

LUMHOLTZ'S TREE KANGAROO



Common name

Lumholtz's tree kangaroo

Scientific name

Dendrolagus lumholtzi

Habitat

Tree canopies in highland rainforests (more than 300m above sea level).

Habitat range/distribution

The Lumholtz's tree kangaroo lives in the Wet Tropics rainforest of tropical north Queensland centred on the Atherton Tablelands—between the Daintree Rainforest and the Cardwell Range.

Description

Males can weigh up to 10kg and females up to 7kg.

The forearms are long and very muscly, and the back feet are short and wide. Under each back foot is a soft pad that can mould around branches and tree trunks for climbing. The front feet have curved claws and rough, bumpy pads underneath for gripping.

This species generally likes to be alone, but sometimes will gather with a few others. The female produces a single young, and this joey feeds from a teat in the female's pouch.

The Lumholtz's eats leaves and fruits from a wide range of plants. It is nocturnal, sleeping hunched over on a branch high in the tree canopies during the day.

To climb trees, this animal grips the trunk or branch with its forelimbs and pushes up with its hind limbs. Its very long tail is used for balance when resting or moving along a branch. It walks awkwardly along the ground, but moves well in the trees and is a great jumper.

Importance

All species are important because they each play an important and unique ecological role and hence help maintain a healthy and diverse natural environment, contribute to our economy (through ecotourism) and are culturally significant to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait islander peoples. The Lumholtz's tree kangaroo is culturally significant to the Djirrbal and Ngadjon-jii peoples, members of the Djirrbalngan language group living on the Atherton Tablelands.

Key threats

- Clearing of rainforest habitat—a threat that has lessened since the Wet Tropics was declared a World Heritage Area in 1988.
- Travelling between patches of rainforest—to disperse and mate—places them at risk of being killed on roads and through dog attacks.
- An unknown virus or disease has blinded some individuals.

What is being done to help protect and conserve this species:

David Fleay Wildlife Park on the Gold Coast (run by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service) and Rainforestation Nature Park near Kuranda educate people about the species, and you can visit one on-site!

The Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group on the Atherton Tablelands raises awareness, and undertakes research and other projects to protect tree kangaroos.

The Tree Roo Rescue and Conservation Centre at Malanda in North Queensland rescues orphaned, injured or displaced tree kangaroos.

Become a Lumholtz's tree kangaroo champion

- Visit the Lumholtz's tree kangaroo at David Fleay or Rainforestation.
- Tell your friends and family about the species.
- Get permission and raise funds for tree kangaroo conservation projects/groups.
- Contact tree kangaroo conservation/wildlife groups to volunteer to help.
- Talk to your friends and family about threats to Lumholtz's tree



A neat way of staying dry! The fur covering its body points outward from near the middle of the back, allowing water to run off its fur while it sleeps.

THE DECODER

Use the code below to decode and find the answer:

What features help the tree kangaroo to climb and move around in the trees?

3-21-18-22-5-4 3-12-1-23-19 6-15-15-20 16-1-4-19 22-5-18-25

12-15-14-7 20-1-9-12 13-21-19-3-12-25 6-15-18-5-1-18-13-19.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWER

What is the Lumholtz's tree kangaroo's tail used for?

- a) To waggle when it's happy
- b) Gripping branches
- c) Balance
- d) Self-defence

What does it eat?

- a) Lasagne
- b) Fruit and leaves
- c) Insects
- d) Nuts

This animal is the only species of kangaroo that can walk backwards.



Answers:
 1. Lumholtz's tree kangaroo.
 2. Curved claws; foot pads; very long tail; muscly forearms.
 3. - c) balance; b) fruit and leaves.