

WESTERN NATIVE CAT LOCATED AT KAMBALDA

On the 11th July, 1974 District Fauna Warden Peter Lambert received a phone call from Master Brett Snell of Kambalda East, informing him of a Native Cat which had been caught in a rabbit trap.

The next day Warden Lambert identified the animal as a Western Native Cat (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) that had been caught at a warren system just out of town two days before.

The cat was trapped in sandy mulga country, a mile north of the Kambalda East townsite, at the edge of Lake Lefroy.

The area was searched for signs of other Native Cats without success, although smaller mammal tracks in the dunes were common.

One of the animal's front paws had been damaged and it was considered best to let it heal by natural means rather than keep the animal in captivity.

The cat was returned to where it was trapped and released.

It has since been determined that this is the most recent record of this species in the semi-arid part of the state, which proves that the Western Native Cat still persists in places away from the lower south-west division.

The last inland record was from the Canning Stock Route (Well 46) in 1931.



The Western Native Cat captured at Kambalda.