



Red Kangaroo *Macropus rufus*

Description: Red Kangaroos are the largest marsupial. They can tower over 6 feet tall and weigh up to 200 pounds. They are so named for the red color in their fur. The females have pouches that they carry their young in, or joeys. They can move very fast when hopping on their hind legs, but since their hind legs cannot move independently of each other they use their front feet for stability.

Habitat: They are found in grassy woodlands and arid lands.

Range: They are found all over Australia and are very common there.

Life Span: They have an average life span of 22 years but can live longer in captivity.

Natural Diet: They are herbivores, so will eat grass and other vegetations they find in the wild.

Zoo Diet: At the zoo they receive a diet commercialized kangaroo/wallaby chow, chopped vegetables and greens.

Behavior: They live in groups called mobs. The males are known to be considerably aggressive, especially during mating season. They will fight by notoriously "boxing" other kangaroos with their powerful back feet.

Reproduction: The females will give birth to one baby, or joey, and it will immediately crawl into her pouch for further development. It will stay in her pouch for several months and can be seen seeking refuge in mom's belly for up to 8 months.

Conservation Status: Least concern

