

Bobtail

Tiliqua rugosa

('Tiliqua' has no known meaning; 'rugosa' means 'wrinkled' or 'rough')

Bobtails are **bulky lizards** found across arid and semi-arid **southern Australia**.

Bobtails are omnivorous. They eat soft and hard fruit and vegetables, large insects and carrion. They also like yellow flowers like daisies and hibiscus. They love strawberries and cherry tomatoes. They are known to eat crushed eggs.



The tail is broad and stumpy, similar in size and shape to the head. The tail is also used as a fat storage area so that after a good season the bobtail can go without food for many months. A bobtail in poor condition will have a very flat tail.

Facts

- Bobtails are thought to live up to 30 years in the wild
- They bear live young and can have triplets
- They are susceptible to 'bobtail flu', an upper respiratory tract infection that is the main cause of admission for this species
- They lead solitary lives in overlapping home ranges
- Are susceptible to garden pesticides and car accidents

At Kanyana

Kanyana has three resident bobtails:

Yorna: Yorna was brought to Kanyana as a victim of a dog attack in 1995. His age is unknown. Once his major injuries had healed it was found that he still suffered from eye problems and walking difficulties. It took a long time for the injuries to heal and he had some sight disability but was used to being handled and instead of being euthanased he was kept for education under DPaW's licence regulation 16.



Smuggle: this new bobtail was rescued from two men at Perth International Airport in 2013.

Kora: Kora is our third education bobtail. These bobtails cannot be released into the wild, but provide a valuable service in helping to educate the community about their species.

You can **meet our bobtails** on our **day or nocturnal tours** and on Kanyana's annual open day in early May, **Discover Kanyana.**



Photo by Houndstooth Studio