



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Spotted-tailed quoll

Dasyurus maculatus

Vulnerable

The spotted-tailed quoll, or tiger quoll, is mainland Australia's largest carnivorous marsupial. As a top predator, it plays an important role in regulating the populations of many of its prey species.

The spotted-tailed quoll is about the size of a domestic cat but with shorter legs and a pointed face. The average weight of an adult male is about 3 kg, with adult females averaging around 1.5–2 kg.

They have rich-rust to dark-brown fur, irregular white spots on their back and tail (which can be indistinct in juveniles) and a pale belly.

The spotted tail distinguishes it from all other Australian mammals, including other quoll species.

All four quoll species have declined in numbers since European settlement. The spotted-tailed quoll is found along both sides of the Great Dividing Range from Victoria and into Queensland.

Disconnected populations also occur in far north Queensland and in Tasmania. The spotted-tailed quoll is also occasionally reported in the western

parts of New South Wales, but these are almost always nomadic, wandering males.

Spotted-tailed quolls are highly mobile. They can travel up to several kilometres per night and have large territories. Depending on habitat, the female home range averages between 175 and 500 ha, whereas males cover an area on average between 750 ha and 3000 ha.

Spotted-tailed quolls live for 3-4 years in the wild.

They communicate using scent marking at a system of 'latrine sites'.

Spotted-tailed quolls use hollow-bearing trees, fallen logs, small caves, rock outcrops and cliffs as their den sites.

Quolls were among the first native animals to be described by European scientists.

Support local action and help save the spotted-tailed quoll



Heavily forested landscape with stream provides habitat for the spotted-tailed quoll. Photo: John Spencer/DPIE



Spotted-tailed quoll.
Photo: John Turbill/DPIE

Spotted-tailed quolls live in a wide variety of habitats including forests, woodlands, coastal heathlands and rainforests. They are sometimes seen in open country or on grazed areas near larger areas of forested habitats.

They are mainly solitary animals and will make their dens in rock outcrops, small caves, hollow logs and hollows in standing trees. They use these dens for shelter and to raise their young.

Spotted-tailed quolls are mainly nocturnal, although they also hunt during the day. They spend most of their time on the ground but are excellent climbers, hunting possums and gliders in tree hollows, and preying on roosting birds. They are a generalist predator and eat a variety of prey, preferring medium-sized mammals (500 g–5 kg) including gliders, possums, small wallabies, rats, birds, bandicoots, rabbits, reptiles and insects. They also eat carrion and are well known for taking domestic fowl.

Spotted-tailed quolls use communal 'latrine sites'. They are often on flat rocks among rocky outcrops and cliff lines or along rocky creek lines. Latrines are visited by multiple individuals and are recognisable by the accumulation of the characteristic 'twisty-shaped' faeces deposited by the animals.

Females breed once a year between April and July. Their 21 day gestation period produces up to six young, which are carried in a rudimentary pouch until they can be left behind in the den while their mother forages for food.

In NSW, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is working in partnership on land management actions, such as fox control, to

help protect the spotted-tailed quoll. Foxes are a direct threat to quolls and compete with them for food.

Landholders living near quoll populations are participating in various fox control efforts, by coordinating baiting, trapping and shooting with National Parks and Wildlife Service officers. Landholders are also contributing to DPIE surveys on quolls and other threatened animals that live on both private and national park land.

DPIE has also developed material on designing and building quoll-proof chicken pens. They protect both chickens and quolls from harm.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-animals/native-animal-facts/spotted-tail-quoll/protect-your-chooks-and-save-our-quolls>

Saving our Species is a NSW Government flagship program targeting on-ground action to secure threatened plants and animals from extinction. The program aims to increase the number of species that can survive securely in the wild.

Saving our Species can only succeed if we work together. We need your support to ensure that today's actions help to secure the future of NSW's threatened species.

To find out more about threatened species in NSW and the Saving our Species program: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS

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