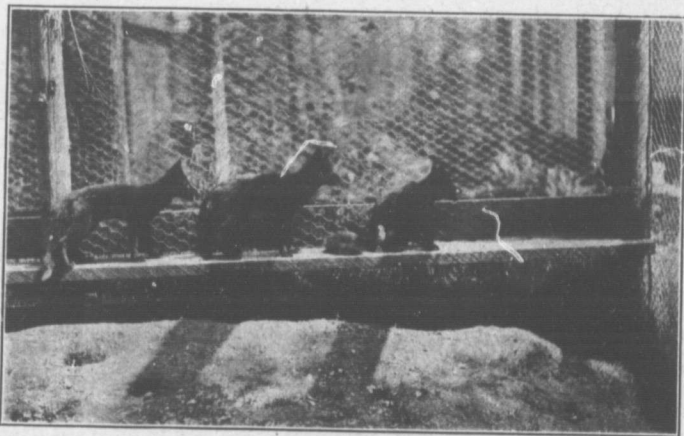


## The Silver-Black Fox in Captivity

By A. A. SCALES, '18

THE decreasing supply and increasing demand for furs, together with the prevailing high prices has induced many persons to attempt the breeding of fur-bearing animals in captivity.

compared with that of other fur-bearing animals has always been high priced. It then is not surprising that a strong attempt has been made to breed this animal.



Half-grown Silver-Black Foxes. It is Feeding Time and they are on the alert awaiting the arrival of the feeder.

Mink, racoon, marten, fisher, skunk and foxes have been ranched and bred in confinement with more or less success.

No fur-bearing animal appears to thrive and multiply in its wild state in a settled country as well as the fox. In such a country Reynard sometimes actually appears to increase in numbers until the time when the forests are quite cleared away. No animal shows as much skill in eluding the hunter and trapper as does the fox. On being chased his actions lead one to think that he may be gifted with a high degree of judgment.

The pelt of the silver black fox

The terms "silver fox," "black fox" and "silver black fox" are to a great extent interchangeable. All refer to a color phase of the common red fox (*Vulpes fulva*). The under fur or true fur is dull black. The overhairs or guan fur as they are often called, are a dull black next to the skin and a rich, clear, glossy black on the outer ends. Any red or rusty color detracts much from the value of the pelt and if such should be present to any extent, it will be classed as a cross or patch fox pelt.

Many of the overhairs, or long hairs which protrude through the under-fur have a silvery colored band about one-