

Babirusa ... a unique pig with tusks like no other!



Why exhibit North Sulawesi babirusas?

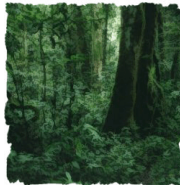
- Get involved with ACTION INDONESIA, the Global Species Management Plan for North Sulawesi babirusa, banteng, anoa, and Sumatran tiger! This exciting collaborative effort combines the expertise of *in situ* experts and zoo professionals to save these flagship Indonesian species.
- Get the best of both worlds: wonderful pigs in a green exhibit. Babirusa do not root up vegetation like other suids!
- Amaze your visitors with bizarre dentistry: the tusks of males grow up THROUGH their snouts! PLUS challenge visitors to figure out their purpose — scientists are still developing hypotheses.
- Highlight the epic nests that these pigs build in preparation for the birth (of their adorable piglets), and compare with other nest-builders.

MEASUREMENTS

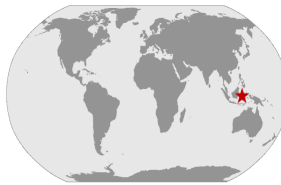
Length: 3 feet

Height: 2.5 feet
at shoulder

Weight: 100-220 lbs



Rainforest



Indonesia (Sulawesi)

IUCN
VULNERABLE
CITES I

<5,000 in
the wild

Stewardship Opportunities

Support the ACTION INDONESIA GSMP!

<https://www.actionindonesiagsmp.org/>

For more information, contact James Burton,
IUCN Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group Chair.

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 28.32 (60) in 18 AZA (+1 non-AZA) institutions (2019)

Species coordinator: Joe Forsys, Audubon Zoo

jforys@auduboninstitute.org ; (504) 266-1163

Social nature: Typically housed individually, in pairs, or single-sex groups (including multiple males). Pregnant females require isolation, as other adults may injure piglets.

Mixed species: Successfully mixed with small-clawed otters, anoa (juvenile), and gibbon species. Babirusa are usually not aggressive towards exhibit-mates.

Housing: Not cold hardy, but not fragile. Mud wallows and/or pools are well-used.

Medical notes: Skin problems may occur in long-term forced-air heated environments. Joint and foot issues are common, particularly when kept on hard substrates. Easily trained for medical behaviors.

Special requirements: Tusks of males can be brittle; enclosure design should avoid large gaps where tusks may get caught and broken.

Keeper resources: Typical cleaning of exhibit and holding areas. A variety of enrichment is necessary to keep animals stimulated. Smart, tractable, and readily trained. Can be worked in free contact.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

<http://www.azaungulates.org/>

