

SANDHILL DUNNART

Description

The Sandhill Dunnart is one of the largest of the dunnart species. It has large ears, large eyes and a distinctive comb-like tuft of fur on the tip of the tail.

Diet

Sandhill Dunnarts are **insectivores** and eat invertebrates like spiders, larval insects, termites, crickets and beetles.

In the wild

Very little is known about Sandhill Dunnarts as not many animals have been discovered. The Sandhill Dunnart is particularly sensitive to habitat changes and prefers areas with a heavy covering of Spinifex. Their natural predators include birds of prey, dingos, monitor lizards and snakes.

Threats

Bush fires are a major threat to the already-endangered Sandhill Dunnart.

At Perth Zoo

Perth Zoo has successfully bred Sandhill Dunnarts in a project designed to find out more about their reproductive biology. They can also be seen inside the **Nocturnal House**.

Did you know?

Since 1894, less than 70 animals have been found in the wild. It is unclear whether this is an indication of their numbers in the wild or just how difficult they are to trap.



Scientific Name

Sminthopsis psammophila

Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient



Body Length: 8.5–11.5 cm

Weight: 25–44 g

Gestation: 16–18 days

Number of young: Up to 8



Distribution ■

Distribution: Great Victoria Desert, Western Australia and southern South Australia

Habitat: Arid, dune regions

