

DISTRIBUTION



A male Kangaroo can leap over 9m metres (30 foot) in one jump!



The Kangaroo evolves from a now extinct tree-dwelling marsupial possum known as a Nambaroo. The feet and ankles, which were perfect for climbing, had to adapt to life on the ground. This gave the Kangaroo its trademark long feet which prevent it from walking normally.

The Kangaroo is the only large animal to hop rather than walk or run - using spring like stretchy elastic tendons rather than muscles it's a great energy saver. When moving slowly, a Kangaroo 'crawl-walks', it supports itself on its tail and front legs then brings its hind feet forward.

Kangaroos are adept swimmers, and often flee into waterways if threatened. If pursued into the water, a Kangaroo may use its forepaws to hold the predator underwater to drown it.



Walter, our hand-reared Kangaroo pictured in September 2009

# RED KANGAROO

*Macropus rufus*



Kangaroos know how to take it easy!

It's tail is often used to create a tripod when standing upright and also acts as a counterweight allowing the kangaroo to gain speeds of up to 70kph, but they can easily hop for vast distances at 25kph.

## FACTS & FIGURES

Where found	Mainland Australia
Habitat	Dry scrub and open savannahs
Diet	Grasses & other vegetation
Average body height	Males 1.6m Females 1.1m Tails 1m +
Average weight	Males 85kg Females 35kg
Gestation	In the pouch for around 225 days
Maximum lifespan	Up to 25 years

International Union for Conservation of Nature RED LIST for the Red Kangaroo



**THE RISK OF EXTINCTION FOR THIS SPECIES HAS CURRENTLY BEEN ASSESSED AS *LEAST CONCERN*** IUCN RED LIST