

WESTERN GREY KANGAROO

updated March 2017



Range	Western Australia and northern Tasmania
Habitat	Woodlands, open forests, coastal heathlands, open grassland and scrub land; due to habitat encroachment, can also be found on golf courses
Diet (wild)	Mostly grass, but will browse on certain shrubs
Diet (captivity)	Monogastric grains, lettuce, fruit, and clay available for licking
Description	Height: 6–7 feet; weight: 60–120 pounds. Males are larger than females. Varied in color, from grayish-brown to reddish. Undersides are pale. Small head, large ears, long thick tail used for balance, short forearms, strong hind legs and long broad back feet ideal for hopping and standing upright.
Lifespan	Wild: 5–8 years. Captivity: 18 years
Reproduction	After gestation of 31 days, the female gives birth to a joey, which is about 1 inch long, hairless and sightless, and crawls from the vaginal opening to the pouch by using the only truly developed body part, its claws. Once inside the pouch, the offspring securely attaches itself to a teat which swells to fill the inside of the youngster's mouth. Unlike other kangaroos, an embryo is not kept in a dormant state in the uterus. The joey will leave the pouch around 34 weeks, and is independent at 10 months, although they continue to nurse for another six months. The female will mate again after the joey has left the pouch. Breeding takes place in late spring or early summer.
Behavior	During the hot summer months, the grey kangaroo adapts to a nocturnal lifestyle. They scratch and groom themselves and their offspring with their forepaws. Females clean their pouches approximately three times every 24 hours. Grey kangaroos are the most vocal of the kangaroos: mothers communicate with joeys with a series of clicks. Natural predation is mostly by dingoes. Grey kangaroos are sometimes killed by humans because they compete with livestock for grazing land.
Our animals	1 male. Born: 08/1994 in captivity. Arrived from the National Zoo in Washington D.C. in 06/2002
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey kangaroos can run (hop?) as fast as 55 mph for short distances and leap over 30 feet (9 meters) in each bound. • Kangaroos live in groups called “mobs” which generally have more females (called does or fliers) than males (called boomers or stinkers due to a strong, curry-like smell). • In Australia, kangaroos are protected and controlled exclusively by state authorities, but in some areas hunters are licensed to kill them to protect crops or provide meat, fur and leather. • Australian kangaroo meat is marketed throughout the world as a quality game meat. • Muscle mass makes up approximately 80 percent of the body weight for grey kangaroos. • Males compete for females through “boxing,” whereby the winning males mate. • Kangaroos can't hop backwards.

Phylum
ChordataClass
MammaliaOrder
DiprotodontiaFamily
MacropodidaeGenus
Macropusspecies
M. fuliginosus