



# KOALAS

## KEY INFORMATION

Koalas are mammals that live on the continent of Australia, across the eastern and south-eastern areas. They can be found in habitats ranging from open forests, woodlands and in climates that are tropical to cool temperatures.



Koalas tend to live alone, showing very little social behaviour. They are great climbers that spend most their time in trees, as they are slow walkers when on the ground. Koalas are nocturnal animals, as they sleep for up to 20 hours a day due to a low energy diet, therefore they are most active at night.

Koalas can grow up to 85cm long and can weigh up to 14kg. In the wild, koalas can live up to 12 years and can live up to 15 years in captivity.

## APPEARANCE

Koalas are well-known for their large round heads, big furry ears and big black noses. Their fur is usually a grey/brown colour, with white fur on the chest, inner arms, ears and bottom. They have no fur on their nose or palms of their paws. They have strong arms, powerful legs and sharp claws that are suitable for climbing trees. They have two opposable thumbs on their paws that give them a better grip.

Koalas have poor vision, so they heavily rely on their other senses. They have excellent hearing which helps them detect predators and other koalas. They have a strong sense of smell which allows helps them to detect other koalas, as well as their favourite food trees.

## DIET

Koalas are herbivores that mostly feed on the leaves of eucalyptus trees. They can consume around 500 grams of leaves each day and get most of their water requirements from the leaves, as they can contain up to 50% water. Koalas are very picky with their food, which is why they stick to each eucalyptus leaves.

## FUN FACTS

Baby koalas are called joeys and they stay protected in their mum's pouch. They start the size of a jellybean and have no hair, no ears and is blind, which is why they stay in the pouch for 6 months.

Koalas communicate with a range of sounds - males use a loud belch or bellow sound to attract females. Their bums are very supportive, as they live in trees and are wedged between rough branches, it allows them to be more comfortable.



Find Out More...

<https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/living-with/koalas/facts>

<https://animalia.bio/koala>

<https://www.wwf.org.au/news/blogs/10-interesting-facts-about-koalas>

<https://www.bushheritage.org.au/species/koalas>

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EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. How long do they live?
2. What do they eat?
3. What continent do they live on?
4. What is a baby koala called?
5. Why do they have sharp claws?