

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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HAVE YOU SEEN A POTOROO ?

TWO SPECIES OF POTOROO (OR RAT-KANGAROO) HAVE BEEN RECORDED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA. THEY ARE GILBERT'S POTOROO, KNOWN FROM NEAR ALBANY AND THE BROAD-FACED POTOROO, KNOWN FROM NEAR GOOMALLING (A DOUBTFUL RECORD FROM THE ALBANY DISTRICT ALSO EXISTS). HOWEVER, NEITHER SPECIES HAS BEEN SEEN THIS CENTURY. THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE HAS INITIATED A SEARCH FOR THESE ANIMALS SO THAT, IF THEY DO STILL EXIST, NECESSARY STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THEIR SURVIVAL.

WE WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP, PLEASE!

WHAT ARE POTOROOS? POTOROOS ARE THE SMALLEST OF THE KANGAROO FAMILY. THEY ARE ABOUT THE SIZE OF A RABBIT AND WEIGH UP TO THREE POUNDS. GILBERT'S POTOROO IS DARK BROWN; THE BROAD-FACED POTOROO IS THOUGHT TO BE A PALE SANDY OR GREY COLOUR. THEY HAVE SHORT EARS AND RELATIVELY SHORT, SPARSELY HAIRIED TAILS (SEE ILLUSTRATION).

POTOROOS COULD EASILY BE CONFUSED WITH:-

1. **BANDICOOTS** (SEE ILLUSTRATION) BUT ...
 - A. THE FUR OF POTOROOS FEELS SOFT.
THE FUR OF BANDICOOTS FEELS HARSH.
 - B. THE TAILS OF POTOROOS ARE ALMOST AS LONG AS THEIR BODIES.
THE TAILS OF BANDICOOTS ARE MUCH SHORTER THAN THEIR BODIES.
 - C. THE LOWER JAWS OF POTOROOS CONTAIN ONLY ONE PAIR OF LARGE INCISORS WHICH ARE SEPARATED FROM THE FIRST CHEEK TEETH BY A WIDE GAP.
THE LOWER JAWS OF BANDICOOTS CONTAIN THREE PAIRS OF SMALL INCISORS AND A CANINE TOOTH OCCUPIES THE SPACE BETWEEN THEM AND THE FIRST CHEEK TEETH.
 - D. THE FIRST CHEEK TEETH OF POTOROOS ARE VERY LARGE AND OF A CHARACTERISTIC SHAPE, QUITE UNLIKE THOSE OF BANDICOOTS (SEE ILLUSTRATION).
2. **QUOKKAS** (SEE ILLUSTRATION) BUT ...
 - A. POTOROOS ARE MUCH SMALLER (UP TO 3 LBS.) THAN QUOKKAS WHICH WEIGH UP TO 7 LBS.
 - B. THE FEET OF POTOROOS ARE SLENDER AND COVERED IN SHORT FUR.
THE FEET OF QUOKKAS ARE MORE ROBUST AND COVERED IN LONGER FUR.
 - C. GILBERT'S POTOROO HAS A LONG, POINTED FACE.
QUOKKAS HAVE SHORT BROAD FACES.
 - D. THE BROAD-FACED POTOROO IS THOUGHT TO BE A PALE SANDY OR GREY COLOUR.
QUOKKAS ARE USUALLY DARK BROWN.
3. **WOYLIES** (SEE ILLUSTRATION)

WOYLIES ARE OF SIMILAR SIZE AND BUILD TO POTOROOS AND THEY HAVE SIMILAR DENTAL CHARACTERS BUT THEY CAN AT ONCE BE DISTINGUISHED BY THEIR TAILS; THE TAILS OF WOYLIES HAVE A DISTINCTIVE BRUSH OR CREST OF BLACK HAIR NEAR THE TIP.

AS WE HAVE VERY LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISTRIBUTION OF WOYLIES WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY RECORDS YOU HAVE.

THEY ARE KNOWN TO LIVE IN THE TUTANNING WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, EAST OF PINGELLY, IN THE DRYANDRA STATE FOREST NEAR NARROGIN, AND IN THE TONE/PERUP RIVER AREA, EAST OF MANJIMUP.

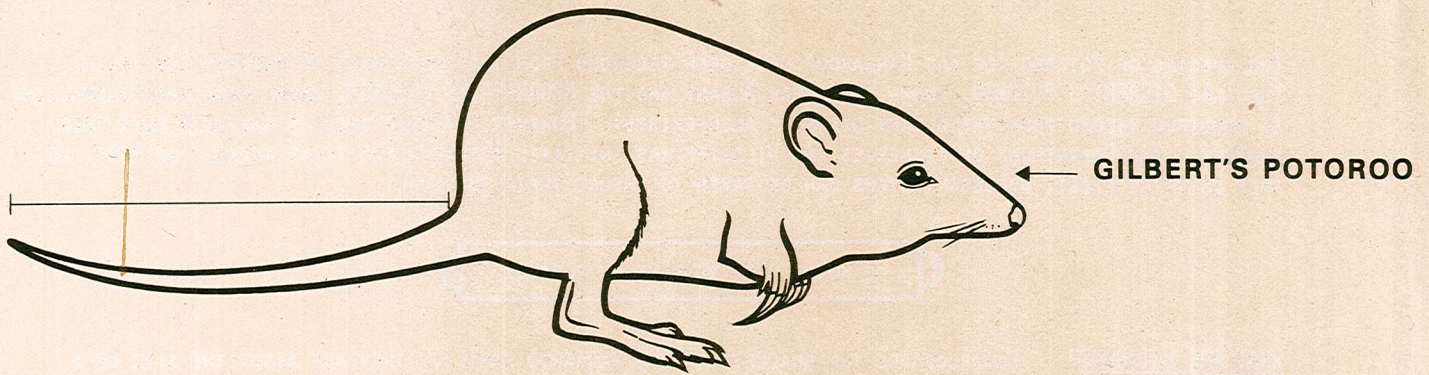
WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE SEEN A POTOROO (OR A WOYLIE) PLEASE LET US KNOW. INFORMATION CAN BE SENT IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED "POTOROOS" TO:-

THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,
P.O. Box 51,
WANNEROO, W.A. 6065.

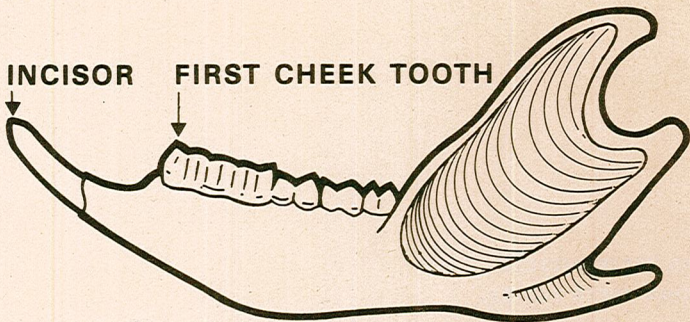
IT WOULD ASSIST US IF YOU INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:-

1. YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER.
2. WHERE YOU SAW THE ANIMAL (E.G. NEAREST TOWN).
3. IN WHAT HABITAT YOU SAW IT (E.G. FOREST, SWAMP, FARMLAND, ETC.).
4. WHEN YOU LAST SAW ONE.
5. WAS IT ALIVE OR DEAD?
6. THE FEATURES THAT MADE YOU THINK IT WAS A POTOROO (OR A WOYLIE).

IF YOU CATCH A POTOROO (OR A WOYLIE) ALIVE OR FIND ONE DEAD YOU CAN 'PHONE US, REVERSE CHARGES, AT PERTH 91 1555. DEAD ANIMALS SHOULD BE KEPT IN A SAFE PLACE, PREFERABLY FROZEN IF THEY ARE FRESH. WHEN 'PHONING PLEASE ASK FOR DR START, DR BURBIDGE, OR MR MCKENZIE.

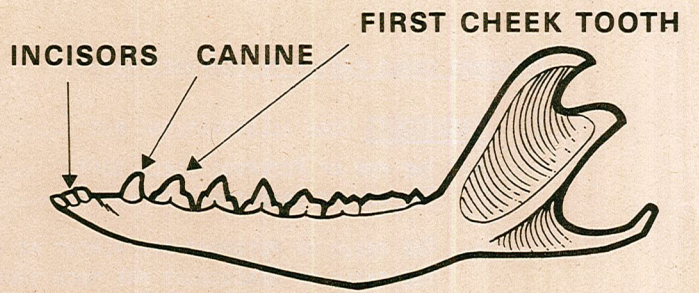


GILBERT'S POTOROO



INCISOR FIRST CHEEK TOOTH

JAW OF POTOROO (OR WOYLIE)



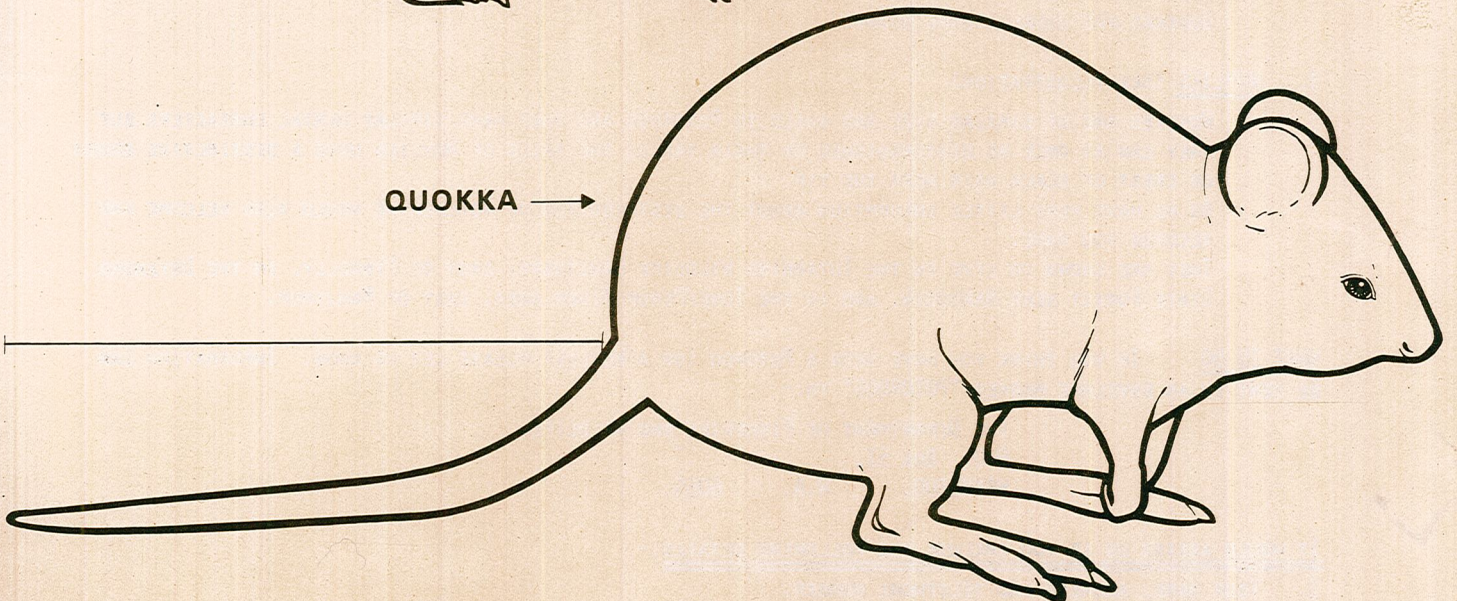
INCISORS CANINE FIRST CHEEK TOOTH

JAW OF BANDICOOT

(Both are diagrammatic)



SHORT NOSED BANDICOOT



QUOKKA



WOYLIE