

Brushtail possum

Trichosurus vulpecula
(meaning 'furry tailed')

Brushtail possums can be found all over Australia, are one of many native WA animals that can eat toxic *Gastrolobium* plants without becoming ill.



Possums are caring mothers; they rear their babies in the pouch before having them ride on their backs before weaning.

Like lots of other mammals, possums eat leaves, fruit, flowers and insects as well as human foods they can find lying around.

Facts

- Possums can live for up to 13 years
- They live in dry eucalypt forests and woodlands, but some subspecies live around limestone caves and termite mounds
- Only one possum is generally born at a time
- You can put a nest box in a tree to attract possums to your area or to get one out of your roof
- Possums are often admitted to our hospital through motor vehicle collisions

At Kanyana

Kanyana has one resident possum.

Wayambi: Our possum is a northern subspecies, and came to Kanyana from Barrow Island in June 2011 as a juvenile. He hitched a ride in a rubbish bin, only being discovered when the truck arrived in Perth. He can't be released on mainland Australia due to genetic differences, so he was sent to Kanyana.



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

