

What is the Tasmanian Devil?

- Scientific Name: *Sarcophilus harrisii*
- Class: Mammalia
- Order: Dasyuromorphia
- Family: Dasyuridae
- Listed as Endangered in 2008



Locomotion and Physical Characteristics

- Cursorial and Fossorial
- Long front legs and short back legs
- Spend the day in burrows and hunt at night
- Weighing from 4kg to 14kg
- Standing at roughly 30 cm tall
- 1.9ft to 2.1 ft in length

Hunting

- Nocturnal
- Generalist predator
- Specialized scavenger
- Ambush and short sprint pursuits
- Prey: medium to large sized mammals and large moths



Habitat and Population

- Only found on the island of Tasmania
- Sea level to just below the highest peaks
- Thrive in all terrestrial habitats: from forests and shrublands to caves and non-aquatic subterranean areas

Status and Threats

- Endangered on the IUCN Red List
- Devil Facial Tumor Disease: rapidly spreads due to condensed populations
- Domestic dogs that are not being supervised by their owners
- Road kills
- Pursued hunting and trapping
- Extremely low genetic diversity

Mating

- Facultative monogamy
- Can be promiscuous
- Copulation lasts for a few hours
- Male will keep the female in his den for weeks
- Season: mid-February to late-March
- Gestation period of 18 days
- Mother's pouch for 14-15 weeks