 2008).

References:

King, J. (2008, June 24). *Catalina Island update*. Paper presented at Tenth Annual Meeting, Island Fox Working Group, Ventura, CA.



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