

## READING

### Exercise 1

Read the text and fill the gaps with the correct word from the box below.

dog    spread    defence    curious    pleasure    failed    scared    hunting

#### Invasion of the urban foxes

It was a warm evening and a young couple in east London left a door to their house open. A **(1)** ..... fox walked into their home, went upstairs and attacked nine-month-old sleeping twins on their arms and faces. When the mother heard crying, she rushed upstairs. "I went into the room and I saw some blood on my daughter's cot. I put on the light and I saw a fox. It wasn't even **(2)** ..... of me, it just looked me straight at me."

The children soon recovered but the story soon **(3)** ..... around the globe, starting a new panic about urban foxes. Police told residents to keep doors and windows closed and neighbours started setting fox traps.

Fox **(4)** ..... was banned in England and Wales in 2005 but for centuries before this hunters imported thousands of foxes from Europe to improve their sport. Foxes moved into cities in the 1930s and until the 1980s, local authorities shot and trapped foxes in London in an attempt to exterminate them. This **(5)** ..... By the 1980s there were around 33,000 adult foxes in urban areas.

Professor Stephen Harris, from Bristol University's Mammal Research Unit, speaks out in **(6)** ..... of the urban fox . He reminds us that foxes are only a little bigger than the average cat. They never hunt in packs and they never kill for **(7)** ..... There are very few records of foxes attacking humans. Another expert reminds us that in 2008/9, 5,221 people were treated in hospital in England after being attacked by man's best friend, the **(8)** .....

## ANSWER KEY

### READING

#### Exercise 1

- 1 curious
- 2 scared
- 3 spread
- 4 hunting

- 5 failed
- 6 defence
- 7 pleasure
- 8 dog