

GUINEA HOG

updated March 2017



Range	Domesticated from wild boars; listed as critical (rare “heirloom” breed) on the conservation priority list of the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy
Habitat	Rare breed of domestic pig originating in the southeastern U.S.
Diet (wild)	Omnivore; hardy grazers and foragers. Shrubs, weeds, bird eggs, snakes, mice, grasshoppers, roots, nuts, tubers
Diet (captivity)	Pig chow
Description	Height: 22–27 inches; length: 46–56 inches; weight: 150–250 pounds. One of the smaller bodied pigs, they are generally black in color, but occasionally some will have a reddish tint to them. They have upright ears, a hairy coat and a curly tail.
Lifespan	10–15 years
Reproduction	After a gestation period of almost 4 months, the female gives birth to 1–15 piglets; six the most common litter size. Sows can have up to two litters per year. Males reach sexual maturity at 6–8 months and females at 8 months, although they do not reach full adult size until about two years old.
Behavior	Guinea hogs are noted for their small size, intelligence, docile and friendly temperaments and their ability to produce outstanding meat and flavorful lard on pasture and forage.
Our animals	2 females, 2 males. Born: 12/2006 (both females); 04/2009 (male) 04/2010 (male). Captive born
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pigs’ long flattened snouts allow for a heightened sense of smell. They are used to find truffles in many European countries. • Pigs were domesticated approximately 5,000–7,000 years ago. • Pigs are very intelligent and can be trained to perform numerous tasks and tricks. They will wag their tails when happy. • Pigs are social animals, typically living in female-dominated groups, called sounders. • Wild boars (<i>Sus scrofa</i>) are the ancestor of most domesticated pigs. Archaeological evidence suggests that pigs were first domesticated as early as 13,000–12,700 BCE in the Tigris Basin in western Asia. There was another domestication in China which took place about 8,000 years ago. DNA evidence shows that the first domestic pigs in Europe had been brought from the Near East. This led to the domestication of local European wild boar, resulting in a third domestication event with the Near Eastern genes dying out in European pig stock. Domestic pigs have much more developed hindquarters than their wild boar cousins, to the point where 70 percent of a pig’s body weight is concentrated in the posterior. This is the opposite for wild boar, where most of their muscles are concentrated in the head and shoulders region.

Phylum
ChordataClass
MammaliaOrder
ArtiodactylaFamily
SuidaeGenus
Susspecies
S. scrofa