

Bennett's Wallaby

Micropus rufogiseus



What is the history of my relationship with man?

Wallabies are an introduced species in New Zealand, where they are considered a pest. A program to reintroduce them to Australia has met with limited success. A number of wallaby breeding colonies in other parts of the world have been established but only one proved viable.

Habitat / Climate



Where am I from? I am native to the islands of Tasmania, Australia and New Guinea. I like woodlands, shrub lands and grasslands to make feeding and breeding easy.



Who are my relatives? I am also called a red necked wallaby and I am of the order *Diprotodontia* and the family *Macropodidae*. I am one of 30 different types of wallabies all small to medium size Kangaroos. The small kangaroos like me are called Wallabies and the medium ones are called Wallaroo. We are all *Mammals* of the subclass *Marsupialia*.



Other family members:

- Tammar Wallaby
- Western Gray Kangaroo
- Swamp Wallaby
- Hill Wallaroo

Breeding

Offspring per pregnancy? 1

How am I born? After a gestation period of about 30 days I am born live and crawl up into my mothers pouch on the front of her belly following a trail she has licked in her fur. A baby mouse would look large next to me. I stay there for about 280 days nursing and after about 150 days I peek out to see what the world looks like. I live in the pouch about 280 days and am weaned at 12 - 17 months.

Breeding Season

F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E	A	P	A	U	U	E	E	C	O	E
B	R	R	Y	N	L	G	P	T	V	C

Births occurring late summer early fall.

How long does it take me to grow up and how long do I live? If I am a male I reach sexual maturity at 2 years old but if I am a female I am sexually mature at 9 months. My head and body can grow anywhere from 36-40 inches and my tail is about 30 inches long. My tail helps to balance me when I leap. I can weigh anywhere from 28-40 pounds.

Terms for:

- Adult male- Jack
- Adult female- Jill
- Young- Joey
- Group:- Mob

What kind of family life do I have? We Wallabies usually live alone except the mother and her young. My mother will take care of me until I can make it on my own. Loosely associated groups called mobs often share common feeding areas.

What do I eat and when do I eat? I am a herbivore. A variety of shrubs, grass, bushes and leaves are what I eat. I will drink water if I am around it but usually get moisture from the grass. I swallow my food without chewing and later regurgitate a cud and chew it. I feed mostly at night so I am nocturnal, but occasionally can be seen at twilight.

Who are my predators? My main predators are hunters, farmers, wild dogs, cats and the Tasmanian devil.



Here at the Ranch we have had success with having healthy births of our Wallabies. We are currently working on training them to hop into a cloth pouch so we may use them for education.