

Wallabies in New Zealand

Wallabies were introduced to New Zealand from Australia in the late 1800s.

Wallabies have adapted well to Aotearoa and are now a pest that is spreading.

Left to themselves, wallabies are expected to occupy one third of New Zealand over the next 50 years.

The left of the fence shows the damage wallabies do to our ngahere

Why are wallabies a pest?

Each year wallabies cost New Zealanders **millions of dollars in environmental and economic damage** by:

- Eating the seedlings that become our future native bush, destroying the homes and food of our native birds and other wildlife.
- Competing with livestock for pasture and damaging crops and fences.
- Impacting commercial forestry by eating young trees.
- Changing the structure, diversity, and value of our natural and production environments.

Why and how to report wallabies

Stopping wallaby spread is key to protecting our native species, farms, forests, livelihoods, and way of life from wallaby damage.



We have the chance to stop wallaby spread now.

You can help by reporting wallaby signs, sightings (dead or alive), or any kills you make to:

www.reportwallabies.nz

Knowing where the wallabies are and that they are not moving or establishing in new locations is critical to protecting our whenua.

When you report

Wallabies are shy, elusive, and mostly nocturnal. They move quickly and breed easily.

Reporting a sighting as soon as you are able means we can follow up immediately.



What you saw



When – date and time



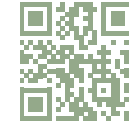
The location



How it moved



Try to take a photo of what you saw to help identify it further.



Report a wallaby sighting at reportwallabies.nz



mpi.govt.nz



wallaby@mpi.govt.nz

Dama wallaby photo provided by Dale Williams, Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Bennett's wallaby photo provided by Jason Hawker, Environment Canterbury



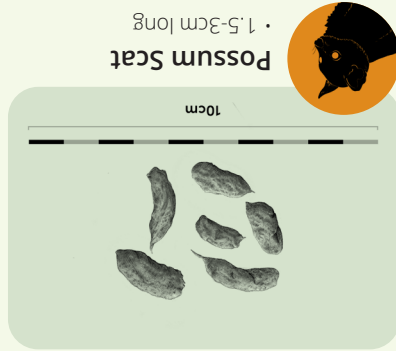
Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Wallaby? Not Wallaby?
A quick ID Guide



www.reportwallabies.nz



Wallaby lookalikes

Wallabies are usually seen at night and can be mistaken for other animals, including possums, hares, feral cats, and even fallow deer. See inside for more details. If you're unsure still report. Mistaken identity is better than new wallaby populations starting.

Movement
The way a live wallaby moves is quite clear, so watch it for as long as you can. Inside you'll find pictures of wallabies, scat, and footprints to help identify wallabies.

- Footprints
- A live animal
- Scat (poo)

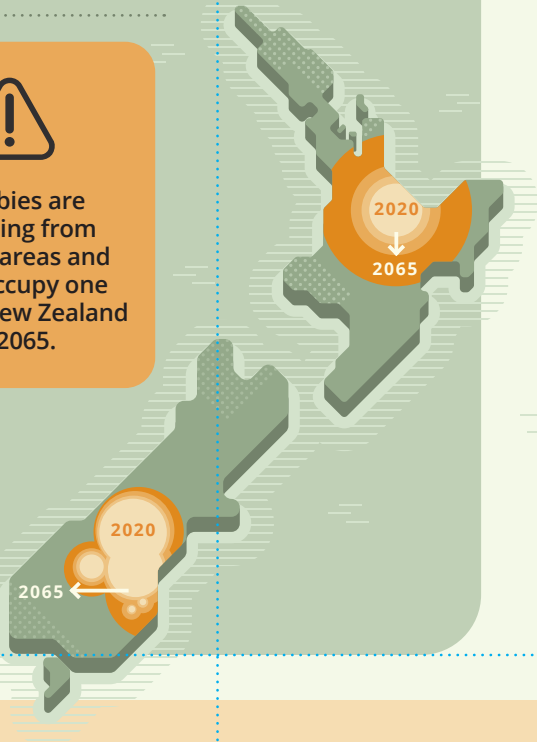
The most common signs of wallabies are:

What to look for

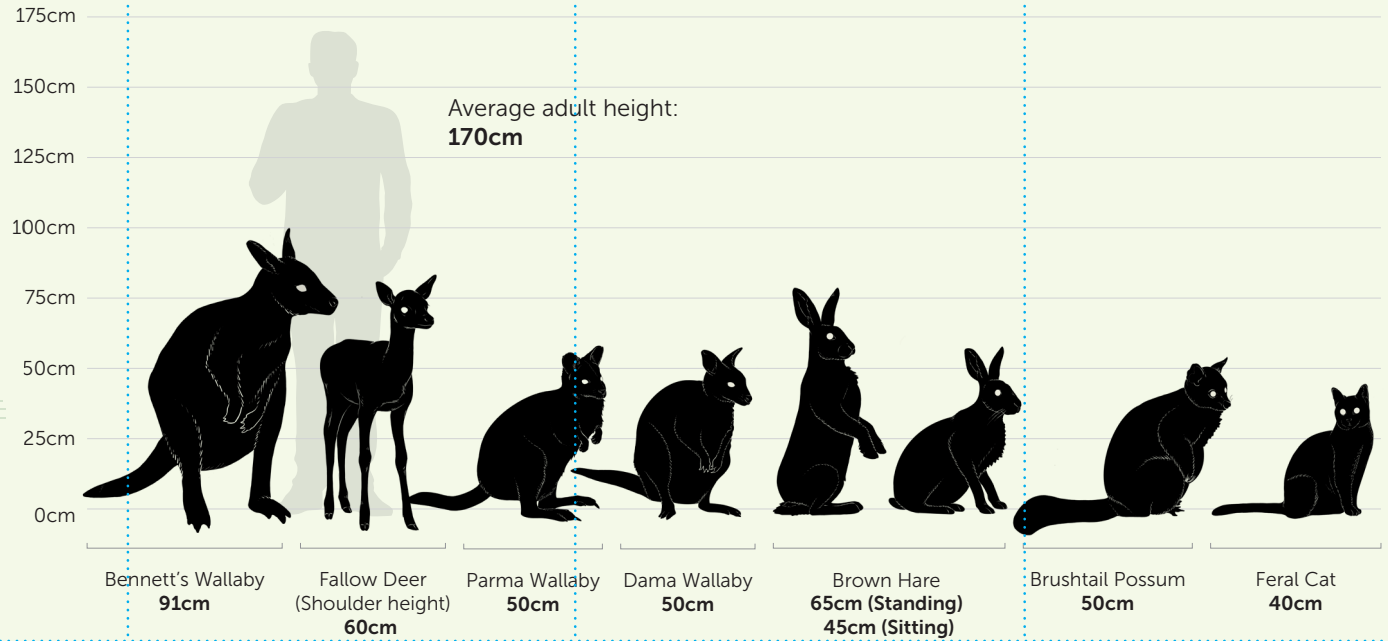
Wallaby spread



Wallabies are spreading from historic areas and could occupy one third of New Zealand by 2065.



Wallaby Size Comparison Scale

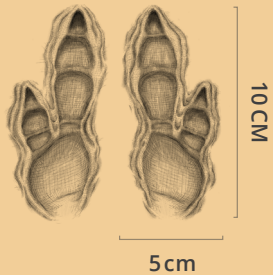


Bennett's Wallaby

- Located in the South Island (found mostly in South Canterbury)
- Weight: from 14–20kg
- Bennett's Wallaby scat is 2.5–3 cm long and 1.5 cm wide at the broadest end



Footprints



Scat

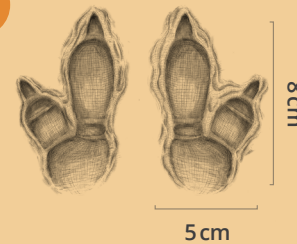


Dama Wallaby

- Located in the North Island (found around the Rotorua Lakes area)
- Weight: from 4–7kg
- Dama Wallaby scat is 2cm long and pear-shaped



Footprints



Scat



Parma Wallaby

- Parma wallabies were identified as a pest wallaby species in the Bay of Plenty in 2023 as part of a Tipu Mātoro research project
- Weight: from 3–6kg