

REVIEWS AND NEWS

FATAL POLLUTION

Dr. U. Wernery

Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL)
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Twenty years ago when the sun rose above the horizon of the Gulf water, I used to jog on the beautiful, clean, white-sanded stretch of beach in front of the Burj Al Arab. Nowadays I do not go there anymore. It is too polluted by careless beach goers who litter the area in an unimaginable manner. There are numerous other former picturesque places like Hatta pools or Jebel Ali desert areas which have become a dumping place for campers, wadi bashers and others.

2009 is again a sad year because so many animals have already died from plastic ingestion. When is all this ever going to end?

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PERSECUTION OF RÜPPELL'S FOX IN CENTRAL SAUDI ARABIA

Peter L. Cunningham



Fig1. Adult Rüppell's fox displayed from vehicle sign posts in Saudi Arabia (P Cunningham).

Very little is known about Rüppell's foxes (*Vulpes ruppelli*), especially population trends and threats. Threats include droughts, overgrazing, habitat loss, competition with red fox, domestic dogs and cats; canine diseases and associated parasites and collateral damage during poisoning and trapping for other carnivores. On 9 and 15 July 2008 I saw 4 adult Rüppell's foxes displayed from vehicle sign posts approximately 50 km north of Riyadh (Figure 1). Local youths use the area for dune bashing and although it could not be confirmed if the foxes were pursued and killed locally, all the carcasses displayed typical vehicle impact signs. Usually such displays of predators elsewhere indicate active persecution by humans. Observations of domestic dogs being chased on the dunes probably indicate the fate of the Rüppell's foxes adding an additional threat to the species. For more information see the full article:

Cunningham, P.L. 2009. Persecution of Rüppell's fox in central Saudi Arabia. *Canid News* 12.3 [Online]: 1-5.

