

# Red-necked Wallaby (Bennett's Wallaby)

*Macropus rufogriseus*



**Class:** *Mammalia*

**Order:** *Diprotodontia*

**Family:** *Macropodidae*

**Characteristics:** Red-necked wallabies get their name from the red fur on the back of their neck. They are also differentiated from other wallabies by the white cheek patches and larger size compared to other wallaby species ([Bioweb](#)). The red-necked wallaby's body fur is grey to reddish in color with a white or pale grey belly. Their muzzle, paws and toes are black ([Australia Zoo](#)). Wallabies look like smaller kangaroos with their large hindquarters, short forelimbs, and long, muscular tails. The average size of this species is 27-32 inches in the body with a tail length of 20-28 inches. The females weigh about 25 pounds while the males weigh significantly more at 40 pounds. The females differ from the males of the species in that they have a forward opening pouch ([Sacramento Zoo](#)).

**Behavior:** Red-necked wallabies are most active at dawn and dusk to avoid the mid-day heat. In the heat, they will lick their hands and forearms to promote heat loss. ([Animal Diversity](#)) These wallabies are generally solitary but do forage in small groups. The males will have boxing matches with one another to determine social hierarchy within populations. They can often be seen punching, wrestling, skipping, dancing, standing upright, grabbing, sparring, pawing, and kicking. All members of the kangaroo and wallaby family travel by [hopping](#). Red-necked wallabies can hop up to 6 feet in the air. At slower speeds, the wallabies will move using all [4 limbs and their tail](#). Wallabies are also excellent swimmers ([San Diego Zoo](#)).

**Reproduction:** Red-necked wallabies are marsupials and therefore keep their young in a [forward facing pouch](#) for the first 9 months after birth. There is a very short gestation period of just 30 days, followed by the long pouch time. Only one offspring is born at a time, but a female may have a joey outside of the pouch, a developing infant in the pouch, and a blastocyst inter-utero all at the same time. The female will mate again right after birth, but will delay implantation until the pouch is no longer occupied by a joey. The joey will be weaned at 12-17 months ([Toronto Zoo](#)).

**Diet:** Wild: Grasses and leafy plants ([San Diego Zoo](#))  
Zoo: Vegetables, greens, alfalfa pellets, wallaby pellets,

**Conservation:** [IUCN](#) lists this species as least concern. Bennett's wallabies are thought to have a wide distribution and can thrive in many different habitats. There is an especially large population in Tasmania. There are no known threats to this wallaby population and the population size is thought to be stable.

**FYI:** Females have the ability to produce two different kinds of milk; one for a pouched young, and another for a joey outside of the pouch. ([Toronto Zoo](#))



## Range & Habitat:

Flat, high-ground eucalyptus forests near open grassy areas in Tasmania and South-eastern Australia.



**Lifespan:** up to 15 years in captivity, 15 years in the wild.

**Special Adaptations:** The wallaby has a long, heavy tail to help them maintain their balance while hopping and for support when standing upright.

**IUCN Conservation Status:**  
Least Concern

