

# COMMON WOMBAT

*Vombatus ursinus*

The Common Wombat (also known as the Coarse-haired or Bare-nosed Wombat) is a short, stocky, barrel-shaped marsupial with physical characteristics that reflect its burrowing nature. It has a broad head with small eyes & a large hairless nose, a short strong neck, powerful shoulders & a very small tail hidden by fur. Colour of the wombat's coarse coat varies from glossy black, dark grey, silver-grey, chocolate brown, grey-brown, sandy & cream. When threatened it will escape to the nearest burrow, where it can defend itself by crushing a predator's head with its cartilage covered rump against the roof or wall of the burrow.

## DISTRIBUTION & HABITAT

The main habitat for the Common Wombat is the temperate forest-covered areas of southeastern Australia including Tasmania. Today the species has fragmented distribution & has almost disappeared from the western half of Victoria and it is absent from many parts of New South Wales.

## DIET

Wombats are nocturnal grazers & their main diet is fibrous native grasses, sedges and rushes. The choice of food depends on what is available at the time.



## LIFE EXPECTANCY & BREEDING

Breeding can take place at any time of the year, with a single young (joey) being born.

The young are dependent on the female for at least 17 months. Common Wombats become sexually mature at about two years, and can live up to 11 years in the wild. In captivity, individuals can live well into their 20's.