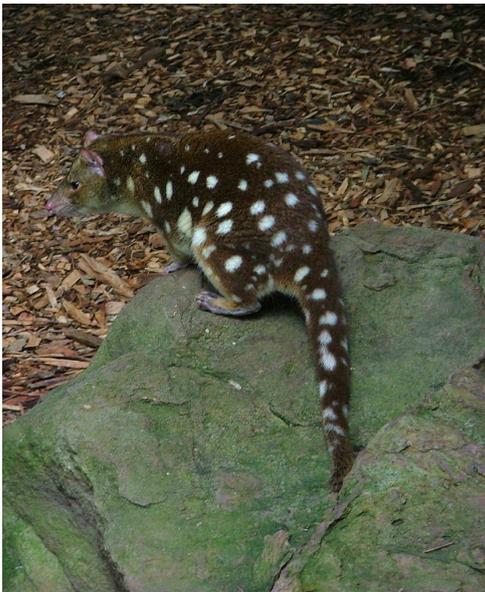


Wildlife Fact Sheet # 2

Spotted-tailed Quoll *Dasyurus maculatus*

The largest marsupial predator on mainland Australia, the Spotted-tailed Quoll is also known as the Tiger Quoll & Tiger Cat in recognition of its ferocious appetite. Covered with a deep red fur and white spots, it is the only Quoll species with spots on its tail. Spotted-tailed Quolls grow to 1m long and up to 7kg with males around 30% larger than females. They are similar in size to domestic cats though have shorter legs which assist them in climbing around their forest habitat. This, the largest quoll lives up to 7 years of age.

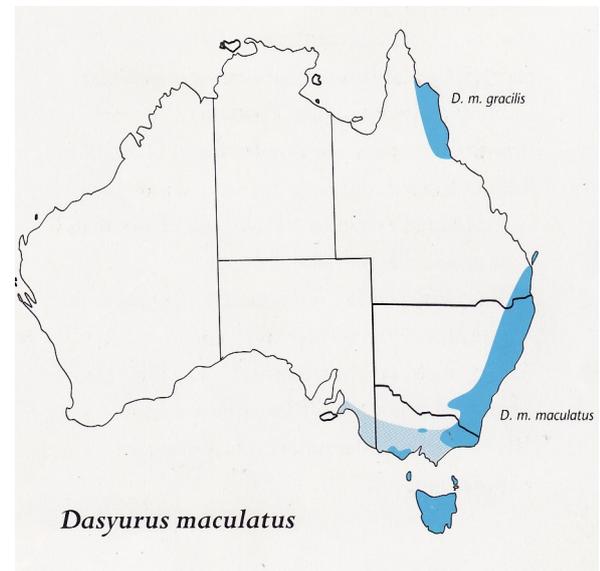


Conservation Status:

As Spotted-tailed Quolls prefer forested habitats, they are threatened due to deforestation as well as being known to take incorrectly placed fox and dog baits. Many animals are found in the urban-bushland fringe where they come in contact with pet dogs or are illegally shot or trapped for killing domestic chickens. They have disappeared from many parts of their former range due to these ongoing threats. The Spotted-tailed Quoll is now listed as Endangered on mainland Australia with the Tasmanian population currently stable. These Quolls are facing ongoing threats are continuing to decline in National Park areas and without effective threat abatement and recovery efforts, this species may be extinct on the mainland in the next 2-3 decades.

Habitat, Diet & Breeding:

Spotted-tailed Quolls favour forest environments where it often makes a den in hollow trees. They are perfectly adapted to their arboreal (tree dwelling) environment and can comfortably climb vertically and upside-down along trees and branches. Spotted-tailed Quolls have very large home ranges of up to 3500 hectares (8600 acres) giving an indication of the size of land needed to sustain viable populations. Preying upon animals up to the size of small wallabies, it is a voracious predator hunting birds, mammals, reptiles, insects and frogs. A good example of its aggressive nature is the fact that it preys upon possums, a species known for their sharp claws which they use to defend themselves.



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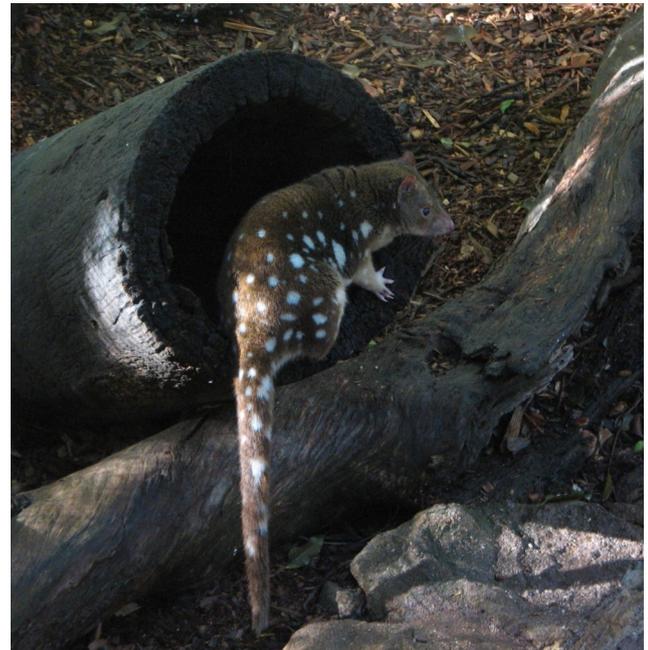
Conserving and protecting Australian natural ecosystems



A similar breeding cycle to Eastern Quolls (April – July), they raise up to 6 young in a shallow pouch until they begin to grow fur. The mother will leave the young in a secure den site which is often high off the ground in a tree whilst hunting at night. At around 3-4 months of age, the young will cling to their mothers back whilst she hunts. Upon independence and about 2/3 the size of their mother, they will leave the maternal territory in December – January to establish their own.

Interesting Facts:

The Spotted-tailed Quoll is a very important predator in the environment though, in Tasmania where its fellow native carnivores the Eastern Quoll and Tasmanian Devil still remain, it is often out-competed by these two predators. As juveniles, Spotted-tailed Quolls compete with adult Eastern Quolls, and when reaching maturity, they then compete with both juvenile and adult Tasmanian Devils. This ensures that Spotted-tailed Quolls that survive to maturity to mate and give birth to their own young, they have truly survived the battle of the fittest, maintaining a strong population.



The future:

The main threat to this species is when they take poison baits, or are killed for eating domestic chickens. AEFI is breeding the Spotted-tailed Quoll at Secret Creek Sanctuary where they are also used to help educate people about what they can do to live alongside this important part of the Australian Environment.

How you can help:

You can support the Spotted-tailed Quoll conservation programs by the Australian Ecosystems Foundation Inc through animal sponsorship, donations, or visiting our reserves. Visit our website for more details.