

HOW TO SPOT A NUMBAT

Despite being active during the day, Numbat sightings are quite rare. The species' stripes and colourations help them to camouflage extremely well within their environment. Some alternative methods to tell if Numbats are present on your property include:

Numbat diggings

As they forage for termites, Numbats create small holes in the soil. Numbat diggings can be differentiated from the diggings of other species, such as Echidnas or Bandicoots, through their small size, neat and precise shape, and the circular or U-shaped head of the dig.

Numbat scats

Numbat droppings, or scats, are approximately 1–2 cm long, black and are sometimes glossy in appearance. Mandibles of the termites consumed can often be sighted as small, shiny specks within the scat.



Numbat digs with camera cap (68 mm) for scale.



Numbat scat with camera cap (68 mm) for scale.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Become a member of Project Numbat or make a donation toward Numbat conservation.
- If you live on a property near known Numbat habitat, retain trees and connecting vegetation where possible to act as wildlife corridors and refuges for Numbats.
- Avoid removing hollow logs and fallen sticks and branches, as these can be used as shelter and food sources by Numbats.
- If you live within the Peel-Harvey Catchment area, consider becoming involved in the current projects targeting feral cats within the region.
- Any wild Numbat sightings or digs should be reported to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions using their **Fauna Report Form** found on their website: www.dbca.wa.gov.au. This information will assist in better managing the species.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Australian Government

National
Landcare
Programme



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



projectnumbat



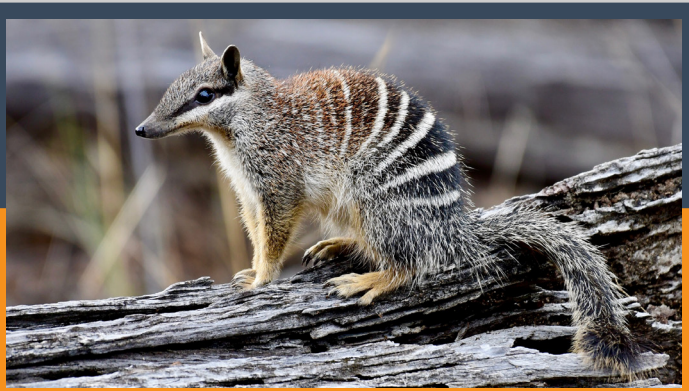
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Living with NUMBATS



NUMBATS

The Numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) is one of the most interesting and unique native mammals in Western Australia. The species was once widespread across the entire southern part of Australia. However, its range is now restricted to several isolated populations in the south-west. Numbats are classified as Endangered under the Biodiversity Conservation Act (2016) and Vulnerable under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999), with fewer than an estimated 1,000 individuals remaining in the wild.



Photos © Gary Blagden

BIOLOGY

Numbats are one of only two species of Australian marsupials that are diurnal, meaning they are active during the day. They rest at night using hollow logs or burrows as shelter. They are a solitary species, only coming together briefly during the breeding season.

Breeding takes place from late December through to late January and up to four young are born after a gestation period of just 14 days. Development is very slow for Numbats, and the young are carried on the mother's teats until late July when they are deposited in a burrow or nest site. The young will disperse from their mother in early November and establish territories of their own.

DIET

Numbats have an extremely specialised diet, feeding exclusively on termites. An individual adult will consume up to 20,000 termites each day. Numbats will predominantly feed on termites in the soil and dead or decaying wood from old logs and fallen tree limbs.

HABITAT

Numbats typically occupy eucalypt forest and woodland, dominated by Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) and Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*).

THREATS

Habitat destruction and fragmentation, predation by feral cats and foxes, and removal of fallen trees for firewood are the main threats to the Numbat's survival.

HOLLOW LOGS PROVIDE
NUMBATS WITH
PROTECTION FROM
PREDATORS.



TAKING ACTION

Several mitigation methods are currently underway to combat these threats:

- Fox control – baiting with 1080 poison is implemented in much of the south-west by the Western Shield project.
- Feral cat control – baiting for feral cats using Eradicat® in Western Australia.
- Developing the Dryandra Woodland National Park, which is one of the last habitat strongholds for the species.
- Assistance may be available for further innovative feral animal control. Contact the PHCC.

There are several community groups and government organisations working together for Numbat conservation. The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions carry out monitoring of Numbat populations and feral predator control. The department also works closely with Perth Zoo's numbat breeding program, to translocate captive-bred Numbats into wild populations.

Project Numbat supports numbat conservation through educating and raising awareness, as well as fundraising and supporting habitat management and population monitoring efforts.

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FARMERS 4 FAUNA

Together with Project Numbat and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council have launched the **Farmers 4 Fauna** project. This project will work towards supporting landholders within the Dryandra region undertake feral cat and fox control on their properties.

POPANYINNING PARTNERSHIP

This project aimed to control feral cats at Popanyinning Waste Disposal Site, which is only several kilometres from Dryandra Woodland. It involved monitoring and strategically trapping feral cats around the site, as well as liaising with the local community concerning responsible cat ownership. As feral cats have been identified as a significant threat to the Numbat, as well as to a multitude of native mammal and bird species, this project has had a significant impact on the surrounding biodiversity.