

# Western Grey Kangaroo

*Macropus fuliginosus*



## At the Racine Zoo:

**They can be found:** In Walkabout Creek

## Quick Facts:

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Lifespan:** 10-20 years old

## **Adult Size:**

Males: ~ 121.5lbs, 7.15 ft. head to tail

Females: ~63 lbs, 5.75 ft. head to tail

**Diet in the Wild:** grasses, leaves, tree bark, shrubby browse, and forbs (herbaceous flowering plants)

**Diet in the zoo:** Pelleted grain and hay

**Habitat:** Open grasslands, near water and close to a forest or woodland area

**Range:** Southern Australia



**Mammal**

**Threats:** Though the species has benefited from the expansion of pastures and availability to artificial water sources, it has lost habitat through agricultural fields and development. In some areas the species is considered numerous and subject to culling and commercial hunting. Concern has also been raised over how many fall victim to car collisions each year.

## **Fun Facts:**

Male Western Grey Kangaroos give off a strong curry-like smell giving them the nicknames of “stinkers.”

This species is the most vocal of all the kangaroos. Mothers will often use “clicking” noises to communicate with their joey in the pouch. Females are also known to build very strong social and familial bonds that can last a lifetime.

Unlike other species, Western Grey Kangaroo females can raise two young at once. After 9 months of being in the pouch the joey will leave but still suckle on the mother. She will then bare a second joey in the pouch for the next 9 months.

A group of kangaroos, which can reach up to 40-50 individuals is called a mob.

Kangaroo ankles do not allow the foot to rotate sideways, thus preventing them from twisting an ankle while hopping.

**Conservation Message:** Western Grey Kangaroos currently listed as a species of least concern. They benefit from pasture lands, but expansion of farm land and development could pose an increasing threat to this species.