# Operational Management and Utilization of the Common Warthog (***Phacochoerus africanus***) in Southern African Game Reserves

## Executive Summary

In the diverse and competitive landscape of African wildlife management, the Common Warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*) occupies a unique and often undervalued niche. Far from being merely a secondary species or "opportunity kill," the warthog represents a biological and economic keystone for game reserves and hunting farms. This report provides an exhaustive analysis of the species, designed specifically for landowners, professional hunters, and game managers seeking to optimize their utilization of this suid.

The report synthesizes data ranging from molecular taxonomy and physiological thermoregulation to terminal ballistics and culinary science. It establishes that successful management requires a nuanced understanding of the warthog's specific grazing adaptations, which allow it to thrive in open savanna where other suids fail. Furthermore, the analysis highlights the species' resilience to hunting pressure, provided that age structures are respected—specifically regarding the harvest of mature "tusker" boars versus meat animals.

Economically, the warthog offers a triple-tier value proposition: as a low-cost entry point for international trophy hunters, a staple for the local "biltong hunting" market, and a source of premium organic protein with specific processing requirements due to its ultra-low lipid profile. The following sections detail every aspect of the warthog's existence, transforming biological facts into actionable management insights.1

## Section 1: Taxonomy, Evolutionary History, and Classification

Understanding the warthog begins with its classification, which has undergone significant revision in recent decades. The manager must recognize the distinction between species to ensure accurate biodiversity reporting and conservation compliance.

### 1.1 Taxonomic Distinction and Phylogeny

The Common Warthog belongs to the family Suidae and the order Artiodactyla (even-toed ungulates). Historically, all warthogs were grouped under the scientific name *Phacochoerus aethiopicus*. However, modern taxonomic consensus has split the genus into two distinct species: the Desert Warthog (*P. aethiopicus*), now restricted to the Horn of Africa (northern Kenya, Somalia, eastern Ethiopia), and the Common Warthog (*P. africanus*), which is the subject of this report and the species prevalent across the vast majority of the continent's game viewing and hunting areas.1

This distinction is not merely academic; it has conservation implications. While the Common Warthog is classified as "Least Concern" by the IUCN due to its widespread distribution and robust population numbers, the Desert Warthog faces different pressures. For a game reserve in Southern Africa, the stock is exclusively *P. africanus*. The genus name *Phacochoerus* is derived from the Greek *phakos* (wart) and *khoiros* (pig), a direct reference to their most distinguishing facial features.7

### 1.2 Subspecies Distribution and Regional Variants

Within *P. africanus*, four subspecies are recognized, correlating with the major ecological zones of sub-Saharan Africa. For the hunting client or collector, these distinctions can add value to the trophy, representing specific regional variants:

* **The Northern Warthog (*P. a. africanus*):** This subspecies inhabits the Sahelian belt, stretching from Mauritania in the west to the Sudan in the east. It is adapted to the semi-arid transition zones of the Sahara.
* **The Eritrean Warthog (*P. a. aeliani*):** A geographically isolated population found in Eritrea and Ethiopia, often overlapping in range with the Desert Warthog but ecologically distinct.
* **The Central African Warthog (*P. a. massaicus*):** This is the variant most commonly encountered on East African safaris in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. It is the classic "Serengeti" warthog.
* **The Southern Warthog (*P. a. sundevallii*):** This subspecies dominates the hunting industry, ranging through Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and South Africa. It is the primary focus of this report due to its prevalence in the commercial game farm sector.5

## Section 2: Physiological Morphology and Adaptations

The physical form of the warthog is a testament to its evolutionary history as an open-country survivor. Every aspect of its morphology, from its lack of fur to its calloused knees, serves a specific survival function.

### 2.1 Dimensions, Weights, and Sexual Dimorphism

Warthogs exhibit significant sexual dimorphism, a critical factor for field judging and harvest selection.

* **Boars (Males):** Adult males are substantially larger and heavier. They typically measure 125 to 150 cm in head-and-body length, with a shoulder height ranging from 63.5 to 85 cm. In terms of mass, boars generally fall into the 60 to 150 kg (130–330 lbs) range. However, on well-managed game farms with supplemental feeding or high-quality lucerne/alfalfa grazing, trophy boars can exceed these averages, occasionally tipping the scales at over 250 lbs (113 kg).
* **Sows (Females):** Females are smaller and more gracile, measuring 105 to 140 cm in length and weighing between 50 and 75 kg (110–165 lbs). This weight difference is visually apparent in the field; boars appear "front-heavy" with massive neck development, while sows maintain a more balanced, rectangular profile.1

### 2.2 Cranial Structure and the "Warts"

The warthog's head is its most defining feature—large, flattened, and shovel-shaped. This cranial geometry acts as a specialized tool for excavation. The eyes are set high and wide on the skull, providing a panoramic field of view to detect predators even while the animal's snout is buried in the grass.9

The "warts" that give the species its name are not pathological growths but functional morphological adaptations. They consist of dense connective tissue (gristle) and thickened skin, devoid of bony cores.

* **Suborbital Warts:** Located immediately below the eyes, these can grow up to 15 cm in length in mature boars.
* **Preorbital Warts:** Found on the snout near the tusks.
* **Submaxillary Warts:** Located on the jawline, often sporting white bristles.
* **Functionality:** These pads serve as biological armor. During intraspecific combat, males fight by clashing heads and slashing sideways with their tusks. The warts act as shock absorbers and shields, protecting the vulnerable eyes and jaw tendons from the razor-sharp lower canines of their opponents. Sexual dimorphism is extreme here; females possess only the suborbital warts, and they are significantly smaller, making the presence of three large pairs of warts a definitive indicator of a male.7

### 2.3 Integumentary System: Skin, Hair, and "Color"

The warthog is sparsely haired, a trait that distinguishes it from the hairier Bushpig (*Potamochoerus larvatus*). The skin is naturally slate-grey to black. A distinct mane of long, coarse hair—often blond, brown, or black—runs from the nape of the neck down the spine to the middle of the back. This mane can be erected when the animal is agitated or aggressive, increasing its apparent size to intimidate rivals or predators.2

The Phenomenon of Coloration:

A frequent client query regards the "color" of the warthog. In reality, the warthog is a chameleon of the earth. Lacking subcutaneous fat and prone to overheating and insect irritation, warthogs are compulsive wallowers.

* **Mud Bathing:** They roll frequently in mud to cool down and cake their skin in a protective layer. Consequently, a warthog's visible color in the field is dictated by the local soil geology. In the iron-rich sands of the Kalahari or Limpopo, warthogs appear rust-red or deep orange. In the clay soils of the Eastern Cape, they may appear slate-grey or charcoal. In calcrete areas, they can look dusty white or yellow. This "mud armor" also serves a critical medical function, suffocating ticks and protecting the skin from the searing African sun.7

## Section 3: Dentition and Tusk Mechanics

For the trophy hunter, the tusks are the primary objective. For the biologist, they are a marvel of engineering.

### 3.1 The Canine Complex

Warthogs possess two pairs of functional tusks, which are modified canine teeth that grow continuously throughout the animal's life.

* **Upper Tusks:** These are the large, impressive semicircles that curve upward, outward, and inward. They emerge from the side of the snout and are primarily used for display, digging leverage, and defense against predators. In trophy boars, these can reach lengths exceeding 60 cm, though 25–40 cm is more common. The cross-section is roughly rectangular or elliptical, not round.
* **Lower Tusks:** These are shorter (rarely exceeding 15 cm), triangular in cross-section, and lethally sharp. They protrude laterally and curve slightly upwards.
* **The Honing Mechanism:** The lethality of the lower tusks is maintained by a constant grinding action against the base of the upper tusks. Every time the warthog opens and closes its mouth, the upper tusk acts as a whetstone for the lower tusk, keeping it honed to a razor's edge. This makes the lower tusks the primary weapons in a fight; a simple swipe can disembowel a dog or inflict severe lacerations on a human leg.3

### 3.2 Age Determination via Dentition

Aging warthogs is crucial for sustainable offtake. The dental formula changes with age.

* **Incisors:** Common warthogs typically have two upper and four to six lower incisors (unlike Cape warthogs which lack incisors).
* **Molars:** They have a specialized "conveyor belt" molar system similar to elephants. The cheek teeth migrate forward in the jaw as they wear down. The third molar is the massive, dominant grinding tooth in adults. By the time a warthog is old, the first and second molars may have been shed entirely.
* **Tusk Wear:** In very old boars, the continuous grinding may wear the upper tusks down to thick, blunt stumps, often referred to as "buttons." While these lack the length for high trophy scores, they represent a mature animal that has lived a full life, often appealing to hunters seeking "character" over inches.15

## Section 4: Ecological Dynamics and Behavior

The warthog's behavior is driven by two primary imperatives: thermoregulation and predator avoidance.

### 4.1 Habitat Preferences and Shelter

*P. africanus* is an open-country specialist. It thrives in savannas, grasslands, and open woodlands where visibility is good. It avoids dense rainforests (where the Giant Forest Hog replaces it) and true deserts (unless water is artificial).

* **The Burrow Imperative:** Warthogs are fossorial sleepers, but they are not primary excavators of their own homes. They rely almost exclusively on abandoned burrows dug by aardvarks (*Orycteropus afer*). This dependency on aardvarks is a critical ecological link; without aardvarks to break the hard African soil, warthog populations can be limited by a lack of shelter.
* **Entry Technique:** Warthogs exhibit a unique behavior of entering burrows rear-first. They will approach the hole, turn 180 degrees, and reverse in. This ensures that their formidable head and weaponry are facing the entrance, ready to defend against predators like leopards or pythons. This positioning also allows them to burst out at full speed if threatened.1

### 4.2 Thermoregulation and Daily Rhythms

The warthog is strictly diurnal, a behavioral adaptation to avoid nocturnal predators (lions, hyenas) and the cold.

* **Cold Sensitivity:** Due to their lack of fur and subcutaneous fat, warthogs are poor at retaining body heat. In the winter months of Southern Africa, they are late risers, often waiting until the sun has warmed the air (around 09:00 or 10:00) before emerging from their burrows. They will huddle together in the burrow to share warmth—a behavior known as social thermoregulation.
* **Heat Management:** Conversely, during the midday heat of summer, they retreat to shade or wallow in mud to cool down. This distinct daily rhythm—active in the cool of morning and late afternoon—dictates the optimal hunting times.15

### 4.3 Social Structure and "Sounders"

The basic social unit is the "sounder," a matriarchal group consisting of one or more adult females and their offspring.

* **Matrilines:** Sows are cohesive and cooperative, often grooming each other and even nursing each other's piglets (alloparenting) in some instances. Sounders typically contain 4–10 individuals but can grow up to 18.
* **Solitary Boars:** Adult males are generally solitary, roaming between territories. They join sounders only when a sow is in estrus. Young males, upon reaching sexual maturity (around 2 years), are ejected from the maternal sounder and often form "bachelor groups" for protection and socialization before becoming solitary adults.7

### 4.4 Symbiotic Relationships

Warthogs engage in fascinating mutualistic relationships.

* **Oxpeckers:** Red-billed and yellow-billed oxpeckers are frequently seen riding on warthogs, feeding on ticks and blood-sucking flies.
* **Mongoose Cleaning:** In a remarkable behavioral display, warthogs will approach troops of banded mongooses and lie down, entering a trance-like state. The mongooses swarm over the warthog, removing ticks from ears, eyes, and anal regions. This symbiosis provides the warthog with essential parasite control and the mongooses with a high-protein food source.3

## Section 5: Diet and Feeding Ecology

The warthog is a specialized grazer, a trait that separates it from the omnivorous bushpig.

### 5.1 Grazing Mechanics

Warthogs are selective feeders, preferring short, nutritious perennial grasses (e.g., *Cynodon dactylon*, *Panicum* species).

* **Kneeling Adaptation:** To access these short grasses, the warthog has evolved large, calloused pads on its carpal joints (wrists). It feeds almost exclusively in a kneeling position, shuffling forward on its knees. This lowers its center of gravity and brings its mouth level with the turf, allowing it to crop grass that is too short for antelope to utilize effectively.15

### 5.2 Seasonal Dietary Shifts

Their diet is highly seasonal.

* **Wet Season:** They graze extensively on the lush, above-ground parts of grasses.
* **Dry Season:** As grasses cure and lose nutritional value, warthogs switch to subterranean resources. Using their shovel-like snout and upper tusks, they excavate rhizomes, bulbs, tubers, and roots. These underground storage organs are rich in moisture and carbohydrates, allowing warthogs to survive droughts that decimate obligate grazers. This rooting behavior makes them resilient but also potentially destructive to lawns or agricultural fields.3

### 5.3 Omnivorous Tendencies

While primarily herbivorous, they are opportunistic omnivores. They will consume fallen fruits (like marula), berries, bark, insects, and occasionally carrion or bones (osteophagia) to supplement mineral intake, particularly calcium and phosphorus needed for tusk growth.3

## Section 6: Fieldcraft: Tracking and Sighting

For the professional hunter or guide, reading the signs of warthog presence is a fundamental skill.

### 6.1 Spoor Identification

Warthog tracks are distinct from the antelope species they share the veld with.

* **Dimensions:** The track is small, roughly 5 cm (2 inches) in length.
* **Shape:** It is a cloven hoof print. The toes are blunt and typically register as two parallel oblong shapes.
* **Dewclaws:** Unlike many antelope where dewclaws rarely touch the ground, warthog dewclaws (the smaller accessory toes) are situated lower and often register in soft mud or sand as two small dots immediately behind the main hoof impression.
* **Gait:** The typical gait is a busy trot. The stride length is shorter than that of a similarly sized antelope (like an impala), resulting in tracks that appear closer together.21

### 6.2 Scat Analysis

Warthog dung is often confused with zebra dung due to its fibrous nature but differs in shape.

* **Appearance:** The droppings are formed into compacted, cylindrical pellets or boluses, usually green to dark brown depending on the diet.
* **Differentiation:** Unlike zebra dung, which is blocky and often cracks, warthog dung is rounder and found in smaller, scattered piles or clusters, not large middens.8

### 6.3 Locomotion Signs

The most famous visual sign of a fleeing warthog is the "radio antenna" tail. When running, the tail is held stiffly vertical with the terminal tuft of hair waving at the top. This is believed to be a "follow-me" signal, helping piglets keep visual contact with the sow in tall grass where visibility is low.2

## Section 7: The Pursuit: Hunting Strategies and Ethics

Warthog hunting is accessible and exciting, often conducted as a "walk-and-stalk" or from a blind over water.

### 7.1 Field Judging Trophy Quality

Estimating the size of a warthog's tusks in the field is challenging due to the constant movement of the animal.

* **The "Snout Rule":** This is the gold standard for quick estimation. The distance from the lip line to the tip of the snout is used as a reference. If the *exposed* portion of the upper tusk equals roughly half the length of the snout, it is a good boar (likely 7–9 inches). If the tusk length appears to approach the full length of the snout or curl significantly upwards exceeding the snout's profile, it is a gold-medal trophy (13+ inches).
* **Tusk Thickness:** Length is not everything. Hunters should look for thick bases. A tusk that remains thick well away from the lip is preferable to a long, thin "needle" tusk.
* **Wart Size:** Massive, bulbous warts that obscure the view of the tusks from the front are a reliable indicator of an old, mature boar.4

### 7.2 Shot Placement and Anatomy

Warthogs are deceptively tough. The phrase "pound for pound, the toughest animal in Africa" is frequently applied to them.

* **The "Void" Myth:** There is a space above the spinal column (formed by the long neural spines) where a bullet can pass without hitting vital nerves or organs. A high shot here will stun the animal (a "spine shock") dropping it instantly, only for it to jump up and run off seconds later.
* **Heart Position:** The heart is located very low and forward in the chest, protected by the heavy leg bones (humerus/radius junction).
* **Broadside Shot:** The ideal aim point is strictly on the vertical line of the foreleg, one-third of the way up the body. This breaks the shoulder and hits the heart/lung cluster. Aiming "behind the shoulder" (the classic deer shot) is often too far back on a warthog, resulting in a liver or paunch shot.
* **Quartering Away:** Aim for the opposite front leg. The bullet must traverse the stomach to reach the vitals, so deep penetration is required.
* **The Frontal Shot:** A risky shot. The target is the "soft spot" at the base of the neck, between the shoulder points. However, the warthog's head often blocks this, and a slight movement can result in a deflected bullet off the skull or a jaw injury.
* **Brain Shot:** Feasible due to the large head, but the brain itself is small (walnut-sized) and located high and towards the rear of the skull. The target is the ear hole (side profile) or exactly between the eyes (frontal).26

## Section 8: Equipment and Ballistics

The equipment used for warthog hunting must balance versatility with the specific demands of the African bushveld.

### 8.1 Rifle and Caliber Selection

While warthogs are not "large" game (comparable to a feral pig), their bone density and tenacity require adequate firepower.

* **The Minimum:** Small calibers like.223 or.22-250 are generally discouraged for body shots due to insufficient penetration on shoulder bones. They are viable only for specialized head-shooting culling operations.
* **The Sweet Spot (.30 Caliber):** The.308 Winchester and.30-06 Springfield are the universal choices. They offer the perfect balance of recoil and energy (2,600+ ft-lbs). Loaded with 165gr or 180gr bullets, they can punch through both shoulders of a large boar at 150 yards.
* **The Bushveld Hammer:** For hunting in thick scrub (Limpopo or Eastern Cape thicket), larger bores like the 9.3x62 or.375 H&H Magnum are popular. While "overkill" in energy, their heavy bullets (286gr - 300gr) deflect less on twigs and deliver massive knockdown power, anchoring the animal instantly—a crucial factor when hunting near burrows where a wounded animal can escape underground.28

### 8.2 Bullet Selection: Construction Over Caliber

Bullet failure is the leading cause of lost warthogs.

* **Monolithic Copper (e.g., Barnes TTSX, Hornady GMX):** Excellent choice. They retain 99% of their weight and penetrate deep, breaking bone without fragmenting. They require high velocity to expand, so lighter grain weights (e.g., 150gr in.308) are preferred to keep speed up.
* **Bonded Lead-Core (e.g., Nosler AccuBond, Swift A-Frame):** The gold standard for mixed-bag safaris. The chemical bonding prevents core-jacket separation on impact with heavy bone.
* **Avoid:** Rapidly expanding "cup and core" bullets designed for thin-skinned deer (e.g., standard soft points) are risky on trophy boars as they may "splash" on the shoulder shield.29

### 8.3 Optics and Accessories

* **Scopes:** Variable power scopes in the 3-9x40mm or 2.5-10x range are ideal. The lower magnification (2.5x or 3x) is essential for close-range shots in bush, while the higher end allows for precision on open pans. Brands like Swarovski, Zeiss, and Leupold are favored for their durability and light transmission.
* **Shooting Sticks:** Essential. The vegetation often precludes prone shooting, and warthogs are too small to see over grass from a sitting position. Standing shots off tripod sticks ("quad sticks") are the norm.
* **Binoculars:** A quality 10x42 pair is vital for differentiating boars from sows in mixed groups.36

### 8.4 Clothing and Footwear

* **Camouflage:** South Africa permits camo. Patterns like "Sniper Africa" (local brand) or "KUIU Valo" work well in the grey/brown bush.
* **Boots:** The terrain is harsh. **Courteney Boots**, made in Zimbabwe from game skin (buffalo, ostrich, hippo), are the industry icon. They feature soft impala-skin collars and tyre-tread soles, offering silence and thorn protection. They are a status symbol and a practical necessity for the professional hunter.39

## Section 9: Harvest Utilization: Meat Science and Butchery

Warthog meat is a high-value byproduct of the hunt, prized for its unique nutritional and culinary properties. It is distinctly different from domestic pork.

### 9.1 Meat Characteristics

* **Fat Content:** Warthog meat is exceptionally lean. Studies show a total lipid content of less than 2.2% in the *Longissimus lumborum* muscle (backstrap). It lacks the marbling of domestic pork. This leanness makes it a healthy, high-protein alternative but poses challenges for cooking, as it dries out rapidly.
* **Color:** The meat is darker red than domestic pork, closer to beef or venison in appearance.
* **Flavor:** It is nutty and sweet, without the "gamey" taint often associated with antelope, provided the animal was not stressed before death.
* **Fatty Acid Profile:** It has a favorable ratio of polyunsaturated to saturated fatty acids, making it heart-healthy.42

### 9.2 Carcass Breakdown and Cuts

* **Shoulders (Chuck):** Tough, collagen-rich. Best for cubing into stews (potjiekos) or grinding for sausage (wors).
* **Loin (Backstrap):** The prime cut. Can be grilled whole or cut into butterfly steaks ("chops"). Must be cooked rare to medium-rare to retain moisture.
* **Hind Legs (Silverside/Topside):** Large muscle groups. Ideal for roasting (if larded with bacon) or curing into biltong.
* **Ribs:** Leaner than pork ribs but excellent when marinated and slow-cooked.45

### 9.3 Culinary Applications

* **Biltong:** The most popular use. The meat is cut into strips (with the grain for traditional chew, against for tender), cured in vinegar and coarse salt with coriander and black pepper, and air-dried. The low fat content prevents rancidity, making warthog biltong a premium product.
* **Potjiekos:** The traditional "small pot" stew.
  + *The Secret:* Because the meat is dry, fat must be added. Recipes typically start by frying onions and bacon/pork belly (spek) in the iron pot. The warthog cubes are browned, then simmered for hours with red wine, stock, and aromatics like cloves and bay leaves.
  + *Fusion:* Modern recipes incorporate ingredients like dates, apricots, or *Dukkah* (an Egyptian nut/spice blend) to complement the sweet meat.48
* **Larding:** For roasts, it is standard practice to use a larding needle to thread strips of bacon fat *through* the muscle to baste it internally during cooking.42

## Section 10: Economic and Conservation Management

For the game reserve owner, the warthog is a management tool.

### 10.1 Ecological Engineering

Warthogs are "eco-engineers." By rooting for tubers, they turn over soil, promoting aeration and water infiltration. This disturbance creates micro-habitats for seedlings and increases plant diversity. However, at high densities, they can degrade grazing lawns. Monitoring population numbers against carrying capacity is vital.3

### 10.2 Disease Management

Warthogs are asymptomatic carriers of African Swine Fever (ASF). The virus is transmitted to domestic pigs via the tampan tick (*Ornithodoros moubata*) which lives in warthog burrows.

* **Implication:** Game farms adjacent to domestic piggeries must have strict biosecurity measures (double fencing). Movement of live warthogs is often restricted by veterinary state controls.52

### 10.3 Economic Value

* **Trophy Fees:** A good boar can fetch $350–$500 from international clients.
* **Meat Sales:** Biltong hunters will pay per kilogram for meat animals (sows/young males), providing steady cash flow during the off-season.
* **Asset Value:** They are low-maintenance, requiring no supplemental feed if habitat is adequate, and their high reproductive rate (litters of 4 piglets) ensures rapid population recovery after droughts or harvest.53

## Conclusion

The Common Warthog is a resilient, adaptable, and valuable component of the African biosphere. For the client operating a hunting farm, recognizing the specific needs and values of this species—from the distinct ballistics required to ethically harvest it, to the culinary potential of its lean meat—turns a common sight into a core asset. Whether tracked through the red sands of the Kalahari or served as a gourmet *potjie* under the stars, the warthog commands respect as a true survivor of the African veld.

### Data Tables

#### Table 1: Warthog Trophy Estimation Guide

| **Feature** | **Juvenile / Young Adult** | **Shootable Boar (Good)** | **Trophy Boar (Gold Medal)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tusk Length (Visible)** | < 4 inches | 5 - 8 inches | 10+ inches |
| **Tusk Shape** | Sharp, thin, white | Curved, thickening at base | Massive curve, thick base, tips may be worn |
| **Warts** | Small, barely visible | Distinct pads | Large, bulbous, protruding significantly |
| **Snout Ratio** | Tusk < 1/3 snout length | Tusk ≈ 1/2 snout length | Tusk > 2/3 snout length |
| **Body Size** | Lean, "leggy" appearance | Muscular shoulders | Heavy neck, "tank-like" build, pot belly |

#### Table 2: Recommended Calibers and Bullets

| **Caliber** | **Bullet Weight** | **Bullet Type** | **Application** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **.243 Win** | 90 - 100 gr | Premium Bonded / Mono | Culling, sows, open terrain (head shots) |
| **7x57 Mauser** | 150 - 175 gr | Soft Point / Bonded | The classic "sweet spot." Low recoil, deep penetration. |
| **.308 Win** | 150 - 165 gr | Monolithic (Barnes TTSX) | All-rounder. High shock, guaranteed exit. |
| **.30-06 Sprg** | 180 gr | Bonded (Nosler AccuBond) | Heavy bush, large boars. Anchors animals well. |
| **.375 H&H** | 270 - 300 gr | Soft Point | Thick brush, dangerous game backup, instant knockdown. |

#### Table 3: Nutritional Composition of Warthog Meat (per 100g)

| **Nutrient** | **Amount** | **Comparison to Domestic Pork** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Protein** | 22.1 g | Higher (Pork ≈ 18-20g) |
| **Total Lipid (Fat)** | 1.7 - 2.2 g | Significantly Lower (Pork ≈ 10-15g) |
| **Moisture** | ~74% | Similar |
| **Cooking Implication** | Needs added fat | Can cook in own fat |

42

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