

WARTHOG

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata Class: Mammalia Order: Artiodactyla Family: Suidae
Phacochoerus aethiopicus

Description: The Warthog's unusual appearance is marked with two prominent warts on each side of its face and a curled upper pair of tusks matching a shorter lower pair.

Length: 46-60 inches

Height: 30 inches

Weight: 130-265 pounds

Lifespan: 12 years in captivity

Habitat: Plains and grasslands

Range: Central, eastern and southern Africa

Status: Stable

Diet in the Wild: Grasses, herbs, tubers and bulbs

Special Features:

- The gristly warts on the side of the head are most prominent on the male. The purpose of these warts is not known. It could be that they are used as a weapon or as a defense for fending off blows from other Warthogs.
- The Warthog has horny knee pads since it has to bend down on its knees to eat.
- The eyes are set very high and far back on its forehead so it can watch for predators while feeding.
- Although the Warthog is usually quiet, it grunts while feeding and during courtship.
- The long, tasseled tail is held erect when the Warthog runs.
- Although it has poor eyesight, the Warthog has an excellent sense of smell and hearing.
- Family groups are called sounders and consist of a boar, sow and a litter of piglets.
- They will use abandoned aardvark dens or hollows under rocks for shelter.
- They usually live in an area with a good water source for wallowing and drinking.
- Since Warthogs cannot sweat, they must wallow in mud to remain cool.
- When the family enters the den the young climb in head first and the last adult goes in backwards with the tusks facing out of the hole.
- Adults will ferociously defend the sounder.
- They can run up to 30 mph.
- It is diurnal, active during the day.

Breeding/Care of Young:

- Sexual maturity is 18 months
- Gestation is 171-175 days.
- Average litter size is 2-4 piglets.
- Piglets are grayish-pink and susceptible to cold.

