

Threats To Quolls

Within the rainforest, Spot-tailed Quolls are safe from most threats which include deliberate killings at chook pens or houses, accidental poison baiting, dog kills, road kills and Cane Toad poisoning. When they leave the rainforest and forage in adjacent agricultural areas Spot-tailed Quolls become much more susceptible to all of these risks.

Quolls run a greater risk of being **killed by people** when trying to kill chooks or when scavenging around houses, and they run a greater risk of encountering **poison baits** laid for wild dog control. Without the cover provided by dense vegetation, Quolls are much easier **prey to dogs**, foxes and birds of prey. **Cane Toads** are much more abundant in agricultural landscapes and so the risk of poisoning is much higher. The threat from **vehicles** is also much higher in agricultural landscapes, because roads are more numerous and carry higher levels of traffic.

The last Quoll known from the Paluma district was killed at a chook pen in the 1940's. Any Quoll killed at your chook pen could be the last in your district.

Do You Want More Information?

Quoll problems and queries?

Scott Burnett

Tree Kangaroo & Mammal Group

C/O QPWS

81 Main St, Atherton (next to courthouse)

Tel: (07) 4091 4262

or

*for any information or to
become involved in Quoll
conservation*

Visit our Quoll website at:

www.infocus.to/quolls

Members of the community hold a wealth of knowledge which scientists never hear about. If you want to share your knowledge of quolls with us we would love to hear from you. Please contact Scott Burnett at the number listed above to share your information.

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LIVING WITH



Photo: R. Jackson

QUOLLS

The Spot-tailed Quoll is Endangered. People on the land can help the survival of Quolls by following the suggestions in this brochure including:

- **Quoll-proofing your chook pen and showing tolerance for quolls,**
- **following the supplied guidelines for 1080 baiting and,**
- **keeping dogs restrained and driving carefully at night.**

For more information or assistance with Quolls, get in touch with us by any of the contacts listed on the back of this brochure.



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What Can You Do To Help?

Why Are Quolls Endangered?

Spot-tailed Quolls are endangered because they naturally occur in low numbers in localised areas, and because their behaviour brings them into contact and conflict with humans. The greatest threats to Quolls are killings at chook pens, and accidental deaths from 1080 baits.

1. Quoll Proofing Your Chook Pen

Chook pens can be Quoll-proofed easily. A Quoll-proof chook pen needs to be totally enclosed (bird mesh is suitable). Fences need to be buried 15cm into the ground. You'll also be protecting your chooks from other predators. Visit our website for more information

2. 1080 Baiting

Research is being done to find how best to protect Quolls from 1080 baits. In the meantime, covering baits with at least 15 cm of loose soil, and placing baits no closer than 300m from the forest edge are good guides to help protect Quolls.

3. Other Ways of Helping Quolls

You can also help Quolls by keeping your dogs restrained at night and by driving carefully on our roads. You will be protecting not only Quolls, but a host of other wildlife.

North Queensland's Quolls

Photo: S. Burnett

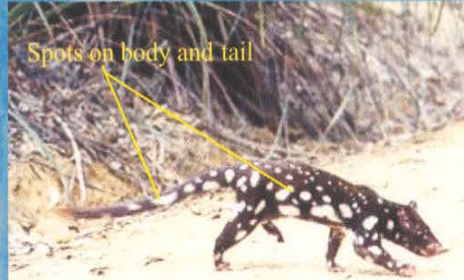


Fig. 1. Spot-tailed Quoll

Spot-tailed Quoll Vital Statistics.

Weight: 800 - 2540 g

Total length: 615 - 960 mm

Diet: mammals, birds, reptiles, insects.

Breeding: June - September

Photo: J. Coughlan



Fig. 2. Northern Quoll

Northern Quoll Vital Statistics

Weight: 300 - 900 g

Total length: 300 - 600mm

Diet: insects, fruit, reptiles, birds, mammals.

Breeding: June - August

What Is A Quoll?

Quolls are flesh eating marsupials which are found only in Australia and New Guinea. They are most closely related to the Tasmanian Devil. Quolls can be recognised from all other Australian mammals by the white or cream spots which adorn their bodies (Figs. 1 & 2).

We have two Quoll species in north Queensland, the Spot-tailed Quoll (also known as the Tiger Cat) and the Northern Quoll (Native Cat). The Spot-tailed Quoll (Fig. 1) is a possum-sized animal which frequents rainforests and their margins. It is unique amongst the Quolls in possessing spots on its tail as well as its body. The Northern Quoll (Fig. 2) is a smaller species which frequents drier forest types especially on granite and in rocky country. The Northern Quoll has spots on its body only.

The Spot-tailed Quoll is endangered. Although once considered common, the status of the Northern Quoll is being reviewed. It has disappeared from about 75% of its former range across northern Australia in the past 30 years.