

WALLAROO

Phylum: Chordata, Class: Mammalia, Order: Marsupialia, Family: Macropodidae
Macropus robustus

Wallaroos are one of over 240 species of marsupials. While marsupials are most often associated with the continent of Australia, they are also found in North, Central, and South America.

There are nearly 60 species in the kangaroo family found in Australia, New Guinea, and nearby islands. They range in size from the tiny, one-pound musky rat kangaroo to the large red kangaroos.

The Common wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*) is also sometimes called: euro, eastern grey wallaroo, red wallaroo, hill kangaroo, etc.



Head and tail length: 43-78 inches

Weight: roughly 90 pounds for males; 60-70 pounds for females

Habitat & Range: *Macropus robustus* is found over most of Australia, but is often restricted to mountainous/hilly country where overhanging ledges and small caves provide shelter from extreme midday temperatures” (Domico 122).

Diet in the wild: grasses, shrubs

Status: *Macropus robustus* is common throughout Australia.

Special features:

- Female marsupials have a pouch, or marsupium, in which the young are carried.
- The common wallaroo is well adapted to the hot, arid environment in which it lives.
- Wallaroos are capable of horizontal leaps up to 13 feet in length.

Behavior & Social Organization: *Macropus robustus* is essentially solitary.

Breeding & Care of Young

- Gestation = 32 days, plus approximately 260 days in the pouch
- “Breeding may occur throughout the year but reproduction is reduced in time of drought and may cease if drought is prolonged” (Cleveland Zoo).

References:

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. “Wallaroo.” Cleveland Metroparks Zoo web site, 9/99 <www.clemetzoo.com>.

Domico, Terry. Kangaroos: The Marvelous Mob. New York: Facts on File, 1993.

San Francisco Zoo. “Wallaroo.” San Francisco Zoo web site, 9/99 <www.sfzoo.org>.

Strahan, Ronald. Mammals of Australia. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1995.

