

KANGAROO
OR WALLABY?
IT'S A MATTER
OF SIZE.

Kangaroos and wallabies

Europeans arrived in Australia to find 49 native species of kangaroos and wallabies well-adapted to grazing and browsing in a wide range of Australian conditions. Four are now extinct; more than half the remainder are threatened.

Kangaroos and wallabies are known for their large hind legs and energy efficient hopping gait for fast or long distance travel.

LEARN MORE

Mammals of Australia, Third Edition, edited by Steve Van Dyck and Ronald Strahan, New Holland Publishers, 2008

The Green Guide to Kangaroos and Wallabies of Australia by Lee K Curtis, New Holland Publishers, 2006

www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/wild-harvest/kangaroo



Red-necked (Bennett's) wallaby
Macropus rufogriseus

Head and body: 770mm ♀, 820mm♂; **Tail:** 720mm ♀, 780mm♂; **Weight:** 14kg ♀-19kg♂. Island subspecies darker and smaller than mainland species.



DISTRIBUTION
S/E QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, TAS

SOME ESSENTIALS
Browses or grazes in small groups or alone in forest understorey bordering open areas.

DID YOU KNOW?
Introduced to New Zealand's South Island around 1870 and to Great Britain in 1940s. Aborigines may have hunted them in winter in Tasmania.

LEND A HAND
Because it grazes on young shoots of crop plants, including trees, this species sometimes competes with commercial agricultural interests. States can issue licences to shoot or, in Tasmania, poison with 1080. Thoughtful planning and appropriate exclusion fencing are preferred options. For information on fence designs, see www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com and www.landcareonline.com



Western grey kangaroo
Macropus fuliginosus

Head and body: up to 1.7m ♀, 2.2m♂; **Tail:** up to 815mm ♀, 1000mm♂; **Weight:** up to 39kg ♀-72kg♂. Head/back dark brown; front greyish blue; white forehead blaze frequent; great variation across range.



DISTRIBUTION
WA, VIC, NSW, SA, QLD. Overlap with eastern greys in VIC, NSW, SA, QLD

SOME ESSENTIALS
Similar to eastern grey, but with shorter gestation and oestrus cycles. Primarily grazers; can thrive on golf courses and cemeteries.

DID YOU KNOW?
Unlike their eastern counterparts, western greys can feed on *Gastrolobium* spp, in which sodium monofluoroacetate (commercially known as 1080) occurs naturally.

LEND A HAND
This species appears to have benefited from the spread of irrigated pastures and is considered a commercial pest in some regions. Help ensure that culling, if absolutely necessary, does not exceed sustainable limits. Keep tabs via www.kangaroo-industry.asn.au



Bridled nailtail wallaby
Onycogalea fraenata

Head and body: 490mm ♀, 610mm♂; **Tail:** 400mm ♀, 460mm♂; **Weight:** 5kg ♀,-6.5kg♂



DISTRIBUTION
Once widespread from Charters Towers and central Queensland through New South Wales and northern Victoria. Now only three wild populations, in western and central QLD, totalling 500.

SOME ESSENTIALS
Populations survive in endangered brigalow landscapes and larger alluvial flats. Threats include land clearing, feral predators and introduced grasses.

DID YOU KNOW?
Also known as flashjack, waistcoat wallaby, pademelon. Nailtail wallabies have a 'nail', a small horny spur at the tip of the tail. Debate continues about possible uses.

LEND A HAND
To volunteer, donate funds or find out more about captive breeding programs, see Project Kial (www.aace.org.au). The Bridled Nailtail Wallaby Trust focuses on conservation of the species and its brigalow habitat (www.bntwallaby.org.au).



Black wallaroo
Macropus bernardus

Head and body: 650mm ♀, 680♂; **Tail:** 575mm ♀, 610mm♂; **Weight:** 13kg ♀-21kg♂. Males dark brown to black, occasional orange tinge on forearms. Females light or brownish-grey. Small ears.



DISTRIBUTION
Rocky escarpments and sandstone plateaus of Arnhem Land, NT

SOME ESSENTIALS
A mystery macropod, mostly nocturnal, extremely wary, elusive and with a restricted and remote distribution. Researchers are working with local Aboriginal knowledge. Biggest threat may be changes in fire regimes. With distribution so concentrated, correct management is essential to species survival.

DID YOU KNOW?
'Wallaroo' means 'rock kangaroo'. The black wallaroo is a very fast-moving animal that will bolt at the first sign of a predator.

LEND A HAND
Much of the species's territory is in Kakadu National Park. To donate time, resources or expertise, see NT National Parks (www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/volunteers).



Rufous hare-wallaby (mala)
Largochestes hirsutus

Head and body: 375mm ♀, 330mm♂; **Tail:** 275mm ♀, 270mm♂; **Weight:** 1.7kg ♀,-1.6kg♂. Rufous head and back; pale chest and belly.



DISTRIBUTION
WA

SOME ESSENTIALS
Feeds at night on grasses, shrubs and seeds; shelters in groups by day under dense vegetation. Once widespread in spinifex grasslands and sandy deserts; now only known wild populations are on Dorre, Bernier and Tremouille islands off the WA coast.

DID YOU KNOW?
Many spiritual places at Uluru are associated with mala stories; mala ceremonies are part of the living culture dating back tens of thousands of years.

LEND A HAND
Successful reintroduction programs rely on feral predator exclusion fencing. See The Mala Reintroduction Project: www.environment.gov.au/parks/uluru/management/programs, Return to Dryandra: www.dec.wa.gov.au/parks-and-recreation/key-attractions/dryandra-woodland.html and Project Eden: www.sharkbay.org.



Rothschild's rock-wallaby
Petrogale rothschildi

Head and body: 500mm ♀, 560♂; **Tail:** 570mm ♀, 635mm♂; **Weight:** 4.1kg ♀,-6.1kg♂. Golden brown fur with tinges of orange and darker markings.



DISTRIBUTION
Pilbara and Ashburton regions of WA.

SOME ESSENTIALS
Strongly linked to granite outcrops, where it lives in social groups, sheltering from high daytime temperatures in caves and rock piles. Colouring provides good camouflage in its rocky habitats. Forages at night on grasses, forbs and fruits.

DID YOU KNOW?
Mainland populations benefit from fox control; other populations persist on offshore islands in the Dampier Archipelago, beyond the reach of feral cats and foxes.

LEND A HAND
Like many other rock-wallabies, is very vulnerable to fox predation. Support sensible fox eradication programs, and help monitor or ban any proposed imports of non-native predator species (see www.invasives.org.au).