

approaches carefully; moving around you until he is downwind then comes in slowly... This is the point that he may stop because he has scented you. He'll either sit while he works out what to do – or run...

The other thing a fox will try and do is get as close to the source of the call as possible without breaking cover. How often do we see a set of eyes just into a wood – looking out at us? In cover, the fox feels a sense of security that is lost when he breaks cover so it's worth considering this whilst placing your caller. Place the call in a spot that allows the fox to approach as carefully as possible – but that forces the fox to break cover to get to the call – you won't shoot him if you don't see him.

Baiting

No matter how hard you try, there will always be a hint of human scent on your caller itself so we recommend using a bait of some description to a) mask that scent and b) make the fox more interested in coming in. Bait can also serve to hold the fox in your designated kill zone allowing you time to get a clean shot away.

Good options for bait include a wet mix of cat food and dog biscuit scattered around the caller area or for those with a stronger stomach, rabbit, chicken or pigeon entrails (ideally left for a few days to "mature") The key with bait is to make sure its in small pieces so the fox can't just pick it up and run – and make sure it stinks!

Summary

As we started off by saying, no electronic caller is a magic answer – but used correctly it can dramatically improve your chances. As has been said, the fox has to be lucky every time – but the shooter only has to be lucky once. By following the advice in this document, you're much more likely to be lucky!

One last thing...

So you've called a fox to your caller but he's not presented a shot... Don't forget that foxes are incredibly inquisitive and as he bolts across a field the odds are, he'll stop and turn for "one last look" before making his escape. It may be your last chance - but he's giving you a chance so expect it and you may just get that shot!

For more information about our range of electronic callers or our other foxing products, visit our website at

www.bestfoxcall.co.uk

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How to get the most out of your Remote Electronic Fox Caller

Using any form of caller to try to lure a fox into a suitable position and within shootable range is more of an art than a science. To maximise your chance of success you need to understand your quarry and anticipate how he is likely to respond to a call.



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Before anything else, what are the benefits of an electronic caller..?

1. By using a remote electronic caller, you can call a fox to a safe shooting position – where you are comfortable with the shot and you have a safe backstop.
2. Using a remote caller also greatly reduces – and can eliminate the chance of a fox scenting (winding you) as it comes in to your call.

Using remote electronic callers is in no way cheating and certainly not a fool proof solution to calling foxes. Whilst it removes the need to be able to mimic a distressed animal with your hand/mouth, it's not as simple as putting the call out, pressing play and hoping for the best.

Many factors can (and will) effect the success of your calling, including:

- Weather
- Season / time of year
- Your position
- Scent
- Available natural food supply
- Type of call used
- Position of the caller
- Bait

Foxes are wild animals – and are therefore unpredictable. There simply are NO guarantees but by following a few simple steps you can increase the chance of fooling the fox to come in to the call – after that, it's down to you!

The Weather

Foxes tend to respond better to a distress call on a cold, harsh frosty night over a warm mild one. It takes less food / energy to remain warm on a mild night than it does on a cold night.

Available natural food supply

At certain times of the year there is an abundance of certain types of natural foods – berries, grubs worms etc. When these foods are in abundance, you are less likely to call a fox into your sights.

Mating Season..?

There are no hard and fast rules about seasons but one thing is certain... If you hear a vixen letting out a mating call, you're unlikely to call a dog fox with a distress call as he'll have one thing – and only one thing on his mind - **Making Cubs!**

This is where the Vixen in Heat / Vixen Mating Calls come into play.

Playing a Vixen call can work for you in a few ways including attracting an interested Dog Fox looking to pair up or attracting a dominant vixen that wants to know why there's another vixen on her patch...

Type of Call used

There are essentially two types of call you can use on your electronic caller – distress calls or actual fox calls.

All distress calls are designed to trick the fox into thinking it's on for a free and easy meal. Before rising to the top of the predatory chain in the UK, foxes were mainly scavenging pests and still can't resist an easy meal. If a fox thinks there's a struggling rabbit / mouse / rat / chicken etc it will more often than not investigate.

Certain calls will work better than others at certain times of the year – and in certain environments. Around lambing time, the sound of an orphaned lamb crying for its mother can be irresistible to a fox – whereas through summer and into autumn, small rodent squeaks can be devastating on cut silage fields or stubble. Of course, nothing beats a distressed chicken call around a free range farm!

Fox sounds (mating calls, territory barks etc.) work by fooling the fox there is another fox in the area. This may work in a territorial way – or in the case of a Vixen in Heat call, it will work in a "mating" way. Cub squeals and chirrups work by attracting the protective instinct in a Vixen (or barren aunt) and can work particularly well in late spring through to mid summer.

Position of the Caller

There are three key factors when considering the position of your caller

1. Safe Shooting
2. Wind Direction - Scent
3. Most likely approach of the fox

In addition to providing you with a safe back stop and more planned (hence comfortable) shooting position, where you place your caller can allow you to prevent the fox scenting you on its approach.

We all have tales of foxes that have come into a call like a train and you have to shout / bark to get them to stop. This is not the norm and is usually a sign of desperation (hunger due to cold weather / cubs to feed) or of immaturity in the case of 6 month old cubs. More often it's not that simple

We have people tell us that they have called foxes to 150 yards with our mouth callers and then they just stop and look at the light – only to then run off. Understanding why this happens will help understand the best positioning for your caller. Most of the time, foxes are very cautious animals. When approaching a possible food source, they will try and do so without breaking cover until they absolutely have to – and will usually try and approach into the wind. Imagine you're blowing away on your caller and you spot a set of eyes... He