



Amazing Animals Fact sheets

Possums and Gliders

Brushtail Possum profiles

Australia has 13 species of large Australian Possums. Possums are an arboreal herbivorous marsupial. Put simply arboreal means that they live in trees, and herbivorous indicates they are plant eaters. All possums are marsupials so just like the koala and the kangaroo they have a pouch in which they carry their young. Gliders are a nocturnal marsupial that lives in trees. They have a membrane between their front and back limbs which enables them to glide through the air from tree to tree. This membrane is called a patagium. There are around six species of glider in Australia.



Mountain Brushtail Possum

Mountain Brushtail Possums are a little larger than the Common Brushtail Possum, weighing between 2.5kg to 4.5kg. They also have some other features that distinguish them from the Common Brushtail Possum. Their ears are slightly smaller and more rounded, and are usually darker in colour.

Habitat

Mountain Brushtail Possums are found within the tall forest of the Great Dividing Range and along the coast from south-east Queensland to New South Wales and Victoria. They are patchily distributed and prefer to inhabit dense subtropical rainforests, wet sclerophyll and also tall eucalypt forests.

Diet

The Mountain Brushtail Possum's diet consists mainly of plant food such as leaves, fruits, berries, flowers, bark, fungi and lichens.

Breeding

Their reproductive cycle is very similar to that of the Common Brushtail Possum. They become sexually mature at around two years of age, but rarely breed in this first year.

Hope

Hope is our beautiful Mountain Brushtail Possum. The highlight of her day is when she gets to be part of a Sweetheart Possum Encounter, where she gets hand-fed grapes and blossoms from guests. Another special treat is when she gets to go out into the Zoo on walks. She looks so cute when her keepers get her all decked out in her harness and lead.

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