

Petition to Regulate Fox Keeping in the UK

We, the undersigned, call upon the UK government to recognise and regulate the keeping and breeding of silver foxes (*Vulpes vulpes fulva*), a non-native, domesticated subspecies.

[Black Foxes UK](https://blackfoxes.co.uk) has been raising awareness of the need for proper regulations since 2015, as current legislation under the Animal Welfare Act fails to address the specific needs of this species.

The lack of regulation has led to confusion between native wild foxes and domesticated silver foxes, resulting in inconsistent treatment under the law and risks to both populations.

We seek new legislation to address the following key points:

1. Recognition of Silver Foxes as Non-Native, Domesticated Species

Silver foxes should be reclassified as a separate subspecies from the native red fox to reflect their domesticated status and unique needs.

2. Regulation and Licensing for Keepers and Breeders

A licensing system should be introduced for the keeping and breeding of silver foxes, ensuring that individuals meet strict criteria, including secure housing, veterinary care, and adequate resources.

3. Protection of Native Wildlife and Rescue Operations

Any new regulations must ensure that wildlife rescues are not negatively impacted and can continue to assist native foxes without legal barriers.

4. Introduction of New Standards for Care and Enclosures

Specific standards should be set for the care and housing of silver foxes to prevent their escape and safeguard both the animals and the public.

5. Public Education on Silver Foxes

Public awareness initiatives should be introduced to educate the public about the history of fur farming, the domesticated nature of silver foxes, and the risks associated with exotic pet ownership.

6. Impact of Regulation Without Species Distinction

Broad regulation could unintentionally affect the care of wild foxes. Separate standards should be established for domesticated silver foxes, allowing wildlife rescues and vets to continue helping wild foxes without added constraints.

7. Regulation for Unregulated Wild Fox Rescues

Unregulated wild fox rescues create inconsistent care standards, impacting welfare. Licensing would establish clear regulations, ensuring better care and transparency.

What We Propose:

- The reclassification of silver foxes as a non-native, domesticated species (*Vulpes vulpes fulva*).
- A mandatory licensing system for keepers and breeders, managed by local councils.
- Clear standards for housing, veterinary care, and enrichment for the animals.
- A system of fines and penalties for non-compliance.



By implementing these regulations, we aim to protect both domesticated and wild fox populations, prevent unregulated breeding and trade of silver foxes, and improve animal welfare across all sectors. Ensuring that distinct needs are addressed and rescues are properly regulated will lead to better care, public safety, and ecological balance.

Black Foxes UK