

# Identifying the age and gender of a koala

## Age

### Four–five months



*Young joeys having a cuddle with mum*

Koala joeys become fully furred around four to five months and start to exit the pouch at about six to seven months. They can be hard to spot at this age as they are often tucked up tight in mum's arms and will pop in and out of the pouch.

### Ten–twelve months



*Older joey starting to explore away from mum*

Between ten to twelve months they are starting to separate from their mums and exploring the same tree, but will stay close by.

### Nine months



*Older joey hitching a ride with mum*

By about nine months they can be more than half the size of their mother.

### Twelve months



*Sub-adult koala starting to disperse away from mum, but still in the family tree*

From twelve months, they will be in a nearby tree until they disperse and find their own trees from about eighteen months. If you spot a young koala on its own that is larger than a football, it is likely to be independent and dispersing. At this stage they are classified as a sub-adult.



# Gender



*Male koala with scent gland on his chest*

## Males:

- Are usually bigger than females.
- Will have a scent gland on their chest.
- In sexually mature males the scent gland may be weeping fluid, causing a stain.
- You may be able to smell the musky scent from nearby.
- Younger males will have a bare patch on their chest.
- Will have testicles.

## Females:

- Don't have scent glands and their chest is plain white.
- Adults will have a pouch and may have a joey present, clinging to their front or back.

## When to call Redlands 24hr Wildlife Rescue Service

**If you spot a koala that is smaller than a football, on its own and yapping or distressed, it may have been separated from its mother too early and need help. Please call the Redlands 24hr Wildlife Rescue Service immediately on 3833 4031.**