

BLACK FOXES UK

PRESS RELEASE:

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Cat Rescue Goes Above and Beyond

Abandoned Pet Fox Captured in Barry

BARRY, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales, April 2023 — An abandoned silver fox has been captured by a local cat rescue team, after a two-week long rescue mission.

[Black Foxes UK](#) began receiving numerous reports of an abandoned 'silver fox' - a captive-bred line of North American red fox - on 8th April 2023.

We have received hundreds of calls and messages and attempts to locate the owner were fruitless. Due to stretched resources, the [RSPCA](#) were limited in their capacity to assist, asking members of the public to only call if the animal was injured. They were able to make an attempt to capture the fox several times but they were ultimately unsuccessful. Black Foxes UK had also sought the assistance of the Local Authority animal warden and local cat rescue, [Shua Trust Home and Sanctuary](#), who assisted with the capture of an [escaped silver fox in Barry, Wales, in 2021](#) also. They were able to safely capture the fox Monday 24th April 2023.

The fox, which is male and appears to be around 2 years old, has been named Shadow by rescuers and has been roaming Barry and frequenting public places for support for just over two weeks. There were reports the fox had a leg injury but he appears in good health and was taken to [Vets4Pets in Barry](#), Wales, who [treated Luna in 2021](#), where a dedicated team of staff provided the fox the attention he required.

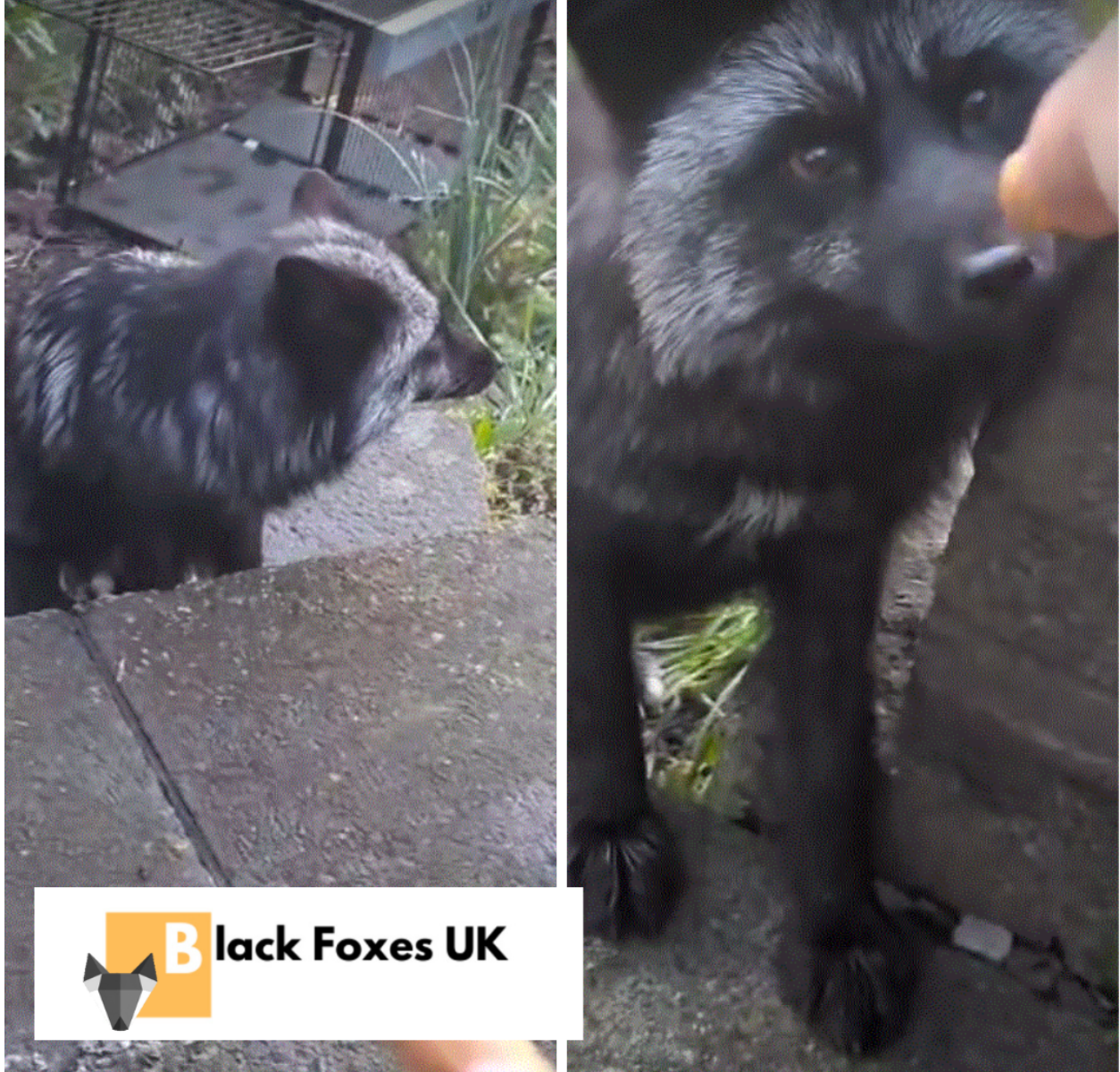


 **Black Foxes UK**

Shadow is being treated by staff at Vets4Pets, Barry.

Shadow is very confident around people and was clearly well-socialized prior to his escape. Black Foxes UK have found a secure facility at [Animals Interactive](#), that will provide him a home.

It is possible there may be a second fox, which is the fox with the injury, but this remains to be made clear. If this injured fox is seen, please contact the RSPCA emergency line on 0300 1234 999.



A Shua Trust rescuer gains trust with Shadow, prior to his capture.

The founder of Black Foxes UK, Hayley de Ronde, would like to thank the Local Authority Animal Warden and [Shua Trust Home and Sanctuary](#), for going above and beyond - for the second time - to help provide emergency assistance to a silver fox in need. Despite the hardships of covid and a workload already overflowing, their dedication and support towards local escaped silver foxes has been remarkable.

"The team at Shua is small and their workload is heavy, so if you would like to say thank you to the team for their remarkable compassion and dedication, please consider donating to the organisation and showing your support!" www.paypal.me/shuacharity

If you would like to contribute towards Shadow's ongoing care and veterinary costs, please visit the Black Foxes UK funding website for the donation link: www.foreverfoxy.co.uk

The North American red fox or 'silver fox', was brought to the UK for the fur trade in the early 1900's, with a ban on breeding animals primarily for their fur occurring in 2000. However, the last fox farm in the UK closed its doors in 1982, long before the ban.

The North American red fox was originally classified as its own species (*vulpes fulva*, Statham et al. 2014), but this was changed in 1959 to classify them as a subspecies of the red fox, *vulpes vulpes fulvus*. The European red fox seen in Britain is *vulpes vulpes crucigera*.

Their name is misleading, as it applies to both the individual melanistic or black red fox, as well as being the collective name for the farmed North American red fox. A domesticated farm species that exists in over [70 selectively bred colour morphs](#), many of which could not exist naturally.

The wild North American red foxes - the [Sierra Nevada red fox](#) and the [Cascades red fox](#) - which the fur farm stock and exotic pets likely originated from, were listed as endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in [August 2021](#) and [September 2022](#), respectively.

Unlike the European fox, which has no statistically predictable colour variation and is predominantly red, North American red foxes occur in [3 statistically predictable colour variations](#) - red (approx. 51-75%), cross (approx. 22-41%) and silver or black (approx. 2-8%), which is what made them a viable target for fur farming, being captive bred originally for the value of their unique fur.

The silver fox became popular pets in the UK in around 2006, when Dangerous Wild Animals laws were relaxed and exotic pet keeping became a more popular hobby within the UK. There are no legal requirements for the keeping of silver foxes in the UK.

The most common colours of captive-bred North American red fox kept in the UK are silver, cross (red with a black pattern), platinum (white with a pale red or silver pattern) and red.

Black Foxes UK was founded in 2015 by Hayley de Ronde and aims to educate the general public about the North American red fox. Black Foxes UK rehome an average of 4-5 captive-bred North American red foxes per year and handle around 350-400 public inquiries annually, we do not advise the keeping of silver foxes as pets, as they are difficult to keep and we feel strongly that they should only be kept under strict licensing conditions within education facilities and zoological collections, for their welfare and the welfare of local fox populations.

For more information on melanistic and silver foxes, please visit, www.blackfoxes.co.uk.

