

Quenda

Isoodon obesulus

(meaning 'rather fat equal-tooth')

Quenda, also known as Southern Brown Bandicoots, are common in gardens in the hills area.

Quenda are often mistaken for rats, although their nose, tail, body shape, and gait are remarkably different.

These bandicoots are listed as Least Concern by the IUCN, but are gradually under threat from housing development and land clearing.



Facts

- quenda were once one of the most abundant medium-small mammals in south east Australia
- quenda can be active either day or night, depending on where they live and what they hunt
- most quenda eat food dug from the ground, including bugs, beetles, and fungi
- these marsupials have a home range of 0.5-5ha, and often overlap with each other
- some males fight ferociously and lose their tails (and lives) in the process

At Kanyana

There are many wild quenda, and two resident quenda, at Kanyana.

These two quenda were admitted to our hospital in 2015 and deemed unreleaseable. The male had puncture wounds, a missing tail, damaged testicles, and a fractured leg; possibly from a cat attack. The female was friendly towards people and unfortunately very predator-unaware, so she would die very quickly in the wild.



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

