



SQUIRREL GLIDER

Description

The Squirrel Glider has soft grey fur above and yellowish-white on its belly. There are distinctive black marks on the face and a bushy tail that is 22–30 cm long. Squirrel Gliders have an area of loose skin connected from wrist to ankle. When they jump between trees, they extend this skin which allows them to glide.

Diet

Squirrel Gliders are **omnivores** and eat insects, gum from acacias, sap from eucalypts, nectar, pollen and green seeds of the golden wattle.

In the wild

A family of Squirrel Gliders is usually made up of one mature male, one or more adult females and their offspring. The actual gestation period is unknown but it is thought to be 15–17 days. Each female usually produces two young which remain in the pouch for about 70 days when they are deposited in a nest for about 40–50 days. At about three months old, the young leave the nest to forage.

The natural predators of Squirrel Gliders include birds (including owls and kookaburras) and reptiles.

Threats

Squirrel Gliders are threatened by feral cats and foxes. The destruction of forests—especially tree hollows which they use for nests—has had a dramatic effect on Squirrel Glider populations.

At Perth Zoo

The **Nocturnal House** is home to a family of Squirrel Gliders.

Did you know?

Squirrel Gliders can glide for up to 90 m.

Scientific Name

Petaurus norfolcensis

Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

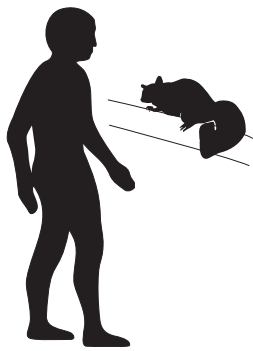
Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient



Body Length: 18–23 cm

Weight: 190–300 g

Number of young: 2



Distribution ■

Distribution: Eastern Australia

Habitat: Dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands

