

Wallaroo

Scientific Name: *Macropus robustus*

Class: Mammalia

Order: Diprotodontia

Family: Macropodidae



The length between the head and tail is between 54 – 92 inches depending on the sex and the weight on an average of 35 - 77 pounds. The fur is shaggy, coarse, and varies between the subspecies. The rhinarium (area of naked skin around the nostrils) is black. The stance is distinctive: shoulders thrown back, elbows tucked into the sides and wrists raised. There is a marked sexual dimorphism: mature males are darker in color and attain twice the weight of mature females. The wallaroo has shorter limbs than other kangaroo species which is thought to be an adaptation for leaping around on rocks. They appear to survive 2-3 months without drinking, obtaining the water needed from food.

Range

Australia

Habitat

Steep escarpments, rocky hills, caves with overhangs, and areas that provide shelter

Gestation

The gestation period lasts around 30-38 days, after which the young joey travels into the mother's pouch where it suckles and develops. The joey leaves the pouch around 5 months and by 9 months they no longer spend most of their time in the pouch. Male wallaroos are fully developed at 18 – 20 months while females are fully developed between 14 – 24 months.

Litter

1

Behavior

The wallaroo is essentially solitary, occupying a relatively small, stable home range near to a rocky outcrop or water, and moving out of rough country to graze on grasses and shrubs in adjoining areas. Small groups sometimes form around favored resources.

Reproduction

Wallaroos are believed to be polygynous and an opportunistic breeder. They breed throughout the year, although often cease during prolonged droughts. The female can become pregnant soon after giving birth, but the new embryo remains undeveloped until the pouch is free.

Wild Diet

Grasses and shrubs