

## Wallaby

Animals are creatures that come in all shapes and sizes. They are found all around the world, living on land, in water, and flying in the air. Some are as large as a transport plane, while others are small enough to fit inside a person's pocket. Much like human beings, each animal is unique and different from the next, although they may share similarities. Some are covered in hair, while others have rough, scaly skin. Some are friendly and live with humans in their houses, while others are dangerous, and may attack if provoked. A wallaby is an animal that likes warm weather, and may be described as 'cute' by people who see them for the first time.

Wallabies belong to a group of mammals called marsupials, and they are very similar to kangaroos. There are over thirty different species of wallabies, ranging in size from two to six feet. The smaller kinds resemble hares or rabbits, while the larger kinds look more like kangaroos. Regardless of their size, all wallabies have very large hind legs that they use to hop from place to place. They also have long tails, and short forearms, which they use for feeding. Their fur is often different shades of brown or grey, with a few species having red fur.

In general, wallabies are not very social animals, and prefer to live alone. Some species (like the red-necked wallaby) do gather together to forage for food, however. They could be considered to be nocturnal, since they tend to hide during the day and go out at night to find food. They mostly eat grass, plants, leaves from small trees and berries. Their powerful legs allow them to hop very fast, reaching top speeds of 30 miles per hour.

A wallaby may be found in many different kinds of habitats, ranging from tropical rainforests to rocky hills to open plains. Because their habitats are so diverse, they are often named after them. For example, the rock wallaby is found in the rocky terrain of northern Australia, while the western brush wallaby is found in the open forests on the southwest coast. Depending on where they live, different species have adapted physically. The rock wallaby has developed grooves on the bottom of its feet, to help grip the rocks. Although wallabies were originally only found in Australia and New Guinea, they now live in other parts of the world, where humans have introduced them.

Wallabies are plentiful throughout the world and are not endangered. Because they eat a lot of plants and fruits, they are actually helpful to the ecosystem because seeds from their food pass through their digestive tract and get deposited in the environment. They also serve as prey for many predators, including coyotes, fox, large eagles, crocodiles and snakes. Humans have infringed on the wallaby's habitat, resulting in car accidents and infrequent attacks (wallabies will use their powerful legs to kick and defend themselves). Recently, smaller species like the Damas wallaby, are becoming popular pet choices, for those who have the right environment. Although they are not domesticated and cannot be housetrained, they can be quite docile and friendly.

## Bibliography

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