



Chuditch

Fast Facts



Other Names: Western Quoll, Western Native Quoll

Scientific Name: *Dasyurus geoffroi*

Conservation Status: Near Threatened

Extinct Threatened Least Concern



Body Length: 26–40 cm

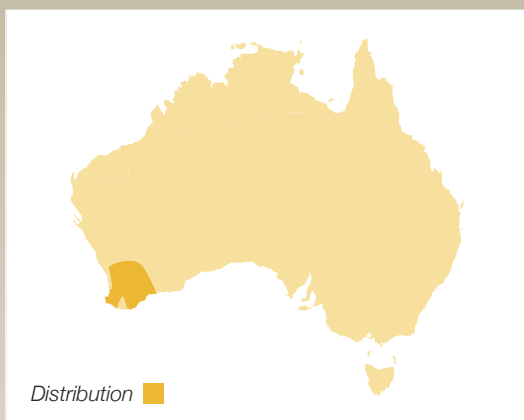
Weight: 1–2 kg

Gestation: 17–18 days

Number of young: 2–6

Habitat: Sclerophyll forest, dry woodland, mallee shrubland

Distribution: South-west Western Australia



Distribution ■

Description

The Chuditch (a Nyoongar name), or Western Quoll, is Western Australia's largest carnivorous marsupial. It has white spots on its body but none on its long tail, which can comprise up to half of its total body length. Its pointed face is paler than its body, and it has large eyes and rounded ears, trimmed with white fur.

Diet

The Chuditch is an opportunistic carnivore and feeds mostly on large invertebrates. It also eats small lizards, birds, mammals, frogs and carrion (dead animals).

In the wild

The Chuditch sleeps in hollow logs and burrows/dens during the day and hunts at night. This animal is an excellent climber, which makes it easier for it to catch tree-dwelling animals. It is nocturnal and solitary and is highly protective of its territory.

Threats

Loss of habitat through land clearing and predation by feral predators, such as foxes and cats, are major threats to the Chuditch.

At Perth Zoo

You can see a Chuditch in the Nocturnal House.

Perth Zoo was involved in a very successful breeding program with the Department of Parks and Wildlife, which saw the release of five populations of zoo-bred Chuditch into feral-proofed environments in Western Australia. This program has been so successful that the status of the Chuditch was downlisted from endangered to near threatened.

The Chuditch exhibit is proudly sponsored by:



DID YOU KNOW?

The spotted pattern of the Chuditch's coat helps to break up its outline in the moonlight, protecting it from predators and masking its movements through woodland.