RED KANGAROO

Macropus rufus

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.

Kangaroos know how to take it easy!

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

FACTS & FIGURES

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.

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