

YELLOW-FOOTED ROCK-WALLABY

STATUS
Near threatened

Petrogale xanthopus



WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

- Inland South-Eastern Australia (South Australia and NSW).
- They have a patchy distribution throughout the rocky outcrops in semi-arid country, ranging from sandstones, limestones and conglomerates, in the Flinders Ranges, to granites in the Gawler Ranges and Olary Hills.
- Some colonies require some form of permanent water supply up to 5km distance
- To minimize water loss on hot days they will stay deep in their rocky shelters

LIFESPAN
6-13 years

WEIGHT
6-11 kg

DIET

Opportunistic feeder eating short grasses, herbage and browse, according to seasonal availability

AT WILD LIFE SYDNEY ZOO

- We have 5 Yellow Footed Rock wallabies - 1 male, 4 females.
- The male is castrated to avoid a joey explosion.
- We feed our wallabies grass pellets, carrots, corn, native grasses and browse. mum forages for food.
- They are the largest of the wallabies and have the most colourful markings.
- The skin on a yellow-footed rock-wallaby's feet is thick and rough, so that it can grip onto steep surfaces and not slip. This proves invaluable when it is hopping between boulders and crevices.

WILD FACTS

- Colony sizes vary from less than 10 to over 100 individuals
- They can climb trees to feed and avoid danger
- Unlike other wallabies, after leaving the pouch, the joey does not follow the mother around, but stays in a safe place in the rocks while the mum forages for food.
- They are the largest of the wallabies and have the most colourful markings.
- The skin on a yellow-footed rock-wallaby's feet is thick and rough, so that it can grip onto steep surfaces and not slip. This proves invaluable when it is hopping between boulders and crevices.

CONSERVATION AND EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

- The YFRW was subject to intensive hunting by fur traders in the past. This contributed to the early decline of the species, particularly in the Flinders Ranges.
- Status is likely as a result of competition with feral herbivores (such as goats, which are able to survive in the same habitat) as well as feral predators, as well as habitat degradation resulting from drought and pastoral activities.