

Indian palm squirrel

Prohibited invasive animal

Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23



- It is illegal to import, keep, breed or sell Indian palm squirrels in Queensland.
- Small rat sized mammal, with 3 or 5 distinctive stripes on its back and a bushy tail.
- Potential pest to fruit crops and outcompete native marsupials.
- Prolific breeders and can carry new diseases into Australia.
- Early detection and reporting helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

Description

The Indian palm squirrel (*Funambulus pennantii* and *Funambulus palmarum*) have at least three stripes running along their bodies, but *Funambulus pennantii* has two additional paler stripes on its sides, running between hind and forelegs. Fur colour is generally grey-brown with some species being a little more reddish (rarely black). The belly is creamy white or brownish. The ears are small and triangular. The tail is covered with interspersed long black and white hairs. They range in size from 225–400 mm long (including 110–120 mm tail) and weigh between 60–200 g. Like other species in the Order Rodentia, Indian palm squirrels have chisel-sharp incisor teeth that grow constantly. They are active during the day and build nests.

Biosecurity risk

The Indian palm squirrel is a prohibited invasive animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23. You cannot keep a Indian palm squirrel as a pet in Queensland. Penalties may apply.

Indian palm squirrels can damage fruit crops (including mangoes) and consume the eggs of native birds.

What should I do?

If you think you have seen an Indian palm squirrel report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or scan the QR code to access our reporting web page. Until an authorised officer contacts you, please take reasonable and practical steps to prevent the Indian palm squirrel from escaping.

More information

Contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

