

# Red Kangaroo



**Scientific Name:**  
*Macropus rufus*

**Range:**  
Central Australia

**Habitat:**  
Deserts and scrubland

**Average Size:**  
Body Length: 38-73 inches  
Body-Tail Length: 68-128 inches  
Weight: 77-190 pounds

**Lifespan:**  
About 20 years

**Diet:**  
*Wild:* Grasses and some flowering plants

*Zoo:* Herbivore pellets, sweet potato, other fruits and vegetables, bread, hay and grass.

**Reproduction:**  
*Gestation:* 33 days

*Litter size:* One

**Appearance:**  
Coat color is usually reddish brown in males and bluish gray in females, although these colors are reversed in some areas, with females being reddish and males blue-gray.

**Predators:**  
Predominantly humans, although joeys are known to be attacked by dingos and raptors.

**Population Status:**  
Stable



## About the Animal

The Red Kangaroo is best known for its amazing jumping ability. Kangaroos rarely jump higher than 9 feet, but when moving at their top speed of 30 mph, leaps can be more than 25 feet long.

Because their legs are so well adapted for leaping, the kangaroo's hind legs do not move independently of one another. They cannot walk, only hop.

Red Kangaroos thrive in the inhospitable scrub forest and deserts where temperatures can exceed 100° F. During the day, they lounge in the shade to keep cool. On very hot days, if shade is not enough to keep cool, kangaroos take 'spit baths' by drooling on their front legs and licking their bodies.

## Mating and Reproduction:

During breeding, males compete for access to females. These competitions, known as boxing matches, do not often result in injury.

Baby Kangaroos are born after only a 33 day gestation period. The newborn resembles a pink squirming jellybean with underdeveloped front limbs. It makes the arduous journey across the mother's abdomen and enters the pouch, where it attaches to a nipple. The nipple swells in the newborns' mouth, preventing it from becoming detached and dropping out the pouch. Females exhibit embryonic diapause (a pause in the development of the embryo) when there is a joey in the pouch. Once the joey leaves the pouch (at about 235 days old), the embryo resumes development. Female often have a newborn in the pouch and a joey that continues to nurse until about 1 year in age.

## Amazing Information:

In areas where food is plentiful, Red Kangaroos will gather in mobs of up to 1,500 members!



Please recycle

**CAPRON PARK ZOO**  
201 COUNTY STREET, ATTLEBORO, MA  
02703