



KOALAS

An Endangered Marsupial

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http://cdn2-b.examiner.com/sites/default/files/styles/large_lightbox/hash/ee/a1/ARTICLE_EX_crop_Koala%20Close%20Up%20Portrait_Otway_MG_5444_7D_0.jpg

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Introduction

What is gray, white, and a little bit of pink? A koala! These amazing animals have a good sense of balance, hearing, and smell. They need to look out for dingos, dogs, and people. People keep cutting down the eucalyptus trees that are the koala's habitat and food source. As a result, the Koala is

ENDANGERED!

Names



http://www.veriditasbotanicals.com/img/oils_euc10.jpg

The koala has three correct names and one incorrect name. The incorrect name is “koala Bear” because the koala is not a bear! One correct name is the koala. Another is marsupial, an animal that lives in its mother’s pouch when it’s a baby. Other marsupials are opossums and kangaroos. The third is in Latin, it is *Phascolarctos cinereus*.

Those are three of the koala’s correct names.

Description



A baby and mother koala

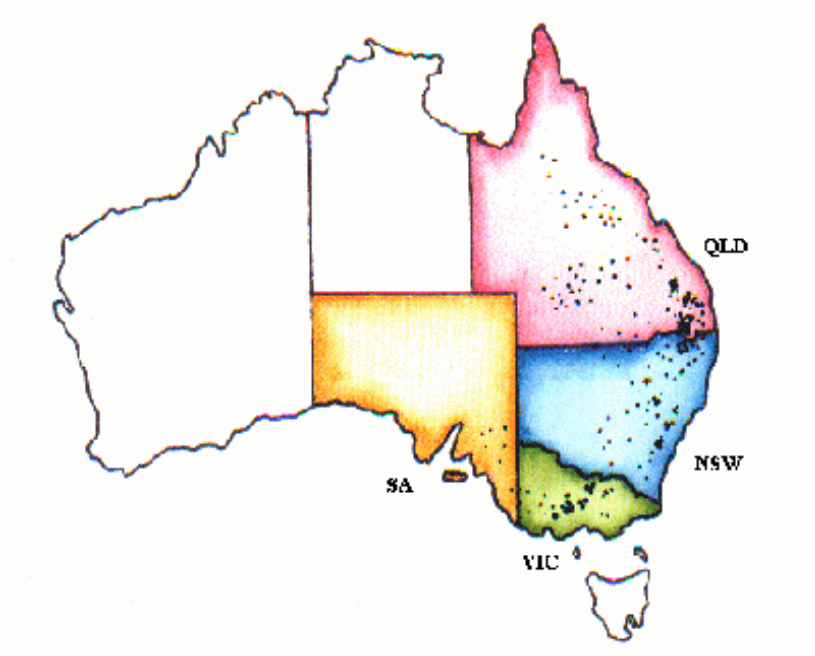
The koala's life cycle and mating habits are rather interesting. First, the koala is born. A newborn baby is as big as a jelly bean! Then the baby koala gets into its mother's pouch. When it's about two years old, it gets out of its mother's pouch, but

<http://www.fanpop.com/clubs/koalas/images/29861240/title/koala-photo>

lives close to its mother. Around age two, a koala can mate, but they usually wait until they are four years old because it needs to be strong enough to fight off other koalas who want its mate. Then a koala gets a mate and can have a baby. The koala is different shapes and sizes because of their different breeds. Some have ears that are puffy with fur, and others have thinner, less fluffy ears. The males are bigger than the females, so they are different sizes. koalas have a good sense of balance and a broad butt that is good for sitting on eucalyptustrees without falling off. They also have a big head and nose, and a body that looks chubby. koalas may look fat, but they aren't really that heavy, it's just the shape of their bodies. They are fifteen to twenty pounds.

Range and Population

Koalas usually stay close to home and stay in the trees. They live in Australia, near New South Wales and all along the coast of the Pacific Ocean. There are less than 100,000 koalas left in the wild. They are



<http://library.thinkquest.org/6322/habitat.html>

dying out because of dogs and other predators that kill them. A dingo is one of the koala's enemies. It will tire the koala out by chasing it, then it will kill it.

Threats

Koalas are mostly dying out because of us, people. If you see people with chainsaws, they will cut down trees!



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Arborists-3,-Kallista,-VIC,-09.07.2008.jpg>

People are cutting down eucalyptus trees for cities and farming. As you imagine, these threats are very serious because the koala depends on eucalyptus trees for shelter and food.

Solutions

As a result of these problems, the koala is DYING OUT. We need to stop cutting down trees. We can stop building city's and more farms. We need to put them in wildlife sanctuaries. koalas can't change their food source because it's very specific, and it is where they live. Koalas need more room in the world. One person can help koalas by making a eucalyptus tree sanctuaries.



<http://www.google.com/imgres?q=wwf&hl=en&tbo=d&biw=1103&bih=838&tbs=isz:m&tbn=isch&tbnid>

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