

captivity. Then they dig for perhaps a foot at the extreme edge of the inclosure where the wire enters the ground. If the wire does not enter the ground, but is merely turned in at the bottom for some 2 feet, they only dig in the angle, and obviously cannot accomplish much, as they must work by thrusting their paws through the mesh of the wire. If stones are placed along the edge of the wire, they make no effort to dig at all, as tunneling under seems never to occur to them. So far as known none have escaped by digging, but a few have managed to climb out. The overhanging wire at the top effectually prevents this at most times, but an unusually heavy drift of snow in winter sometimes enables them to reach an elevation from which they can leap to the top and scramble out. In several cases, however, they have returned to the inclosures and climbed back or have been caught in traps set for them near by. When at large, foxes do not often climb trees, but in confinement they do so readily and voluntarily, often lying curled up in the thick branches of a spruce or fir for hours.

Although in general of suspicious nature and inclined to be unfriendly to man, foxes in confinement usually maintain good relations among themselves. If well fed, they seldom fight, or if they do it is without fatalities. In a few cases two or more have turned upon a fellow captive and killed or badly crippled it, but usually this has been due to underfeeding or to improper handling during the rutting season. Except when young, they snap and bite at their keeper if he attempts to handle them; so they are separated or