

# Understanding the difference between juvenile and mature possums

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To avoid confusion when distinguishing between juvenile and mature possums, the key detail for juvenile possums is their weight, which is less than 800gm, which indicates the back rider/adult threshold.

The gestation period for a joey is 17 to 19 days. It crawls into the mother's pouch, where it stays for five months before becoming a "back rider". (*A juvenile possum, often referred to as a backrider is any possum under 800gm.*)

The joey is weaned at about 6 - 8 months, though some will stay with the mother until it is one year old.

<https://www.predatorfreedunedin.org/resources/possum-facts>



