



Director  
Wildlife Trade Regulation Section  
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Email: [exotic.species@environment.gov.au](mailto:exotic.species@environment.gov.au)

**Re: Proposed Importation of Silver foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) as domestic pets**

The Australasian Wildlife Management Society notes there is an application to import Silver foxes as pets into Australia. As the peak professional wildlife management body in the Australasian region we oppose this proposal in the strongest terms, view it as a poorly researched and presented application and ask that you reject the application outright.

Our opposition is based on the following simple logic:

1. Silver foxes are the same species as the Red fox. They therefore have the same genetic traits.
2. The Red fox is an established pest in most of Australia and huge investment is made in reducing its well established impact on the environment and agriculture. There is an abundance of scientific literature confirming its negative impact and the Red fox is listed as a Key Threatening Process under various Commonwealth and State legislation. Considerable investment has also been made in developing exotic disease contingency plans which involve the Red fox i.e. rabies.
3. The Silver fox could be introduced as a domestic pet and colonise areas of Australia not yet populated and impacted by the Red fox.
4. A Red fox risk assessment by Kirkpatrick et al (September 2008) for the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia rated its threat category as Extreme.
5. Allowing Silver foxes as pets will make fox control more difficult because lobby groups will develop to protect the fox.

The AWMS sees no reason why management of the environment and agriculture should be further compromised by “going back to the future” and allowing the importation of exotic species which are known threats.

Terry Korn PSM  
President  
Australasian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS)  
[www.awms.org.au](http://www.awms.org.au)  
[tjkorn@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tjkorn@bigpond.net.au)  
+61 2 68 847298  
0417747298