

= Capybara =

The capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) is a large rodent of the genus *Hydrochoerus* of which the only other extant member is the lesser capybara (*Hydrochoerus isthmius*) . The capybara is the largest rodent in the world . Close relatives are guinea pigs and rock cavies , and it is more distantly related to the agouti , chinchillas , and the coypu . Native to South America , the capybara inhabits savannas and dense forests and lives near bodies of water . It is a highly social species and can be found in groups as large as 100 individuals , but usually lives in groups of 10 ? 20 individuals . The capybara is not a threatened species and is hunted for its meat and hide and also for a grease from its thick fatty skin which is used in the pharmaceutical trade .

= = Etymology = =