**Leafy Meals and Long Naps: Understanding Koalas**

Koalas are one of the most incredible animals. These furry friends only live in places with eucalyptus forests. They love the east and southeast parts of Australia the most. That is because their favorite food, eucalyptus leaves, grows abundantly. Koalas live in their food paradise. They spend most of their time, about 20 hours a day, sleeping or resting in eucalyptus trees.

Since koalas eat only plants, they are called herbivores. Eucalyptus leaves are their main meal. The leaves are toxic to other animals. That means eating the leaves would make most animals sick. But koalas have a unique trick in their stomach that lets them eat these leaves and stay healthy.

Koalas are not very energetic animals. Eucalyptus leaves don’t have a lot of nutrients and are difficult to digest. That is why koalas sleep a lot and move slowly. They only move around to find a new eucalyptus tree to munch on or ensure their living space is safe.

The adorable koalas belong to a group of animals called marsupials. That means they have a special pouch where their babies live, like another Australian marsupial, kangaroos! The babies stay in the pouch until they are big enough to explore the world. What makes koalas super cute marsupials are their fluffy ears, round noses, and the unique black-and-white patches around their eyes.

Koalas usually like to be alone, except for mom koalas and their babies. A koala mom protects her little one. She keeps the baby in her pouch for about seven months. Then, when the baby koala, known as a joey, gets a bit bigger, it rides on its mom’s back. That lasts a few more months until it is big enough and strong enough to start its adventures.

Koalas are exceptional animals that are only found in Australia. They are known for being sleepy but adorable. Many people worldwide love them. They are just one of the many amazing creatures that make Australia unique.