

20 PIGGY FACTS

How much do you know about these surprising swine?!

Thought pigs were greedy, lazy and dirty? Think again! These adorable oinkers are actually clean, playful, affectionate and super smart. Oh, and they can swim! Find out more...



1

Pigs can live for up to **20 years**.

2

Female pigs (sows) **sing 'lullabies'** to their babies while they're feeding them. And piglets can **recognise their mum's voice**. Oink!

3

The term **'sweating like a pig'** is kind of silly, because pigs **barely sweat!** They wallow in mud to **keep cool**, instead.

4

Pigs have impressive **long-term memories**. Studies show they can also **recognise and remember faces!**

6

Sociable creatures, pigs like to **cuddle** other hogs when they **sleep**. Aww! They also greet each other with a **nose rub!**

5

A **coating of mud** helps pigs prevent **sunburn!**

7

Faulty **human heart valves** can be replaced with chemically-treated **pig heart valves!**

8

Like humans, pigs are **omnivorous** – meaning they eat **all different kinds of food**.

9

Swines are **smarter** than three-year-old children! They can **learn to play** video games, fetch balls, match shapes and **follow simple commands**. Wow!

10

Pigs have a better **sense of smell** than dogs!

12

Until the 1980s, **insulin** from pigs was used to treat **human diabetes**. Some people still use it today!

14

Humans first **domesticated** pigs from wild boar about **9,000 years ago**. Today, around **1.5 billion** pigs are killed for their meat each year.

17

Some breeds of pig look like **sheep!** Meet the **Mangalitza**, or **woolly pig**.

18

Pig toilets were once common across parts of **China and India**. A loo was mounted over a **pig sty**, where hungry hogs gobbled the waste. Gross!

20

Some people keep **pigs as pets**. But owners must **register** their animals and get a **licence** if they want to take the pigs for **walks outside their home**.

15

Just before they **give birth**, female pigs like to build **cosy nests** out of grass or straw.

16

Pigs are pretty **clean!** They keep their **toilet area** well away from their **sleeping and resting areas**.

13

A colony of feral **swimming pigs** is a big tourist attraction in the **Bahamas**.

11

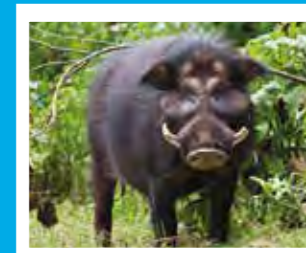
Pigs' **snouts** are powerful enough to **dig up soil** as they search for roots to eat – but they're also **super sensitive**. They can even grasp things with them!

TOP TROTTERS

The **pig family** (known as *Suidae*) is also made up of **wild pigs, hogs and boars**. Let's meet some of the most impressive members...

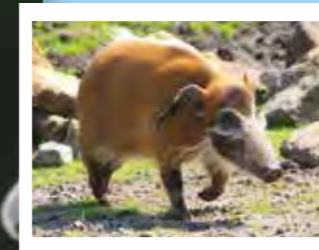
BIGGEST! GIANT FOREST HOG

The largest wild pig weighs in at a whopping **272kg**. But despite their big bulk, they're hard to find in the forests of **west, central and eastern Africa**. Ecologists fear they're under threat.



RED RIVER HOG

With a **vivid red coat** and fancy **facial hair**, these hoggish hipsters are a common sight in and around the forests of **west and central Africa**.



SMALLEST! PYGMY HOG

Sadly, the **weeniest** member of the pig family is also the most **endangered**. Around **60cm long**, pygmy hogs can only be found in **Manas National Park** in **north-western Assam, India**.



COMMON WARTHOG

This lumpy-looking pig with a fancy **mane** is named for the two **fleshy growths** that grow out of the side of the male's head. Found in **sub-Saharan Africa**, they live in **aardvark dens**. Cheeky!



HORNIEST! BABIRUSA

Also known as **pig-deer**, bizarre babirusas have **huge curved horns** and **thin little legs**. Their top tusks are actually **canine teeth** which have grown up and **out through the head**. Ouch!



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