

Echidna



Tachyglossus aculeatus
(meaning 'swift or rapid tongue'
and 'spiny')

The Platypuses and Echidnas are the only living egg laying mammals and constitute the mammalian order Monotremata.



Echidnas are thought to have evolved during the Paleogene Period (65.5 to 23 million years ago) but fossils are difficult to find and date.

They are **shy animals** that generally shelter in rotten logs and under bushes where ants and termites are likely to be present.

Echidnas are found Australia-wide, except in the hot north. Farming and wild fires have destroyed their habitat.

Facts

- They weigh between two and seven kilograms;
- Have long spines with coarse hair on their back;
- Have an excellent sense of hearing and a good sense of smell;
- Have long hairless beaks which they use as a lever to find food (the beak has electro receptors that pick up vibrations);
- Catch food with a long sticky tongue but have no teeth;
- Are very strong and can move approximately 25 kg in weight.

At Kanyana

Kanyana has two resident echidnas:



Elle: She arrived in September 1992 as an eight-week old puggle from an exploration mining site at Kambalda. A man driving his bulldozer saw her on the ground in front of him, and flew her down to Kanyana in his lunch box to be hand raised.

Aruba: This lucky girl arrived in 2000 after her mother was killed by a car. A local man was driving behind the car that hit Aruba's mum, and pulled over to rescue this little pink puggle.

You can **meet our echidnas** on our **nocturnal tours** as well as on personalised **Meet & Greet**s, and at Kanyana's open days.
Discover Kanyana.



Photos by Houndstooth Studio

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