

One of the most common misconceptions we hear people say on a worryingly frequent basis is that foxes do not pose a danger to their rabbits or guinea pigs. So many people seem to think it is acceptable for their animals to run free in their gardens. It is **NOT** safe, even under careful supervision. We feel that we have a duty to educate people and we have therefore put together this fact sheet to dispel some of the rumours and help you keep your animals safe.

What we hear people say:

"It is cruel to keep a rabbit or guinea pig in a run. It is lovely to see them running free".

Fact:

In an ideal world, all bunnies would run free without risk from predators. Unfortunately, it is not a ideal world and we hear so many stories of rabbits being killed by foxes. A 6ft x 3ft x 2ft run (larger if you can afford it) is perfectly adequate for a pair of bunnies or guinea pigs.

What we hear people say:

"We only let our rabbits run free during the day when we are home"

Fact:

It is a popular myth that foxes are nocturnal and do not enter peoples' gardens during the day. **WRONG!** Foxes are getting braver and are frequently seen looking for food during the day.



What we hear people say:

"But I'd never leave my rabbits running in the garden unsupervised. I'm always there to keep an eye on them".

Fact:

One of the stories we have heard was from a distraught and caring rabbit owner whose bunnies lived in a secure summer house in the garden. She was cleaning the summer house out and the bunnies were hopping in the garden around her feet. In the blink of an eye, one of the rabbits was taken by a fox – the poor lady had to watch her dead rabbit being carried down the garden path. What happens if the phone rings or if someone rings your door bell or you hear your children crying?

What we hear people say:

"There is no way a fox could get into our garden. It is totally secure"

Fact:

If only this were true. Foxes are excellent climbers. They have been seen scaling 6 foot fences and have even been seen living 30 foot up a tree. Unless you have an impenetrable brick wall 12 foot high, you are only fooling yourself!

What we hear people say:

"I've kept rabbits for years and I've never had an encounter with a fox"

Fact:

There is always a first time and you have been **VERY** lucky so far. You are playing a game of Russian roulette and you may be down to your very last bullet.



Rabbits and guinea pigs need to be protected from foxes or this could happen... →



We get lots of people coming to Bobtails who have learnt the hard way. Those who have genuinely realised the mistakes they have made are welcome. For those who are prepared to take the risk, you will need to look elsewhere...