

Breeding Habits of the Bare Nosed Wombat

Although the wombat may breed at any time of the year, mating most often occurs during winter. Sexual maturity is reached between 2 – 3 years of age. The female has 2 teats in her pouch, yet despite this, 30 days after mating only one young is born. At this stage the joey is the size of a jelly bean and it crawls from the birth canal into the pouch.

The joey remains in the pouch for 6 months, after which it stays with the mother until it is 18 months old. From the time the joey leaves the pouch, it begins to substitute increasing amounts of plant material for milk until, when about 15 months old, it stops suckling altogether. Wombats in the wild can live 10 – 15 years depending on favourable conditions in the wild. Due to the long period of time the joey is dependent on the mother, it is likely that females only rear one young every two years.

