

BILBY

Macrotis lagotis

STATUS
Endangered



WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

- Arid Western Australia and Northern Territory with isolated populations in southern Northern Territory and SW Queensland.
- Historically, the Bilby used a wide variety of vegetation types and land forms, including open eucalyptus forest and woodlands in semi-arid regions, and hummock grasslands in arid Australia.
- The distribution can be limited by the availability of suitable burrowing habitat, such as dunes where burrow excavation is easier.

DIET

Insect larvae, other insects, termites, ants, bulbs, seeds and plant fibre.

AT WILD LIFE SYDNEY ZOO

- We have 3 females on display in Nightfall.
- We feed the girls seed, Eukanuba dog biscuits, fruits, mung beans, alfalfa, carrot, corn, roaches, sweet potato, paw paw, supplements such as egg, cheese, insectivore mix, fly pupae, crickets and mealworms (their favourite).

Bibies, not bunnies
at Easter!



LIFESPAN

In captivity 4-11 years
In the wild 6-7 years

WEIGHT

0.8 - 2.5kg

WILD FACTS

- It is the largest of the small, rat-like marsupials that are known as bandicoots
- The Bilby is in general a solitary animal, nocturnal and can breed throughout the year.
- In captivity males have a strict dominance hierarchy and engage in scent marking around their burrows (that's why we only have females)

CONSERVATION AND EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

- Before European settlement the Greater Bilby was found on over 70% of the Australian mainland; the species now only occurs in less than 20% of its former range.
- The Bilby's range has been significantly reduced. The reason for the decline has been due to the introduced predators such as foxes and cats. In addition, competition with introduced herbivores such as rabbits and changes in fire regime is also a major contributor to their decline.
- National recovery plans include the reduction of fox and cat numbers and the reintroduction of the Bilby within its former range with the assistance of predator proof fences.