



RED KANGAROO

Description

The Red Kangaroo is the largest living **marsupial**. Red Kangaroos are reddish-brown in colour with a white belly. They are distinguished from Grey Kangaroos by the black and white markings on their muzzles and their white-tipped tails. Their strong, muscular tail is 64–100 cm long.

Diet

Red Kangaroos are **herbivores** and graze at dawn and dusk on a wide variety of grasses and herbaceous plants. When water is available they will drink, however, if they obtain sufficient green food, the Red Kangaroo does not need to drink.

In the wild

Red Kangaroos are very social and move in groups ranging from a few dozen to hundreds of individuals.

Threats

Kangaroos are hunted by dingos when rabbit populations decrease. High populations in arid areas are due to the lack of dingos in the area as well as an overabundance of drinking sites.

At Perth Zoo

There are a number of female Red Kangaroos around the paths in the **Australian Bushwalk**. They move freely with Western Grey Kangaroos and wallabies.

Did you know?

Females can have up to three young at different stages of development at any given time when food is plentiful. The largest joey will be out of the pouch but will still be suckling from a teat delivering milk high in carbohydrates. The second joey will be in the pouch on another teat drinking milk high in fat while a third will still be an embryo in a suspended state within the uterus. If the pouch joey should die, the mother can give birth shortly after without the need to mate again. This phenomenon is known as **embryonic diapause**.

Scientific Name

Macropus rufus

Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

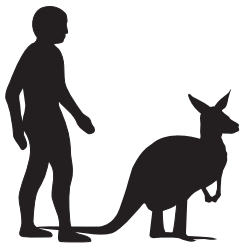
Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient



Body Length: 74–140 cm

Weight: 26.5–66 kg

Gestation: 33 days

Number of young: 1



Distribution ■

Distribution: Central arid Australia

Habitat: Arid regions



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