

Zoo Mammals

Order Marsupialia

Mammals



- **Endothermic** vertebrates; able to maintain constant body temperature
- Hair or fur, which varies greatly among species
- All mammals have lungs to breathe air
- Most young are born alive, except **Monotremes** who lay eggs
- Mammary glands; feed milk to their babies

Order Marsupialia



- Marsupials give birth to a relatively undeveloped embryo after a short gestation, embryo has limbs formed enough to pull itself through the mother's fur up from the vagina to the pouch, finds a nipple, and attaches itself to grow for several more weeks
- Babies will continue to use the pouch to sleep or for safety even after exploring outside
- Marsupial females have a dual uterine system, with two vaginas, a birth canal and a double uterus leading to each ovary
- Australian Walkabout - naturalist exhibit with sand pits for dust bathing

Family Macropodidae Red Kangaroo



Macropus rufus

- The largest of the living marsupials, this macropod lives over most of Australia, in open savanna woodlands
- Females will conceive only if their has been enough rainfall to produce adequate vegetation
- Eats grass shoots, herbs and leaves
- Kangaroos eat a very abrasive diet and the teeth wear strongly; molars erupt from rear of jaw and move forward, replacing worn molars

Family Macropodidae Common Wallaroo



Macropus robustus

- Found throughout Australia in coastal mountains and rocky inland ranges
- Heavily-built kangaroo with coarse, shaggy fur, a hairless muzzle
- Shorter limbs than other kangaroos, which may be an adaptation for leaping around on rocks of their habitat.
- Common Wallaroo are distinguished by their shaggy coat, stocky build, lower legs and feet uniformly blackish not pale

Family Phascolarctidae Queensland Koala



Phascolarctus cinereus

- Found in eastern Australia in coastal eucalyptus forests
- Specializes in eating eucalyptus leaves; seven foot cecum; microbes break down cellulose and detoxify eucalyptus oils
- Name "koala" is thought to come from the aboriginal term "no drink". Koalas get 90% of water from diet
- Sleep most of the day (18-20 hrs), as they don't get much nutrition from the leaves, they have a slow metabolism
- Pouch opens to the rear and extending up and forward; easier to feed Pap to young; prepares digestive tract for adult diet
- **SSP species**