

RED KANGAROO

HABITAT

The Red Kangaroo lives in grasslands, shrublands, deserts, woodlands, and open forests.^[1] They are mostly found in open savannah woodland across the central arid region of Australia.^[2]

DIET

They are herbivores, grazing on grasses and woody leafy shrubs.^[3] They can survive off small amounts of water and get most of their water intake from the plants they eat.^[4]

REPRODUCTION

Babies are born one at a time into the pouch between spring and summer when they are the size of a jellybean and live there for roughly 33 days. The birth of a new joey can be delayed until the current one has left the pouch. Joeys still use the pouch for safety until 8 months of age.^[5] Females can produce 2 different types of milk and raise up to 3 different-aged kangaroos at the same time.^[6]

THREATS

Their main threats are introduced predators such as foxes and feral dogs,^[7] habitat loss from bushfires and climate change, as well as traffic accidents.^[8] A common crop, called Phalaris grass, is toxic when ingested, causing impaired movement and often leading to them being euthanised.^[9]

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in the Northern Territory^[10], Queensland^[11], New South Wales^[12], South Australia,^[13] and Victoria without a permit.^[14]



"Red Kangaroos at Sturt National Park NSW" by PotMart186 is licenced under [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

DESCRIPTION

Males weigh up to 92kg, and females up to 39kg. They have a body length of up to 1.4m and tails as long as 1m. Males are orange-red, and females are blue-grey.^[15]

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Osphranter rufus^[16]

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern^[17]

CLASS

Mammal^[18]

LIFESPAN

Up to 25 years in captivity and averaging 8 years in the wild^[19]

POPULATION SIZE

Around 42.7 million^[20]

FUN FACT

They are the world's largest marsupial. Can reach speeds of over 55km/h, cover almost 8m in one jump, and can jump almost 2m high.^[21]

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