

Warthog

Fact Sheet

Common name: Warthog

Scientific name: *Phacochoerus africanus*

Size: Females from 45 to 75 kg, males, from 60 to 150 kg.

Diet: Warthogs are herbivores, mainly eating grasses, roots, fruits, and bark.

Habitat: Grasslands, savannas and woodlands.



Warthogs are wild pigs that live in the **grasslands** and **savannas** of Africa. They have tough, grayish-brown skin and a thin tail that sticks straight up when they run. They have long curved **tusks**, and warty bumps on their faces, which help protect them during fights. These warts are made of **cartilaginous connective tissue** and can vary in size, and contribute to the sharp contours of a warthog's face.

Warthogs are **omnivores**, which means they eat both plants and animals. Their main food is grass, roots, and **tubers**, but they also eat insects and small animals when food is scarce. They use their strong tusks and snouts to dig in the soil for food.

Warthogs create their homes in abandoned aardvark burrows, which locals refer to as 'aardvark hotels.' They back into the burrow to sleep, leaving their tusks facing out to guard against **predators**.

Females live in communal groups known as "sounders," which can have up to 40 members. Male warthogs are more **solitary** and may only join a sounder during the mating season.

Warthogs are **diurnal**, meaning they are more active during the day and typically retreat to their burrows at night. To stay cool on hot days, they rely on their burrows and enjoy wallowing in the mud.

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Vocabulary

cartilaginous connective tissue - a flexible and tough material in the body, found in places like the nose, ears, and joints

diurnal - active during the day and resting at night

grasslands - large, open areas covered mostly with grass, where many animals live, like zebras and lions

omnivores - animals that eat both plants and animals

predators - animals that hunt and eat other animals, like lions or hawks.

savannas - a type of habitat with both grasslands and scattered trees, found in places like Africa where lions live

solitary - living alone instead of in groups

tubers - thick, underground parts of plants, like potatoes, that store nutrients and can be eaten

tusks - long, curved teeth that stick out of the mouths of animals like elephants or warthogs, used for digging or fighting

What is one fact you learnt about warthogs?

What do you like the most about warthogs?

What is one question you still have about warthogs?

