



# Common Wallaroo

## Macropus robustus



### Alinga and Jiemba.

Alinga was born on **September 14th, 2010**, and Jiemba was born on **November 4th, 2019** and came to Racine in **July 2021**.

We prefer to travel as a pack and graze in the grass together. Jiemba is always on alert and Alinga likes to lounge in the sun.

We are one of two types of wallaroos found in Australia. You can tell us apart by our **reddish brown** and **dark blue-gray fur**. We are typically **smaller** and **stockier torso** with **shorter limbs** than kangaroos.

## WALLAROOS AT A GLANCE



- We are **Marsupials** where we have a **protective pouch** to keep our young in.
- Female marsupials give **premature births** and keep them in pouches until they grow up.
- Baby wallaroos are called  **joeys**.



- We have **long hind legs** and **strong pelvic and hind muscles** to help us **hop**, our favorite way to move around.
- The hind feet are **short** and **broad** with **roughened soles** to provide extra grip
- All kangaroos, wallaroos, wallabies belong to **macropods** meaning **"big foot."**



- We have a **long, thick tail** that helps us balance when walking or props us up when standing.
- We kinda use it like **"fifth limb."**

Adult size:  
3 to 4 ft tall  
2.5 to 4.5 ft long  
55 to 120 lbs



At the zoo, favorite foods are hay, lettuce, apples, and bread

Avg. life expectancy in the wild:  
up to 18 years  
Avg. life expectancy in human care:  
19+ years

## WHERE ARE WALLAROO HABITATS LOCATED?



Common wallaroos are found throughout Australia where there is suitable vegetation. Typically, they inhabit mountainous areas with steep encampments, rocky hills, overhangs and caves that provide shelter during periods of high temperatures. They also inhabit shrublands, especially around streams, where shrubs are dense enough to provide shelter from the heat.

# Wallaroo Behavior

## SUNBATHING

During the day, we rest under shrubs or in the shade. We like to lay the sun to warm up or sleep.

We are crepuscular, and we are most active during dusk and dawn.



## GRAZING

The food we like to eat grows on the ground like grass, shrubs.

You can find us eating early in the morning or evening. We like to hop through the open areas to find food.



## GROOMING

We are solitary animals, but will touch noses and bodies with others. We like to lick others and ourselves to groom.

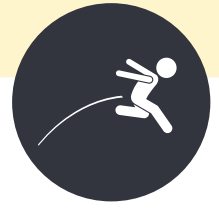
We are licking to clean our fur or helping each other cool down.



## HOPPING

We use our hind legs to hop. We could be traveling alone or in a group to find food and water, or moving away from a predator.

Scientific studies find that hopping is more efficient than quadrupedal running at moderate to high speeds.

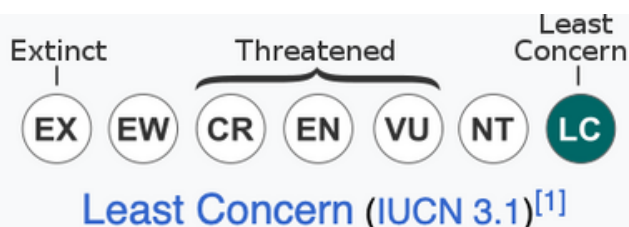


- Common wallaroos are important **seed dispersers** in Australia. They help keep the ecosystem healthy by spreading seeds from the food they eat.
- Generally **solitary**, but will form loose groups when food and water are in abundance. Group is highly flexible in size and composition.
- A baby wallaroo is born after a gestation up to **38 days** where they will climb from the birth canal to the mother's pouch where it will suckle until fully developed at **9 months**

# Wallaroo Conservation

Human-made roads and railways are dividing wallaroo habitats into smaller pastures. They are forced to cross roadways to reach grazing areas which puts them at risk of being hit by motorists.

They are listed as **least concern** on **IUCN Red List**. However, climate change and altered fire regimes are causing rising temperatures and frequent dryer seasons resulting in more intense bushfires destroying suitable habitats for wallaroos.



## How can we help?

We can help animals near our roads by throwing our trash away when we get home. Trash on the road attracts animals, increasing their chances of getting hit by a car. Watch out for animals while driving or underneath your car before driving to places.

We can help fight climate change by walking, biking, or carpooling to places, and using less electricity like turning off lights when you leave a room.