

WESTERN GREY KANGAROO



Macropus giganteus

STATUS

- The Western Grey Kangaroo is common, but protected by law. Numbers in the wild are managed by licensed culling.

ORIGIN

- Found in the southern half of Australia.

HABITAT

- The Western Grey Kangaroo is found west of the Great Dividing Range.
- It has a wide distribution on the plains and open woodland of South Australia in areas with greater than 250 mm of annual rainfall.
- It is a grazing animal whose diet consists of grasses. This means their main threat is competition for food with domestic stock.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- The Western Grey Kangaroo spends most of the day resting in the shade, but will come out to feed in the late afternoon and early evening.
- They are said to be crepuscular because they are most active around dusk.
- Family groups can vary in size. Sometimes mixed groups of Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos are found in eastern Australia.
- Their method of communication is clicking and coughing.

DESCRIPTION

- The Western Grey Kangaroo breed throughout the year with most births occurring during summer. After a gestation period of 30 days, the newborn young crawks to the female's pouch for about 42 weeks where it continues to develop.
- At birth the young is the size of a jelly bean. Females are mature at 1½ years of age while males mature later at 2½ years of age.
- The Western Grey Kangaroo has fur which is fine and long. They differ from other large kangaroos as they have a hairy muzzle, with fine hairs in



the area between the nostrils and their upper lip.

- They are brown in colour with black hands and feet. This is an easy way to tell them from Eastern Grey kangaroos.
- The male can weigh up to 55 kg and stands nearly two metres tall. The female weighs 27 kg and is shorter than the male.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- The Western Grey Kangaroo is called a macropod which means big footed. Other macropods include wallabies and tree-kangaroos.
- The male has a strong musky smell.