

Major prey of prey of feral cats in Australia (from Dickman, C. R. 1996).

Data collected from 22 studies of feral cats in mainland Australia suggest that mammals comprise the major prey of feral cats in most localities. Introduced rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and house mice (*Mus domesticus*) predominate in semi-arid to arid habitats, whereas marsupials (especially the common ringtail possum (see [Pseudocheirus peregrinus in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)) are predominant in temperate forest, urban and suburban habitats (Dickman 1996). Brushtail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), sugar gliders (see [Petaurus breviceps in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)), greater gliders (see [Petauroides volans in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)) and smaller prey such as brown antechinus (see [Antechinus stuartii in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)), brush rat (see [Rattus fuscipes in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)) and swamp rat (see [Rattus lutreolus in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)) are consistently part of the diet of feral cats in the temperate forests of Australia. In wet-dry tropical habitats where rabbits do not occur native *Rattus* spp. become more important, including the pale field rat (see [Rattus tunneyi in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)), dusky rat (see [R. colletti in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)) and the long-haired rat (see [Rattus villosissimus](#)). Smaller rodents such as the spinifex hopping mouse (see [Notomys alexis in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)) and the sandy inland mouse (*Pseudomys hermannsburgensis*) may also be preyed upon. Birds are represented most highly in temperate forest, urban and suburban habitats. Small species such as wrens (*Malurus* spp.), robins (*Petroica* spp.) and thornbills (*Acanthiza* spp.) have all been recorded, as have larger species such as galahs (see [Cacatua roseicapilla in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)), magpies (see [Gymnorhina tibicen in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)) and several species of parrots (*Psephotus* spp.). Species such as geckos and flap-footed lizards and diurnal species of skinks, dragons, goannas and snakes have often been recorded in the feral cat's diet (Dickman 1996). Reviews of the diet of feral cats in mainland areas in other parts of the world reveal great similarities with the situation in Australia (Corbett, 1979, Fitzgerald and Karl 1979, Liberg 1984, Fitzgerald 1988, Kitchener 1991, in Dickman 1996). In all studies, mammals have consistently comprised the major part of the diet throughout the year, with other vertebrates, especially birds, comprising only a minor component. Rabbits and murid rodents, especially *Rattus* species, appear to be favoured prey, and together comprise the bulk of the diet of feral cats in some localities over long periods.