



Fourth Crossing Wildlife factsheet



Western Grey Kangaroo

scientific name
Macropus fuliginosus
"sooty long-foot"

other names
Black-faced Kangaroo, Mallee Kangaroo, Sooty Kangaroo and Stinker



<https://mol.org/species/>

Description

Male : (one year old or more) Head and body length 946-2225mm (from nose to tail tip with animal extended so the dorsal surface is near to a straight line). Tail length 425-1000mm. Weight up to 53.5kg. Muscular but sleek body. Brown fur, quite short in length and mostly uniform in colour but paler on chest. Narrow, finely haired snout. Inside of ears very furry. Males have a strong, characteristic nutty odour.

Female : Head and body length 971-1746mm. Tail length 443-815mm in length. Weight up to 27.5kg. Appearance as per male.

The mainland Western Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus fuliginosus melanops*) can be found along the southern parts of the continent; along the southern ends of Western Australia and South Australia into western Victoria and in the Murray Darling Basin area of New South Wales and Queensland. A subspecies (*Macropus fuliginosus fuliginosus*) can be found on Kangaroo Island, off the coast of South Australia, and is known as the Kangaroo Island Kangaroo - it is shorter, stockier and more chocolate-brown in colour with darker tips on ears, paws, feet and tail (this is often the species found in zoos and sanctuaries, and is the species in the photo shown above). Some areas on the mainland overlap with the Eastern Grey Kangaroo. The Western Grey Kangaroo lives in mobs (sometimes with a mixture of Western and Eastern Grey Kangaroos). It rests by day and is most active between dusk and dawn (crepuscular). It is a grazer, eating mainly grasses and some plants and shrubs. The oestrus cycle is 35 days and pouch life is 42 weeks. The Western Grey is considered common and is protected in all states.