I’m Not a Bear!

Koalas are often called bears because they look a little like teddy bears, but they are actually marsupials. Like other marsupials, the female has a pouch where she carries her baby, called a joey, for several months after birth. When a joey is strong enough to cling to its mother’s back, it leaves the pouch but still sticks its head in to nurse.

Koalas are known as picky eaters. There are hundreds of different types of eucalyptus, but koalas only eat a few dozen kinds. And koalas won’t eat every leaf off of each branch.

While koalas currently aren’t listed as an endangered species, 80 percent of koala habitat has been lost to human homes and businesses, drought, and fires. That makes life hard for an animal that needs eucalyptus forests to survive, like koalas do.

Did you know?

Koalas eat a little bit of dirt every so often because it helps their stomach digest eucalyptus leaves!
Koalas live in Australia. Their habitat is Eucalyptus Forests and they love to eat eucalyptus leaves. They are about 2-3 feet long and are called “Joeys” when they are babies.

Interesting Facts

- Koalas can hold food in their belly for 8 days
- Koalas love only 30 of the 600 varieties of eucalyptus.
- Koalas have two opposable thumbs
- Koalas sleep 20 hours a day
- Koalas spend 15 min a day hanging out
- Koalas are born 30 days after they are conceived
- Koalas have sharp claws to help them climb trees
- Koalas have similar fingerprints to humans
- Joeys live in their mother’s pouch for around six months