

Quokka

Setonix brachyurus

Vulnerable

Fact Sheet · Activities

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Quokka — Fact Sheet

Scientific name	Setonix brachyurus
Conservation status	Vulnerable
Region	South-western Australia — mainly Rottnest Island and Bald Island
Habitat	Dense scrubland, tall heath, and areas near freshwater swamps
Diet	Herbivore — grasses, leaves, stems, bark, and roots
Weight	2.5–5 kg
Size	40–54 cm body; tail 25–30 cm
Lifespan	Up to 10 years in the wild
Wild population	Around 7,500–15,000 mature individuals

Did You Know?

- Quokkas are famous worldwide for their friendly expression, dubbed 'the happiest animal on Earth'.
- They are marsupials — mothers carry joeys in a front-facing pouch for about 6 months.
- Quokkas are nocturnal, foraging mostly at night when temperatures are cooler.
- Like kangaroos, they hop on powerful hind legs and can move quickly when threatened.
- They can survive without drinking water for long periods by extracting moisture from plants.

Threats to Survival

1. Introduced predators — foxes and cats have eliminated quokkas from most of mainland Australia
2. Habitat loss from land clearing and altered fire regimes
3. Disease, particularly mange caused by an introduced mite
4. Tourists feeding quokkas inappropriate foods on Rottnest Island

Quokka — Activities

Word Search

Find all 8 words hidden in the grid.

F	G	E	Z	R	L	Q	Q	I	F	I	P
T	S	E	N	T	T	O	R	Z	A	J	X
K	Z	D	O	C	E	Y	H	V	K	X	V
M	Z	L	R	L	C	Z	M	A	K	N	I
R	D	A	O	L	V	X	V	I	O	O	S
H	M	I	U	L	D	V	H	P	U	C	A
T	C	P	R	K	T	H	U	C	Q	T	U
O	W	U	A	I	L	A	R	T	S	U	A
J	U	S	O	N	D	E	B	B	J	R	P
D	D	R	H	P	J	O	E	Y	R	N	E
M	O	A	L	V	O	X	W	R	N	A	S
X	X	M	E	N	U	H	D	P	T	L	N

QUOKKA	MARSUPIAL	AUSTRALIA	POUCH
JOEY	NOCTURNAL	HOP	ROTTNEST

Match It Up

Draw a line from each word on the left to its meaning on the right.

Quokka	'the happiest animal on Earth'
Marsupial	mammal that carries young in a pouch
Joey	a baby marsupial
Nocturnal	most active at night
Rottnest	island where most wild quokkas live

Fill in the Blanks

1. Quokkas are a type of _____ that carries babies in a pouch.
2. Baby quokkas are called _____.
3. Quokkas are mostly active at _____.
4. Most wild quokkas live on _____ Island, Australia.

Answers: marsupial / joeys / night / Rottnest

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