

Echidna Fact Sheet

FAST FACT:

Echidnas are monotremes – one of only two found in Australia.

Do you know what the other one is?

Interesting Echidna Facts:

The scientific name for an echidna is *Tachyglossus aculeatus* (which means spiny fast-tongue or spiny anteater).

There are two main types of echidna: the short-beaked and the long-beaked.

Echidnas are warm-blooded mammals.

Echidnas have been known to live for up to fifty years.

Each of the echidna's spines is formed from a single hair.

An echidna can lift objects twice its weight.

Echidnas drink water and can swim.

Echidnas like to bask in the sun like reptiles. They also lay eggs like reptiles. The eggs incubate for 10 days inside the mother's pouch before hatching.

A baby echidna is called a puggle. Puggles are born blind and hairless.

Puggles drink milk. Echidna milk is pink because of the high iron content.

Ancestors of echidnas roamed the planet with dinosaurs. Dinosaurs died out but monotremes are still alive.

Echidnas are active day and night and are mainly solitary animals.

Echidnas are strong diggers and they have long, sharp claws. Short-beaked echidnas eat ants and termites. Long-beaked echidnas eat worms and insect larvae.

Echidnas have a small mouth and toothless jaw. They have a long, sticky tongue which sticks out from its snout.

