



Red Kangaroos

Osphranter rufus



Blair

I was born on September 27th, 2014.

During the warm summer months, you can find me hanging out or laying in the sun with my friends in Walkabout Creek! When winter comes, my keepers move me behind the scenes to keep me safe from the cold weather and harsh conditions.

RED KANGAROOS AT A GLANCE

- Red kangaroos are the largest marsupials in the world. Females have pouches for their young and give birth very early in their pregnancy (33 days).
- The newborns are very tiny (2.5 centimeters long) and develop in the pouch suckling until they are around 6 months. They are carried in the pouch for 8 months and suckle until they are a year old.
- A kangaroo's tail is extremely muscular. Kangaroos use it for balance when jumping, and to form a tripod for resting. Kangaroos can balance their whole-body weight on their tails.



Female:
2-3 ft
40-198 lbs

Male:
4.5-5.5 ft long
40-198 lbs

4 feet tail

Avg. life expectancy in native habitats:
12-16 years

Avg. life expectancy in human care:
20 years

WHERE ARE RED KANGAROOS NATIVE TO?



Red kangaroos live over most of the central part of Australia in areas where rainfall averages less than 500 millimeters. This expansive area includes scrubland, shrubland, grassland, and desert habitats with very little trees.

Red Kangaroo Behaviors

SLEEPING

Red kangaroo are mostly nocturnal and rest in the shade during the day. During the night, they are most active and looking for food.

You can see us laying in the shade resting and sometimes grazing.



HOPPING

Kangaroos can hop along at 40 mph and can cover up to 26 ft. in a single leap.

You can often see me and my friends hopping along in walkabout creek.



EATING

Kangaroos have a special method for digesting food. They will regurgitate grass and shrubs before chewing for a final time.

At the zoo, my favorite foods include sweet potato, apples, and lettuce!



COMMUNICATION

Kangaroos can communicate through different vocalizations, body language, and through scent marking.

This helps me communicate with both my kangaroo friends, as well as my keepers!



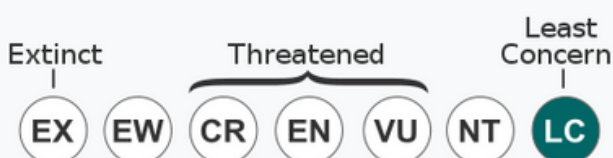
- Kangaroos live in groups, called mobs, of 10 individuals.
- During breeding season, male red kangaroos fight and scare off other males. Fights may include "boxing," in which males hit each other with their front limbs and kick with powerful legs.
- 95% of Kangaroos are left-handed compared to the 12% of left-handed humans.
- A female kangaroo is called a doe or jill, while a male is called a buck or jack. Young are called joeys.

Red Kangaroo Conservation

Grazers like Kangaroos are very important to their habitat. They help disperse rich nutrients and help shape vegetation communities.

Red Kangaroos are currently listed as **Least Concern** due to the high population numbers across Australia.

Conservation status



Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)^[1]

How can we help?

We can help Red Kangaroos by keeping our ecosystems in balance! Choose to plant native plants in your gardens and refrain from using harsh pesticides that may harm native species.