

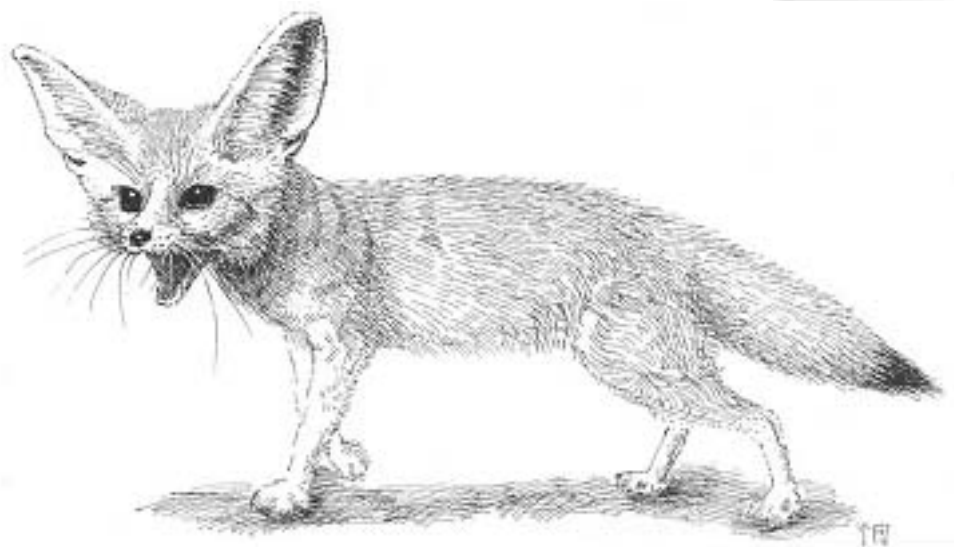


Vulpes zerda

(Zimmermann, 1780)

Common names: engl.: Fennec
 esp.: Fennec
 fr.: Fennec
 de.: Fennec, Wüstenfuchs
 ital.: Fennec

Scientific synonyms: *Fennecus zerda*



Characteristics:

General appearance: A very small fox with extra-large ears and pin-pointed muzzle.
Size: HB 35-40 cm, T 15-25 cm, H 20 cm, W 1-1,5 kg.
Head: Ears very large (10-15 cm); big black eyes; no black markings on face; very small nose pad at the end of very pointed muzzle.
Coat: Uniformly cream-coloured, with white underparts; fur very soft.
Tail: Relatively long, cream-coloured with black tip.
Legs and feet: Cream-coloured outside and paler inside. Furred paws.

Distribution: Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jam., Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia.



Population:

Wild population: Unknown. Extensively trapped and sold as a pet.

Captive population: The International Zoo Yearbook reports 23 specimens born 1980 in 11 collections.

Trade: 15 live specimens recorded by CITES Parties from 1979 to 1982.

Intraspecific variation: Colour varies from dark cream to almost white.

Similar species: *Vulpes ruppelli*. Distinguished by larger size, white-tipped tail, shorter ears, and orange and black markings on face.
Vulpes pallida. Distinguished by shorter ears, rufous legs, and light-dark dorsal line. Larger in size. All foxes are bigger, and their ears are relatively shorter.

Bibliography: Gauthier-Pilters, H. (1967). The Fennec. African Wildlife 21:117-125.