

The Quokka

The quokka is a special animal from Australia. They are marsupials,* like kangaroos, but smaller. They have round bodies about 45 centimeters long. Their ears are small and round, and they have a black nose.

Many quokkas live on Rottnest Island. Rottnest Island is near the city of Perth, and its name came from the Dutch* word for "rat's nest.*" Long ago, a man named Willem de Vlamingh thought quokkas looked like big rats.

Quokkas are also found on Bald Island and in other parts of Western Australia. They like living in areas with tall grass, can climb trees, and mostly eat at night. On mainland* Australia, the number of quokkas has gone down. This is because the environment has changed there. Also, there are wild cats and foxes that hunt them. The weather is also changing, and this is not good for them.

Many people think quokkas are cute, and these days, taking photos with them is popular. This became even more popular after an Australian actor took pictures with a quokka and shared them on the Internet. The morning and the evening are good times to take photos with them. However, some people who want to protect quokkas say there are some important rules for taking photos with quokkas. For example, people should wait for quokkas to come close before they take photos with them, and they should not touch quokkas. Also, they say people should not feed them because human food can make them sick.

*marsupial: 有袋類

*Dutch: オランダ語

*nest: 巣

*mainland: 本土

| (26) | What did Willem de Vlamingh think when he saw some quokkas? 1 He thought they were dangerous. 2 He thought they were kangaroos. 3 He thought they looked like rats. 4 He thought they were a popular pet. |
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| (27) | Where do quokkas like to live? 1 In big cities like Perth. 2 In places with tall grass. 3 Under people's homes on Rottnest Island. 4 In the coldest town in Australia. |
| (28) | These days, some people like to 1 climb trees with quokkas. 2 take photos with quokkas. 3 use quokkas to protect their houses. 4 hunt quokkas for food. |
| (29) | What do some people who want to protect quokkas say about human food? 1 Quokkas often share it with other animals. 2 Quokkas can only eat it in the morning. 3 It can make quokkas sick. 4 It is good for quokkas. |
| (30) | What is this story about? 1 An Australian animal with small ears. 2 A zoo with many popular Australian animals. 3 An Australian actor's pet. 4 An island in Australia with many rats. |