

# EASTERN QUOLL

*Dasyurus viverrinus*

The male Eastern Quolls are about the size of a small domestic cat averaging 60cm in length & 1.3 kg in weight; females are slightly smaller. They have thick, soft fur that is coloured fawn, brown or black. Small white spots cover the body except for the bushy tail which may have a white tip. They are nocturnal, mainly solitary & sleep during the day in nests made under rocks, logs or in burrows.

## DISTRIBUTION & HABITAT

The Eastern Quoll is widespread in Tasmania (but listed as ENDANGERED) & previously inhabited south-eastern Australia, however it is now considered extinct on the mainland of Australia. It is found in a variety of habitats including rainforest, heathland, alpine areas & scrub.

## DIET

They are an opportunistic carnivorous marsupial being an impressive hunter eating insects & taking mammals such as rabbits, mice & rats as well as small snakes & skinks; carrion & some fruits are also eaten.

## LIFE EXPECTANCY & BREEDING

Breeding occurs in early winter. After a gestation period of 21 days, females can give birth to up to 20 young. However, the pouch contains only six teats, limiting



survival to the young which can first attach themselves to these teats. The young are weaned at 18 to 20 weeks. If the female needs to move to a different den she carries the young on her back. They reach sexual maturity at 1 year & have a naturally short life span of only 2 to 3 years in the wild.



## CONSERVATION STATUS

ENDANGERED (IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) | ENDANGERED (EPBC)