

Kangaloola News



Koalas in our care



Photo: Pooh-Bear and Winnie

Koalas are solitary animals by nature, but they do enjoy others company at times

Koalas sleep about 20 hours per day (you could be so lucky!). You might think caring for them is easy ... but it is not. During their few hours of activity, they need to eat 10% of their body

weight of eucalyptus leaves, somewhere from 400 to 1000 grams of material every day. And not just any old leaves! They are very fussy and require a lot of effort to maintain the right food.

Koalas: status & distribution

The species official status is THREATENED. Did you know that Koalas were hunted to extinction (by 1920) in the state of South Australia? They have been reintroduced in SA. Nationally, they are at risk due to habitat destruction for housing development, clearing for agriculture, bushfires, vehicle accidents and disease. The main disease is Chlamydia, which is sexually transmitted. Long term effects are blindness, infertility or death.

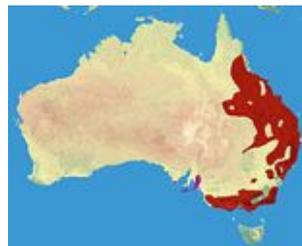


Photo: Pooh-Bear sleeping

BIOGRAPHIES

Winnie



Female, age unknown. She was rescued in a stressed condition due to tree loss in a new housing development.

Pooh-Bear



Female, age 12 months. Pooh was a joey with Winnie (Mum) when she was rescued. There was a risk of dog attack.



Winnie and Pooh-Bear have been in the shelter for about 3 months. They will be released to a safe place in the bush when the food supply is good.

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The closest relative to Koala is the Wombat



The challenge of providing the right food

Koalas are herbivorous, fussy eaters and while most of their diet consists of gum leaves, they show a strong preference for a small number of species. There are 800 species of gum trees in Australia, but Koalas are known to eat only about 30, and even



then it depends on season, soil conditions etc. Because they prefer tips and young leaves, only the very top of the branches can be cut to provide food.

Feeding the 3 residents of Kangaloola requires a trip into the bush every 2-3 days for about 4-6 hours to collect a load like the one shown here. Speed and care must be taken to prevent the tips from drying out, a real challenge in the summer months.

Koalas get very little energy from their gum leaf diet, hence they must limit their energy use, which is why they spend so much time sleeping and looking cute in the fork of a tree.

Photo: a load of gum leaves



Photo: the soft, young tips of an Apple Box tree

Stay in touch with us:

<https://www.facebook.com/KangaloolaWildlifeShelter>

On the web:

<http://www.kangaloolawildlifeshelter.org.au>

Koala rescue – what to do



Photo: Pooh-Bear enjoying her leaves

Kangaloola is funded entirely by donations. We depend on your generosity to continue vital work of rescue, care and rehabilitation of wildlife. If you believe in what we do, and want to help, please give generously today (on the web).

Handle the animal carefully and as little as possible. Keep it in a quiet environment (and warm if necessary). Keep people and dogs away. Be careful not to get scratched or injured when helping a Koala. Get the animal to a Vet or Wildlife Carer as soon as possible, without delay.

If you find a dead Koala, check the pouch for a joey. If you find one, preferably call a Wildlife Carer before you do anything. If the joey is still attached to a teat, then leave it alone and take the dead adult with the joey in the pouch to a Wildlife Carer.

Yackandandah area 24HR Rescue Hot Line:

0407 412 750

Elsewhere: google "wildlife rescue"