**Asset Information Page**

**Koala**

**Sticky Note 1:**

**Habitat loss is the greatest threat to Koalas. The main reasons for this are land clearing, bushfires and diseases of the eucalypts, like ‘dieback’ which cause the trees to die. 80% of Koala habitat has already disappeared!**

**Appearance:** With fluffy ears, round heads, and spoon shaped noses, Koalas are known for their lovable faces!

**Habitat:** Koalas live in Australia, mainly in eucalyptus forests. Each Koala’s ‘home’ is made up of several trees called HOME TREES. Each Koala has its own home range, which overlaps those of other Koalas.

Unless breeding, they don’t normally visit another Koalas home trees!

**Movement:** Koalas have 5 digits on each front paw, two of which are opposed to the others, much like our thumbs are able to be moved differently from the fingers.

This helps them to hold firmly onto the branches and to grip their food!

**Diet:**  Koalas eat only some of the 700 varieties of eucalypts growing in Australia.

An adult Koala eats about **half a kilogram to one kilogram of leaves each night.**  Even so, the Koala is still only able to absorb **25% of fibre eaten**, hence their need to eat large amounts of leaves.

-------------------------------------------------------End of Sticky Note 1---------------------------------------------------------

**Sticky Note 2:**

**Koalas are not bears. They are not placental or ‘eutherian’ mammals, but MARSUPIALS, which means that their young are born immature & they develop further in the safety of a pouch.**

**Reproduction:**  Baby Koalas are known as ‘**Joeys’.** Younger breeding females usually give birth to **one Joey each year.**

**Social Structures:** Each koala has its own territory, but their home ranges can overlap.

Koalas are mostly **nocturnal**. Nocturnal animals are awake at night and asleep during the day. Koalas, however, sleep for part of the night and also sometimes move about in the daytime. They often sleep for **up to 18-20 hours each day**.

**Communication:**  Koalas also communicate with each other by making a range of noises.

The most startling and unexpected of these in such a seemingly gentle animal is a sound like a loud snore and then a belch, known as a **‘bellow’!**

**Survival Skills:** Koalas spend most of their time high in trees to avoid predators. They have thick fur to keep them warm and protect them from weather changes.

A mature male has a dark scent gland in the center of his white chest which exudes a dark, sticky substance. He rubs this on his trees to indicate to other Koalas that this is his territory.

-------------------------------------------------------End of Sticky Note 2---------------------------------------------------------