



Quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*)

Size: Head and body length, 40 - 54 cm; tail, 24.5 - 31 cm **Weight:** 2.7 - 4.2 kg **Habitat:** Dense swamps, heath, thickets, low forest and waterside areas **Surviving number:** Estimated at 7,850 - 17,150 mature individuals



Photographed by Jean-Paul Ferrero

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

Heir and a spare. The female quokka is equipped with a pre-embryonic structure called a blastocyst, which develops into an embryo if her joey dies before becoming independent enough to leave the pouch. Nature has also endowed the quokka with bacteria in its gut capable of breaking down the poor-quality vegetation in its environment. Terrestrial but able to climb trees and small shrubs, the little marsupial browses for leaves and

grass, and searches out the best shelter from the sun in the scorching summer. But all its natural advantages avail it little against the threats of foxes, feral cats, habitat loss and disease.

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