

Fact Sheet

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Common ringtail possums

Scientific name:

Pseudocheirus peregrinus

Size:

- The size of a small cat
- Body: 300-350mm long
- Tail: 300-350mm

Weight:

700-1100 grams

Description:

Grey-brown fur with red flanks, white underparts and white spots behind their small, round ears. Ringtails have a thin, tapering tail, and the last third of it is white. Their tail is prehensile (it can wrap around branches to aid their climbing). Females have a pouch to carry their young.

Habitat and Range:

All types of woodland, particularly where the shrub layer is dense. Common resident in bushland, along creek-lines, in parks and backyards. Common over the Adelaide plains, the Mt Lofty Ranges, parts of the Riverland and throughout the South East.

Notes:

Nocturnal feeders, eating mostly leaves and sometimes flowers. They are arboreal, rarely coming to the ground. Ringtails sometimes shelter in tree hollows and often build spherical nests in trees. These nests are called dreys. Ringtails are sociable within family groups and often have overlapping home ranges. They live up to 8 years. They are not as vocal as brushtail possums, but make high-pitched whistle noises.

Threats:

- Loss of habitat through land clearing for agriculture and urbanisation
- Cats, dogs and foxes
- Large birds can take young ringtails
- Power lines and electrical transformers

Traces:

- Dreys may be found at a range of heights, but are often found relatively low to the ground (2-4m)
- Dropping produced in abundance, jellybean shaped (15mm long by 6mm wide)
- Ringtails are occasionally found in buildings or roofs

