



## COLLARED PECCARY

**Kingdom:** Animalia **Phylum:** Chordata **Class:** Mammalia **Order:** Artiodactyla **Family:** Tayassuidae  
*Pecari tajacu*

**Description:** While Peccaries look similar to pigs, Peccaries are classified in a family of their own because of anatomical differences.

**Length:** 40-60 inches including the tail

**Height:** 20-24 inches

**Weight:** 35-60 pounds

**Habitat:** Rainforests and deserts

**Range:** From New Mexico, Arizona and Texas south to Argentina.

**Diet:** Agaves, prickly pears, roots, fruits, insects, worms, and reptiles.

**Life Span:** 10 years in the wild, 24 in captivity.

**Status:** Not listed.

### Special Characteristics:

- The Collared Peccary is the only wild pig-like animal that is native to the United States.
- It is also known as the Javelina due to its razor sharp tusks.
- The prickly pear is the ideal food for the Peccary because of its high water content.
- Although they have poor eyesight, their hearing is excellent.
- They are slender with long, thin legs with small hooves.
- They have 3 toes on the hind feet.
- The upper tusks are pointed down instead of curled like most feral pigs.
- There is a strong, pungent musk gland on their rumps.
- The peccary's flat cartilaginous disk at the tip of its nose is used for lifting and turning over logs and rooting in the ground in search of food.
- Usually travel in a band of 12-16.
- They cannot evaporate moisture to prevent overheating by panting.
- Peccaries have complex stomachs for digesting coarsely-chewed food.
- They are slow-moving casual animals unless threatened or frightened.
- They can run 21 mph.
- When attacked the male will sacrifice himself to give the young and the females time to escape.

### Reproduction:

- Sexual maturity is 2 years
- Gestation 140-150 days
- Litter size 1-3
- Dens are in hollow logs or in ground hollows.
- Birthing mothers retreat from the herd to prevent the newborn from being eaten by other group members.
- Weaned at 2-3 months

