



Life Cycle of Irish Red Squirrel

Birth

After gestation of 38-39 days, an average of three kittens are born per litter. They are blind and deaf with no hair and weigh about 10-15g. The mother alone takes care of them. It takes between 8-10 weeks until fully weaned.

Growth

It takes about three months for the kitten to grow and they eat mostly seeds and nuts of trees once weaned along with berries and shoots.

Adult/Reproductive

Full grown red squirrels weigh between 9-12 oz. Their bodies are 7.5-9" long and their tails between 6-8".

Red squirrels live in woodlands and make nests called dreys which they share with other squirrels. A single squirrel may use several different nests. They spend 60-80% of their time foraging for food and storing the food for winter mostly during the morning and evenings.

A female usually has her first litter in her second year and can have up to two litters per year.

Death

Wild squirrels live an average of three years, although lucky ones may reach seven and ten years in captivity.

