



Amazing Animals Fact sheets

Kangaroos

Kangaroos are the largest marsupial surviving on earth today. They are well known for their style of movement; hopping on their hind legs whilst using their large, muscular tail for balance. Kangaroos use their tail like an extra leg when they are manoeuvring around, or standing still. Kangaroos are one of the only animals that are not able to move backwards easily, and this is why they are used on the Australian national emblem. Kangaroos graze on plant matter such as grass, heath plants and young shoots and are well adapted for arid environments obtaining most of the water they require from the food they eat. Kangaroos have good eyesight and excellent hearing and they use their large ears to pick up even the slightest sounds. Kangaroos live in social groups, called "mobs".



Red-necked Wallaby

The Red-necked Wallaby can be distinguished from other wallabies by its white cheek markings and red colouring on the neck. The rest of its body fur is grey to reddish in colour with a white or pale grey abdomen. Their muzzle, paws and toes are black in colour. The Red-necked Wallaby is protected by law in all states of Australia.

Habitat

The Red-necked Wallaby ranges throughout the eastern parts of Australia from the Queensland - New South Wales border area, right through to South Australia. It is also

found in Tasmania. Found in subtropical, cool temperate, wet and dry sclerophyll forests, and woodland with adjacent grassy areas, this nocturnal animal spends most of the day resting amongst dense understory within the forest.

Diet

Usually this wallaby is a solitary animal, but may be seen grazing from late afternoon to dawn in grassy areas in groups. The Red-necked Wallaby eats mainly grasses and herbs, and likes areas that are partially cleared with surrounding patches of sheltered forest.

Breeding

A female is able to breed at the age of around 14 months while a male comes into sexual maturity at around 19 months of age. The pouch life for a Red-necked Wallaby joey is about 9 months, with the joey continuing to suckle till it is around 12-15 months of age.

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