

Did You Know?

- Pork pies were invented when the gentry discovered the small snack stayed intact in their pockets whilst they were hunting.



John, Henry and Francis Grant at Melton, 1823, by John Ferneley
(Copyright Leicestershire County Council)

- Since 1949 there have been seven attempts to restrict or ban hunting with dogs.
- The passing of the Hunting Act followed approximately 700 hours of parliamentary debating time.
- The fox belongs to the family of canidae which are dogs NOT rodents.
- On the first day of the hunting season in November 2005, after the ban came into force earlier that year in February, more than 300 hunts rode out.



A fox
(Copyright Paul Glendell/English Nature)

Here are some facts about foxes:

- Foxes dens, called earths, are often in old rabbit burrows or badger setts.
- Foxes hunt at night, they are resourceful and adaptable and eat rabbits, small rodents, birds, beetles, worms, fruit and waste from bins.
- Foxes live in family groups, with a dog (male) and a vixen and their cubs and sometimes one or two other adults. They lay down their scent to mark territory.

Here are some opinions about foxes:

- They are just wild creatures, trying to live a natural life.



- They are vermin.
- They kill new born lambs.
- They attack cats.
- They kill for pleasure, killing all chickens in a coop.

Detail of a fox taken from a hunting scrapbook
(Image copyright Leicestershire County Council)

- Foxes are scavengers. Any lambs or cats they eat are probably already dead.
- Farmers like to have foxes on their land because they eat pests and vermin such as slugs, rats and rabbits.