



## Quokka

Halfway between a koala and a marmot, this small **marsupial** was actually mistaken for a rat by the first European who took sight of him off the shores of **Australia** in 1696. This was a Dutch sea-captain, **Willem de Vlamingh**, who accordingly named the island where he spotted a large number of quokkas *Rotte Nest*, the Dutch for *rat nest*. Quokkas still inhabit that island, **Rottnest**, which lies right off the city of Perth, and **Bald Island**, near Albany. Although they are numerous on these and other small Western Australian islands, quokkas have a very restricted range on the mainland because of such predators as foxes, and are therefore classified as a **vulnerable** species.



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this animal!

