

Chuditch (western quoll)

Dasyurus geoffroii



Description: The distinctive markings and size of the chuditch make it easy to identify. Numerous white spots on this marsupial's reddish-brown body fur break up its outline, making the chuditch hard for both predators and prey to see. Their granulated footpads and dark 'brush' on their tails readily distinguishes them from their more arboreal relative, the northern quoll which has striated footpads and no 'brush' on its tail.


Diet and Habitat: About one third the size of an average domestic cat, the chuditch is Western Australia's largest carnivorous marsupial. They hunt large invertebrates and small vertebrates on the ground at night, but will also consume carrion such as road-kill.

This solitary animal has a large home range and is able to climb. It sleeps in hollow logs or burrows during the day.

Breeding: Young are born between May and September and are independent at about six months of age. They are sexually mature by their first breeding season and live up to four years.

Distribution: Occurring naturally only in the greater south-west corner of Western Australia, attempts have been made to reintroduce the chuditch to other mainland sites, including sanctuaries with mixed success.

The chuditch will be the last animal reintroduced to Dirk Hartog Island National Park as part of the *Return to 1616* Ecological Restoration Project.

 Current distribution (approximate)



Quick facts

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| Head-body: | 260 - 400mm |
| Tail: | 210 - 350mm |
| Average weight: | 0.6 - 2kg |
| Gestation: | 17 - 18 days |
| Number of young: | 2 - 6 |
| Weaned: | 4 - 5 months |

Conservation Status

Loss of habitat and feral predators (foxes and feral cats) are major threats to the chuditch.



Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018.



DID YOU KNOW?

Chuditch are the largest carnivorous marsupial in Western Australia.