

RUSSIAN BOAR

Suidae suis scrofa

Description: The Russian boar is generally light brown or black with a cream or tan color on the tips of the bristles. The wild boar underside is lighter in color and its legs, ears and tail are darker than the rest of the coat. The wild boar's bristles are the longest of the three types of wild hogs. Pure Russian boars have longer legs and snouts and their head to body ratio is much greater than a feral hog. The wild boars also tend to have shorter, straighter tails.

Length: 5.5 feet

Height: 34 inches

Weight: 400 pounds

Lifespan: 6 years

Habitat: Timbered areas of forests and marshy areas.

Range: Russia and the United States

Status: Stable

Diet in the Wild: Omnivores eating small birds, eggs and plants.

Special Features:

- A boar has 4 continually growing tusks can become razor sharp and grow to almost 5 inches. These tusks are used for defense.
- The boar will develop a 1 inch thick layer of cartilage and scar tissue called a shield along his neck and chest back to the last rib to protect it during battle.
- They have a keen sense of hearing and smell.
- Their eyesight is hindered since it cannot raise its head like other wild life to see over vegetation.
- Boars wallow in mud or cool areas to reduce body heat since they cannot sweat, to prevent sunburn and to repel insects.
- Russian boars were brought to the United States in the late 1800s. They are now found in 19 states.
- Wild boars are considered the most intelligent animal in the woods.
- Found in large herds called sounders with up to 100 members.

Breeding/Care of Young:

- Wild males reach sexual maturity at 18-24 months old while females reach maturity at 1 year.
- Sows are in estrus every 21 days and are receptive only 48 hours.
- A sow can produce up to 2 litters per year with 4-6 piglets in each litter.
- Gestation is 115 days.
- Young wild boars are born with yellowish-brown coats with distinct dark stripes along the back providing camouflage. Stripes disappear after 4 months.
- Wild sows will babysit for each other caring for the piglets while the other sows go off to eat.

