

TASMANIAN DEVIL

Description

Tasmanian Devils are Australia's largest carnivorous marsupial and are about the same size as a large domestic cat. Their powerful jaws and teeth have the same crushing power as a dog four times their size. They are black in colour with a white band on the chest and hindquarters and have nearly-hairless, pink ears. The tail is 24–26 cm long.

Diet

Tasmanian Devils are **carnivores** and will eat any meat they find, dead or alive, such as small mammals, birds and insects. Devils are not territorial, and will wander over a range of 10–20 hectares in search of food.

In the wild

Tasmanian Devils are **nocturnal** and spend the daytime sleeping in dens made in hollow logs, caves or old wombat burrows which they line with grass and leaves. If attacked, adult Tasmanian Devils can use their threatening growls and powerful bite to deter most animals. Young Devils are excellent tree climbers and this allows them to escape predators.

Threats

They are often hit by cars as they feed on other road-killed animals. They were once common on mainland Australia. The arrival of the Dingo may have caused their extinction on the mainland due to food competition. Tasmanian Devils are threatened by a strange virus called Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease which causes facial tumours and death. This virus is sweeping through the adult population of Tasmanian Devils and is seriously threatening the species' survival. It is now known that the disease is spread directly from animal to animal through bites infected when fighting. No cure has yet been found.

At Perth Zoo

Come for the Devils and Koalas presentation at 3.00pm every day in the **Australian Bushwalk**.

Did you know?

It can be very noisy when Tasmanian Devils come together to feed on the same carcass. These noises range from snorts to barks and growls to terrifying screeches.



Scientific Name
Sarcophilus harrisi

Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

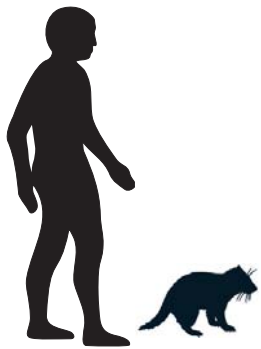
Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient



Body Length: 55–65 cm

Weight: 7–9 kg

Gestation: 18 days

Number of young: 3–4



Distribution ■

Distribution: Tasmania

Habitat: Rainforests, eucalypt forests, farmlands and even outer city suburbs.

