

## REPORT ON FOXES MONTPELIER SQUARE, LONDON SW7

Monday 3 March 2008

1. I contacted Westminster City Council Pest Control (020 7641 1522) and was advised by Lorraine Hilserty that all matters related to foxes are referred to the "Human Urban Wild Life Deterrent" Officer and not specifically allocated to Westminster.
2. Contacted HUWLD Department (01732 357355) and spoke to John Bryant.

### General Report

- i. Several thousand urban foxes in London
- ii. Foxes are territorial animals and have an exclusive area that can extend to 60 acres.
- iii. If a fox is killed or dies then the territory is occupied by another fox within 3 days.
- iv. There has been no successful method for keeping foxes away from an area other than:-
  - a. completely stopping food supply.
  - b. closing any form of habitat or gardens or making them particularly unpleasant for foxes.
- v. Best research on urban foxes has been prepared by University of Bristol published on the web under [www.thefoxwebsite.org](http://www.thefoxwebsite.org)

### Stopping Food Supply

- i. Wheelie bins, or similar, are considered to be the best form of rubbish control. However this would obviously rely on the entire neighbourhood using them.
- ii. If rubbish bags are used then
  - a. Bags can be sprayed with a fox deterrent [a spray called "Wash and Get-Off".] as supplied by retailer "Pets at Home".
  - b. Special bags impregnated with deterrent have been developed for fox control by a company called STV Pest Control [contact at [www.STVpestcontrol.com](http://www.STVpestcontrol.com). 01953 881580 (Norfolk).]

iii. Ultrasonic devices are useless.

#### Habitat

- a. John Bryant will meet with our gardeners and advise on best method of excluding foxes.

(note: the foxes bury surplus supplies in garden for future use).

- b. His charges are £75.00 for a call-out plus congestion charge.
- c. He has advised that using the garden for controlled exercise of dogs makes the area very unattractive to foxes as dog scent is left on ground. Foxes and dogs are apparently natural enemies.

#### Conclusion

1. Arrange meeting between John Bryant and Spike to advise on best methods to exclude foxes from gardens.
2. Ask John Bryant to prepare a report to circulate to all local residents (including streets around Square).
3. Consider costs of supplying bins, bags, sprays to area.
4. We may have a problem as I have been approached by several local residents who like the foxes in which case back to the drawing board!!

David Eckhardt