

# Western Grey Kangaroo

## Macropus fuliginosus



### Josie, Julia, and Noel

Josie was born on **July 8th, 2016**. Julia was born on **August 1st, 2016**. Noel was born on **January 31st, 2017**.

We prefer to travel as a pack and graze in the grass together; we feel most safe when we are together!

We are one of four kangaroos found in Australia. You can tell us apart by our **dark brown grey fur**, and our **brown face** with a **white line** on our lower jaw.

## GREY KANGAROOS AT A GLANCE



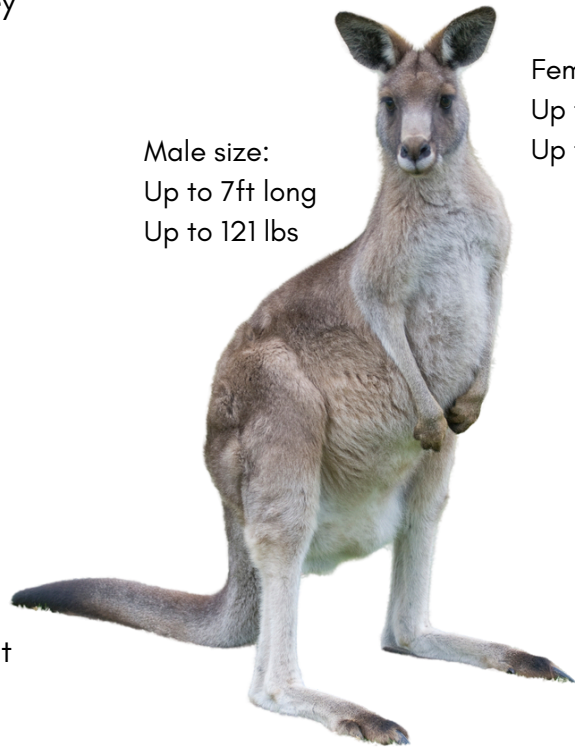
- Grey kangaroos are **marsupials**; they have a **protective pouch** to keep their young (also called “joeys” in).
- Female marsupials give **premature births** and keep their babies in pouches until they grow up.



- **Long hind legs, strong pelvic and hind limb muscles** help kangaroos **hop**, their favorite way to move around.
- All kangaroos, wallaroos, and wallabies belong to the family **macropod** meaning “**big foot**.”



- Kangaroos have a **long, thick tail** that helps them balance when walking, or can prop them up when standing. They can almost use it as a “**fifth limb**.”



Male size:  
Up to 7ft long  
Up to 121 lbs

Female size:  
Up to 5ft long  
Up to 63 lbs

Avg. life expectancy in the wild:  
6-8 years

Avg. life expectancy in human care:  
10-20 years

## WHERE ARE WESTERN GREY KANGAROO HABITATS LOCATED?



Western grey kangaroos are endemic to southern Australia, from Shark Bay east to southwest Queensland. Their range includes west New South Wales, west Victoria, and South Australia's Kangaroo Island. They prefer open grasslands, areas near water and close to forested or woodland areas.

# Grey Kangaroo Behavior

## SUNBATHING

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

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



## GRAZING

At the zoo, we are fed a special diet of fresh fruits and veggies, but we also love to eat grass and hay!

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



## GROOMING

Kangaroos are social animals and often like to sleep together or touch noses. We help groom each other to stay nice and clean.

Not only does grooming keep us clean, it can also help us cool down on hot sunny days!



## CALLING

We have many calls that mean different things. The most common one is a cough-like, clucking sound to say hello to others.

If I see a potential predator, I will thump my feet on the ground hard to warn others.

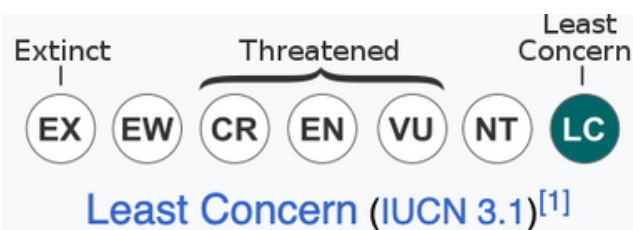


- They utilize the **most vocalizations** of all kangaroos.
- Western grey kangaroos are the **most social** species of kangaroos with groups reaching up to **40-60 individuals**. They have been observed creating **mixed-species** groups.
- A baby kangaroo is born after a gestation up to **34 days** where they will climb from the birth canal to the mother's pouch where it will suckle until fully developed at **9 months**

# Kangaroo Conservation

Human-made roads and railways are dividing kangaroo 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 kangaroos.



## How can we help?

We can help animals near our roadways by ensuring our garbage gets thrown away responsibly; don't litter! 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 traveling.

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.