



Western Ringtail Possum

Fast Facts



Scientific Name: *Pseudocheirus occidentalis*

Conservation Status: Vulnerable



Body Length: 30–35 cm

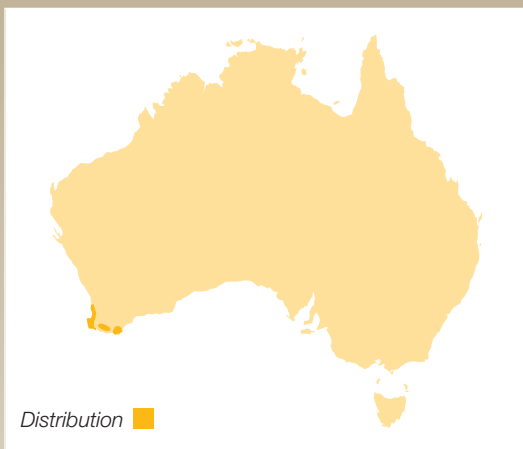
Weight: 900–1100 g

Gestation: unknown

Number of young: 1

Habitat: Peppermint or eucalypt forests

Distribution: South-west Western Australia



Description

This possum has dark-brown fur on top with a cream or grey chest and stomach. Western Ringtail Possums have short, rounded ears, and a strong prehensile tail which is 30–35 cm long.

Diet

Western Ringtail Possums are herbivores and feed on eucalypt, marri and peppermint tree leaves, buds, blossoms and soft fruit.

In the wild

Western Ringtail Possums are nocturnal and sleep in leafy nests in tree-holes during the day. They are fairly sociable and share home ranges and nests.

The actual gestation period of Western Ringtail Possums is not known. Births mostly take place in winter. Young emerge at about three months and suckle until six to seven months.

Threats

Habitat destruction and predation by feral cats and foxes are threats to the Western Ringtail Possum population.

At Perth Zoo

The Nocturnal House is home to Perth Zoo's Western Ringtail Possums.

Join the Perth Zoo-coordinated Night Stalk from 1 September to 16 October and spotlight for native animals in your local bushland. Night Stalk is a great way to become involved in community conservation action and to learn about our native animals, their habitat and their threats. Night Stalk is sponsored by Tronox.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Possums long, thin, grasping tail helps it move through the forest and is also used to carry twigs and leaves to build its nest.



Department of Parks and Wildlife



Perth Zoo
SAVING WILDLIFE