

Warthog

... a face only a mother – and the public – could love!

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
WILD PIG, PECCARY,
AND HIPPO TAG



MEASUREMENTS

Length: 3.5-5 feet

Height: 2-3 feet
at shoulder

Weight: 100-300 lbs



Savanna



Africa

IUCN
LEAST
CONCERN

> 250,000
in the wild

Why exhibit warthogs?

- Foster an immediate guest connection with this well-recognized and popular wild pig species.
- Enhance savanna exhibits with warthogs, using interpretive connections with many other species: armadillos (burrow use), elephants and rhinos (dung scavenging), oxpeckers (tick removal), and large predators (defense tactics).
- Present visitors with an active exhibit throughout the day: warthogs are exclusively diurnal.
- Both sexes grow impressive ornamental tusks. Males also develop extensive facial warts - their bizarre appearance captivates visitors.
- Tap into a bounty of marketing opportunities — they are the "naked swine of the savanna"!

Stewardship Opportunities

Northern Rangelands Trust (Kenya)

<http://www.nrt-kenya.org/>

Field surveys of two warthog species in East Africa

<http://www.wildsolutions.nl/>

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 51.67 (118) in 34 AZA institutions (2019)

Species coordinator: Lisa Smith, Buffalo Zoo

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Social nature: Typically kept in pairs with young offspring. Multiple other configurations are possible under the proper circumstances, including bachelor groups and all-female groups.

Mixed species: Various medium and large hoofstock (gazelles, various antelope, zebras), white rhino, ostrich, and bat-eared foxes. Their digging habits may create trip hazards for other hoofstock.

Housing: Not at all cold tolerant, especially when young. This species can be tough on exhibit terrain and vegetation; barriers must extend underground to prevent burrowing escapes.

Medical notes: Generally robust.

Special requirements: Mud wallows are very popular, especially when temperatures are high. Can be fractious if not properly socialized or exposed to a variety of stimuli when young.

Keeper resources: This species' use of latrine spots (and separate beds) greatly simplifies daily cleaning. Enrichment is readily used; warthogs also pick up quickly on husbandry training.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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

