



The Dalgyte—(*Macrotis lagotis*)

Photo by A. G. Wells

## SO RARE

A beautiful portrait of a rare Australian taken by Mr. Bert Wells and more than worthy of inclusion in S.W.A.N.S. The Dalgyte or Rabbit-eared Bandicoot above is currently housed in the Perth Zoological Gardens Nocturnal House and is quite at home in her artificial environment.

The young female had been rescued in late 1977 from an aboriginal's dog at Laverton and Wildlife Officer Leon Silvester managed to convince the locals of its scientific importance.

Although suffering from deep wounds to the hind legs and a large inguinal hernia she has survived and thrived well in captivity.

She has grown well and now shows the beautiful french-grey velvet fur characteristic of this very rare species when in good health.

Zoo Director, Mr. Tom Spence, has stated that as soon as a young male becomes available, there will be every chance of a litter being born in captivity. This is the very essence of a rare and endangered animal being kept in captivity so that its progeny may be stock for re-introduction to the wild or wilderness reserves.