



Babs and Bert Wells/DEC

# RED-TAILED PHASCOGALE

## Description

The Red-tailed Phascogale's fur is mostly ash-brown, which fades to white under the belly. The tail is a deep rust colour that extends to a hairy black brush at the end. At 13–14 cm, it is almost as long as the phascogale's body.

## Diet

Red-tailed Phascogales are **carnivores**. They eat insects, small mammals and birds. They receive enough water through their food and therefore rarely have to drink water.

## In the wild

For a three-week period in July, males embark on an exhausting and fatal frenzy of mating. They travel large distances to mate with as many females as possible. During this flurry of mating activity, the males' immune system fails before they reach 12 months of age and they succumb to stress-related illnesses and die. Females usually survive the mating season to breed a second or third time.

## Threats

Habitat destruction and introduced predators such as cats and foxes are the greatest threats to the Red-tailed Phascogale.

## At Perth Zoo

You can see a Red-tailed Phascogale in the Nocturnal House.

**Scientific Name**  
*Phascogale calura*

### Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

Endangered

Vulnerable

**Near-Threatened**

Least Concern

Data Deficient

Not Evaluated

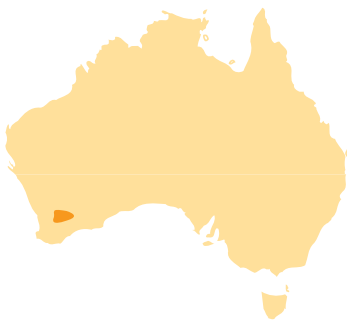


**Body Length:** 11–15 cm

**Weight:** 35–70 g

**Gestation:** About 30 days

**Number of young:** 6–15



Distribution ■

**Distribution:** Wheatbelt region in Western Australia

**Habitat:** The Red-tailed Phascogale is restricted to isolated patches of forest that receive 300-600 mm of annual rainfall

## Did you know?

The Red-tailed Phascogale is an excellent climber and can jump up to 2 m from branch to branch, catching unsuspecting birds.

