

Numbat Research

Project Numbat donated \$6000 to Perth Zoo in June 2011 to part-fund a study into the reproductive cycles of the Zoo's female Numbats. Perth Zoo breeds Numbats for release into the wild and is hoping to increase the number of Numbats born each year through the research findings.

Numbat faecal samples were collected for a year and are now being analysed by Perth Zoo Research Fellow Lindsay Hogan to determine when a female Numbat is at her peak breeding cycle, how long the cycle lasts and how many she has each season. This is the first time the Numbat's reproductive cycle has been mapped hormonally.

Numbats breed in summer and have a short oestrus cycle (about 2–3 weeks) and a small window when they are receptive to successful mating.

Once the females' reproductive cycles have been mapped, keepers can take a small urine sample at the start of the breeding season, determine if the female is following normal cycles and match their cycles with mating behaviour the keepers see. It will also let keepers know if an animal is infertile.

We are eagerly awaiting the results.

Springfield Primary School Visit

Project Numbat presenter Vicki Power visited Springfield Primary School on 16 June to give a special lesson in Numbats.

Vicki presented to 150 students over four hours. It was great to see how well prepared the students were and the use they'd made of our online activities.

The children also made a donation of \$164 to Project Numbat which we are very grateful for. Thanks, kids!



Annual General Meeting

The Project Numbat Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 20 September at 6:30pm in the Perth Zoo Theatre. Full information will be sent out on 30 August including an agenda and committee nomination forms. The AGM will also include voting on some changes to the constitution.

Numbat Radio-collars

Money for six Numbat radio-collars has been raised so far but we still need your help. If the cost is too much to pay on your own, maybe consider running a fundraiser at your school, work place or community group. Certificates can be made out to groups, not just individuals.

For our new members who might not know, each year, wild or captive born Numbats are fitted with radio collars by the Department of Environment and Conservation to track their movements, gain important information on their dispersal in their habitat and their survival.

In November and December 2011, DEC will be fitting a number of Numbats with radio-collars. The Numbats will either be wild caught or bred at Perth Zoo for release.

Each collar costs \$250 and for your contribution you will receive a certificate with a photo of the collared Numbat, its name, date of birth (if known), sex, weight and release location.

All donations are tax-deductible within Australia.

If you would like to contribute, download the radio-collar fundraiser form from our website and send it in to us.

You will receive a letter of thanks and a receipt after we receive payment. Certificates will be sent in January 2012.

Did you know...

"Rangers at Dryandra have seen numbers [of Numbats] ... crash from the peak of about 850 in 1992 to about 50 today."

The Weekend Australian, 8/05/2011.



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