

# Foxwatching In Sydenham

By **Alexander Baron** - Jan 10, 2016

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Since the 1980s, humans in especially the capital have been joined by a creature who has now become a familiar sight, in the daytime as much as the night. The urban fox is now every bit as established as the urban rat, only far more visible and a lot less unwelcome. True, there have been one or two incidents in which they have attacked humans, most notoriously in 2010 when one entered a house in East London, scampered upstairs, and mauled **nine month old twin girls** in their cots. For the most part though, they are still a little wary of humans.

A few years ago I managed to get close enough to one in Venner Road to touch its nose with the back of my hand; it was a cub, as was the one I got very close to on Boxing Day. The poor creature looked in a sorry state. According to Chris Johnson who runs the Sydenham Foxcam, it “probably had mange, which will prove fatal if not treated. “If it was not physically injured and let you get close then it was very used to human company”.”

Foxcam was set up in the summer of 2001, and (quoted verbatim) ““At the end of March 2015 we discovered 5 very young foxcubs under our shed. Three weeks later here were only 3. We fed them and for three months they grew. Then 2 of them departed and

only one, Foxie, remained. He was with us for another 2 months, and was a really companionable little animal; coming to the back door for food and keeping us company whenever we were in the garden. We never touched him, or let him into the house, even though he would have welcomed it. At the end of August he too disappeared for a month, and then returned looking rather scruffy. A few days after that he must have been hit by a car and suffered internal injuries, because he came back to hide under the piano through the open French windows of our neighbours house, and at the end struggled out to lie beside us in the garden. He died just as the animal ambulance from the **Fox Project** was arriving. His mother and one of his siblings still appear nightly on Foxcam”.”



*Peek-a-boo*

Foxwatching In Sydenham



*Little foxes coming up real close*



*Fox scratching just like a dog*

Foxwatching In Sydenham



*Here comes dinner*



*The last image of the injured Fokie*

The images in this article were all supplied by Chris Johnson.