[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Taxobox](/wiki/Template:Taxobox) A **pig** is any of the animals in the [genus](/wiki/Genus) ***Sus***, within the [Suidae](/wiki/Suidae) [family](/wiki/Family_(biology)) of [even-toed ungulates](/wiki/Even-toed_ungulate). Pigs include the [domestic pig](/wiki/Domestic_pig) and its ancestor, the common Eurasian [wild boar](/wiki/Wild_boar) ([*Sus scrofa*](/wiki/Sus_scrofa)), along with other species; related creatures outside the genus include the [peccary](/wiki/Peccary), the [babirusa](/wiki/Babirusa), and the [warthog](/wiki/Common_warthog). Pigs, like all [suids](/wiki/Suidae), are native to the [Eurasian and African continents](/wiki/Old_World). Juvenile pigs are known as piglets.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Pigs are highly social and intelligent animals.[[2]](#cite_note-2) With around 1 billion individuals alive at any time, the [domesticated](/wiki/Domesticated) pig is one of the most numerous large mammals on the planet.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) Pigs are [omnivores](/wiki/Omnivore) and can consume a wide range of food, similar to humans.[[5]](#cite_note-5) Pigs can harbour a range of [parasites](/wiki/Parasitism) and diseases that can be transmitted to humans. Because of the similarities between pigs and humans, pigs are used for human medical research.[[6]](#cite_note-6)

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The [*Online Etymology Dictionary*](/wiki/Online_Etymology_Dictionary) provides anecdotal evidence as well as linguistic, saying that the term derives

probably from Old English \**picg*, found in compounds, ultimate origin unknown. Originally "young pig" (the word for adults was *swine*). Apparently related to [Low German](/wiki/Low_German) *bigge*, [Dutch](/wiki/Dutch_language) *big* ("but the phonology is difficult" -- [*OED*](/wiki/Oxford_English_Dictionary)). ... Another Old English word for "pig" was *fearh*, related to *furh* "furrow," from [PIE](/wiki/Proto-Indo-European_language) \**perk*- "dig, furrow" (source also of Latin *porc-us* "pig," see *pork*). "This reflects a widespread [IE](/wiki/Indo-European_languages) tendency to name animals from typical attributes or activities" [Roger Lass]. Synonyms *grunter*, *porker* are from sailors' and fishermen's euphemistic avoidance of uttering the word pig at sea, a superstition perhaps based on the fate of the [Gadarene swine](/wiki/Legion_(demons)), who drowned.[[7]](#cite_note-7)

The *Online Etymology Dictionary* also traces the evolution of ***sow***, the term for a female pig, through various historical languages:

Old English *sugu*, *su* "female of the swine," from [Proto-Germanic](/wiki/Proto-Germanic_language) \**su*- (cognates: [Old Saxon](/wiki/Old_Saxon), [Old High German](/wiki/Old_High_German) *su*, [German](/wiki/German_language) *Sau*, [Dutch](/wiki/Dutch_language) *zeug*, [Old Norse](/wiki/Old_Norse) *syr*), from [PIE](/wiki/Proto-Indo-European_language) root \**su*- (cognates: [Sanskrit](/wiki/Sanskrit) *sukarah* "wild boar, swine;" [Avestan](/wiki/Avestan) *hu* "wild boar;" [Greek](/wiki/Greek_language) *hys* "swine;" [Latin](/wiki/Latin) *sus* "swine", *suinus* "pertaining to swine"; [Old Church Slavonic](/wiki/Old_Church_Slavonic) *svinija* "swine;" [Lettish](/wiki/Latvian_language) *sivens* "young pig;" [Welsh](/wiki/Welsh_language) *hucc*, [Irish](/wiki/Irish_language) *suig* "swine; [Old Irish](/wiki/Old_Irish) *socc* "snout, plowshare"), possibly imitative of pig noise; note that Sanskrit *sukharah* means "maker of (the sound) *su*.[[7]](#cite_note-7)

It is entirely likely that the [word to call pigs](/wiki/Hog_calling), "soo-ie," is similarly derived.

## Description and behaviour[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

A typical pig has a large head with a long snout which is strengthened by a special prenasal bone and by a disk of [cartilage](/wiki/Cartilage) at the tip.[[8]](#cite_note-8) The snout is used to dig into the soil to find food and is a very acute sense organ. There are four [hoofed](/wiki/Hoof) toes on each [trotter](/wiki/Pig's_trotters) (foot), with the two larger central toes bearing most of the weight, but the outer two also being used in soft ground.[[9]](#cite_note-9) The [dental formula](/wiki/Dental_formula) of adult pigs is [Template:DentalFormula](/wiki/Template:DentalFormula), giving a total of 44 [teeth](/wiki/Tooth). The rear teeth are adapted for crushing. In the male, the canine teeth form [tusks](/wiki/Tusk), which grow continuously and are sharpened by constantly being ground against each other.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Occasionally, captive mother pigs may [savage](/wiki/Savaging) their own piglets, often if they become severely stressed.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Some attacks on newborn piglets are non-fatal. Others may cause the [death](/wiki/Death) of the piglets and sometimes, the mother may [eat](/wiki/Eating) the piglets. It is estimated that 50% of piglet fatalities are due to the mother attacking, or unintentionally crushing, the newborn pre-weaned animals.[[11]](#cite_note-11)

## Distribution and evolution[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|Domesticated pig](/wiki/File:Little_Piggies.jpg)[thumb|Pig in a bucket](/wiki/File:Pig_in_a_bucket.jpg) With around 1 billion individuals alive at any time, the [domesticated](/wiki/Domesticated) pig is one of the most numerous large mammals on the planet.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) The ancestor of the domesticated pig is the [wild boar](/wiki/Wild_boar), which is one of the most numerous and widespread large mammals. Its many subspecies are native to all but the harshest climates of continental [Eurasia](/wiki/Eurasia) and its islands and [Africa](/wiki/Africa) as well, from Ireland and India to Japan and north to Siberia.

Long isolated from other pigs on the many islands of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, pigs have evolved into many different species, including wild boar, bearded pigs, and warty pigs. Humans have introduced pigs into Australia, North and South America, and numerous islands, either accidentally as escaped domestic pigs which have gone [feral](/wiki/Feral), or as wild boar.

## Habitat and reproduction[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

The wild pig (*Sus scrofa*) can take advantage of any forage resources. Therefore, it can live in virtually any productive habitat that can provide enough water to sustain large mammals such as pigs. If there is increased foraging of wild pigs in certain areas, it can cause a nutritional shortage which can cause the pig population to decrease. If the nutritional state returns to normal, the pig population will most likely rise due to the pigs' naturally increased reproduction rate.[[12]](#cite_note-12)

## Diet and foraging[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

Pigs are [omnivores](/wiki/Omnivore), which means that they consume both plants and animals. In the wild, they are foraging animals, primarily eating leaves, grasses, roots, fruits, and flowers. In confinement, pigs are fed mostly corn and soybean meal[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) with a mixture of vitamins and minerals added to the diet. Traditionally they were raised on dairy farms and called "mortgage lifters" due to their ability to use the excess milk as well as whey from cheese and butter making combined with pasture.[[13]](#cite_note-13) Older pigs will consume three to five gallons of water per day.[[14]](#cite_note-14)

## Relationship with humans[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|A pig trained to find](/wiki/File:Cochon_truffier.JPG) [truffles](/wiki/Truffles). [Domesticated pigs](/wiki/Domestic_pig), called swine, are raised commercially for meat (generally called [pork](/wiki/Pork), [hams](/wiki/Hams), [gammon](/wiki/Ham#United_Kingdom) or [bacon](/wiki/Bacon)), as well as for [leather](/wiki/Leather). Their bristly [hairs](/wiki/Hair) are also used for brushes. Due to their common use as livestock, adult swine have gender specific names: the males are *boars* and the females are *sows*. In Britain, the word *hog* can refer to a castrated adult male pig.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Young swine are called *piglets* or *pigs*. Pork is one of the most popular forms of meat for human consumption, accounting for 38% of worldwide meat production.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Pigs that are allowed to forage may be watched by [swineherds](/wiki/Swineherd). Because of their foraging abilities and excellent [sense of smell](/wiki/Olfaction), they are used to find [truffles](/wiki/Truffle) in many European countries.

Both wild and feral pigs are commonly [hunted](/wiki/Hunting). Some breeds of pig, such as the Asian [pot-bellied pig](/wiki/Pot-bellied_pig), are kept as pets. There are two instances in the 2000s where farm hogs ate human beings. The first was in 2004 in Romania, where a woman died after her ears, half of her face and her fingers were consumed;[[17]](#cite_note-17) the other in 2012 in Oregon—whether the farmer was killed by his hogs or died of another cause before being consumed is unknown.[[18]](#cite_note-18) The relatively short, stiff, coarse hairs of the pig are called [bristles](/wiki/Bristle), and were once so commonly used in [paintbrushes](/wiki/Paintbrush) that in 1946 the Australian Government launched [Operation Pig Bristle](/wiki/Operation_Pig_Bristle). In May 1946, in response to a shortage of pig bristles for paintbrushes to paint houses in the post-World War II construction boom, the [Royal Australian Air Force](/wiki/Royal_Australian_Air_Force) (RAAF) flew in 28 [short tons](/wiki/Short_ton) of pig bristles from China, their only commercially available source at the time.[[19]](#cite_note-19)

## Species[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Listen](/wiki/Template:Listen) [thumb|Bearded pigs (](/wiki/File:Bearded_Pigs2.jpg)[*Sus barbatus*](/wiki/Sus_barbatus)) The genus *Sus* is currently thought to contain ten living species. A number of [extinct](/wiki/Extinction) species ([†](/wiki/Extinction)) are known from [fossils](/wiki/Fossil).

* [*Sus ahoenobarbus*](/wiki/Sus_ahoenobarbus) Huet, 1888 – [Palawan bearded pig](/wiki/Palawan_bearded_pig)
* [†](/wiki/Extinction)[*Sus australis*](/wiki/Sus_australis) Han, 1987 – Early Pleistocene of China
* [*Sus barbatus*](/wiki/Sus_barbatus) Müller, 1838 – [Bornean bearded pig](/wiki/Sus_barbatus)
* †[*Sus bijiashanensis*](/wiki/Sus_bijiashanensis) Han *et al.*, 1975 – Early Pleistocene of China
* [*Sus bucculentus*](/wiki/Sus_bucculentus) Heude, 1892 – [Heude's Pig](/wiki/Heude's_Pig) or Indo-Chinese (or Vietnam) warty pig
* [*Sus cebifrons*](/wiki/Sus_cebifrons) Heude, 1888 – [Visayan warty pig](/wiki/Visayan_warty_pig)
* [*Sus celebensis*](/wiki/Sus_celebensis) Müller & Schlegel, 1843 – [Celebes warty pig](/wiki/Celebes_warty_pig) or Sulawesi warty pig
* †[*Sus falconeri*](/wiki/Sus_falconeri) – Pleistocene of the Siwalik region, India
* †[*Sus houi*](/wiki/Sus_houi) Qi *et al.*, 1999 – Pleistocene of China
* †[*Sus hysudricus*](/wiki/Sus_hysudricus)
* †[*Sus jiaoshanensis*](/wiki/Sus_jiaoshanensis) Zhao, 1980 – Early Pleistocene of China
* †[*Sus liuchengensis*](/wiki/Sus_liuchengensis) Han, 1987 – Early Pleistocene of China
* †[*Sus lydekkeri*](/wiki/Sus_lydekkeri) [Zdansky](/wiki/Otto_Zdansky), 1928 – Pleistocene of China
* †[*Sus offecinalis*](/wiki/Sus_offecinalis) Koenigswald, 1933 – China
* [*Sus oliveri*](/wiki/Sus_oliveri) Groves, 1997 – [Oliver's warty pig](/wiki/Oliver's_warty_pig) or Mindoro warty pig
* †[*Sus peii*](/wiki/Sus_peii) Han, 1987 – Early Pleistocene of China
* [*Sus philippensis*](/wiki/Sus_philippensis) Nehring, 1886 – [Philippine warty pig](/wiki/Philippine_warty_pig)
* [*Sus scrofa*](/wiki/Sus_scrofa) – [Wild boar](/wiki/Wild_boar) Linnaeus, 1758
  + [*Sus scrofa domestica*](/wiki/Sus_scrofa_domestica) Erxleben, 1777 – [Domestic pig](/wiki/Domestic_pig) (sometimes treated as a full species)
* †[*Sus subtriquetra*](/wiki/Sus_subtriquetra) Xue, 1981
* †[*Sus strozzi*](/wiki/Sus_strozzi)
* [*Sus verrucosus*](/wiki/Sus_verrucosus) Boie, 1832 – [Javan warty pig](/wiki/Javan_warty_pig)
* †[*Sus xiaozhu*](/wiki/Sus_xiaozhu) Han *et al.*, 1975 – Early Pleistocene of China

The [pygmy hog](/wiki/Pygmy_hog), formerly *Sus salvanius* is now placed in the [monotypic](/wiki/Monotype_(biology)) genus [*Porcula*](/wiki/Porcula).[[20]](#cite_note-20)

## Domestic pigs[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|upright|Swedish pig farmer with piglet. Early 20th century](/wiki/File:Kelgris1909b.jpg) [thumb|left|Green glazed toilet with pigsty model. China, Eastern Han dynasty 25 - 220 CE](/wiki/File:Green_glazed_toilet_with_pigsty_model._Eastern_Han_dynasty_25_-_220_CE.jpg)

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Pigs have been [domesticated](/wiki/Domestication) since [ancient times](/wiki/Ancient_history) in the [Old World](/wiki/Old_World). Archaeological evidence suggests that pigs were being managed in the wild in a way similar to the way they are managed by some modern New Guineans from wild boar as early as 13,000–12,700 [BP](/wiki/Before_Present) in the [Near East](/wiki/Near_East) in the Tigris Basin.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Remains of pigs have been dated to earlier than 11,400 BP in Cyprus that must have been introduced from the mainland which suggests domestication in the adjacent mainland by then.[[22]](#cite_note-22) A separate domestication also occurred in China.[[23]](#cite_note-23) In India, pigs have been domesticated for a long time mostly in [Goa](/wiki/Goa) and some [rural areas](/wiki/Rural_area) for [pig toilets](/wiki/Pig_toilet). This was also done in China. Though ecologically logical as well as economical, pig toilets are waning in popularity as use of [septic tanks](/wiki/Septic_tank) and/or [sewerage](/wiki/Sewerage) systems is increasing in rural areas.

Pigs were brought to southeastern North America from Europe by [Hernando de Soto](/wiki/Hernando_de_Soto) and other early Spanish explorers. Pigs are particularly valued in China and on certain oceanic islands, where their self-sufficiency allows them to be turned loose, although the practice is not without its drawbacks (see [environmental impact](/wiki/#Environmental_impacts)).

The domestic pig (*Sus scrofa domesticus*) is usually given the [scientific name](/wiki/Binomial_nomenclature) *Sus scrofa*, although some authors call it *S. domesticus*, reserving *S. scrofa* for the [wild boar](/wiki/Wild_boar). It was domesticated approximately 5,000 to 7,000 years ago. Their coats are coarse and bristly. They are born brownish coloured and tend to turn more grayish coloured with age. The upper [canines](/wiki/Canine_tooth) form sharp distinctive [tusks](/wiki/Tusk) that curve outward and upward. Compared to other artiodactyles, their head is relatively long, pointed, and free of [warts](/wiki/Wart). Their head and body length ranges from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and they can weigh between [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

In August 2015, a study looked at over 100 pig genome sequences to ascertain their process of domestication. The process of domestication was assumed to have been initiated by humans, involved few individuals and relied on reproductive isolation between wild and domestic forms. The study found that the assumption of reproductive isolation with population bottlenecks were not supported. The study indicated that pigs were domesticated separately in Western Asia and China, with Western Asian pigs introduced into Europe where they crossed with wild boar. A model that fitted the data included admixture with a now extinct [Ghost population](/wiki/Ghost_population) of wild pigs during the [Pleistocene](/wiki/Pleistocene). The study also found that despite back-crossing with wild pigs, the genomes of domestic pigs have strong signatures of selection at DNA loci that affect behavior and morphology. The study concluded that human selection for domestic traits likely counteracted the homogenizing effect of gene flow from wild boars and created [Domestication islands](/wiki/Domestication_islands) in the genome. The same process may also apply to other domesticated animals.<ref name=frantz2015>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> <ref name=pennisi2015>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref>

Pigs are intelligent<ref name=AnimalBehaviour>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> and can be trained to perform numerous tasks and tricks.<ref name = nytimes2009-11-9>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Recently, they have enjoyed a measure of popularity as house pets, particularly the dwarf breeds.

## Cultural and religious reference to pigs[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Pigs appear in the traditional and popular [arts](/wiki/Art), media, and cultures of many societies, where they sometimes carry [religious symbolism](/wiki/Religion). In Asia the [wild boar](/wiki/Wild_boar) is one of 12 animal images comprising [the Chinese zodiac](/wiki/Pig_(zodiac)), while in Europe the boar represents a standard charge in [heraldry](/wiki/Heraldry). In [Islam](/wiki/Islam) and [Judaism](/wiki/Judaism) pigs and those who handle them are viewed negatively. Pigs are frequently alluded to in [folk art](/wiki/Folk_art), [idioms](/wiki/Idiom), [metaphors](/wiki/Metaphor), and [proverbs](/wiki/Proverbs), and also occasionally in [parables](/wiki/Parable) (e.g. [Parable of the Prodigal Son](/wiki/Parable_of_the_Prodigal_Son)). "the three little pigs" is a folk-tale and "Peppa Pig" is a popular British television show.

## Environmental impacts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

Domestic pigs that have escaped from farms or were allowed to forage in the wild, and in some cases wild boars which were introduced as prey for hunting, have given rise to large populations of feral pigs in North and South America, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, and other areas where pigs are not native. Accidental or deliberate releases of pigs into countries or environments where they are an [alien species](/wiki/Introduced_species) have caused extensive environmental change. Their omnivorous diet, aggressive behaviour, and their feeding method of rooting in the ground all combine to severely alter ecosystems unused to pigs. Pigs will even eat small animals and destroy nests of ground nesting birds.[[8]](#cite_note-8) The [Invasive Species Specialist Group](/wiki/IUCN_Species_Survival_Commission) lists feral pigs on the [list of the world's 100 worst invasive species](/wiki/List_of_the_world's_100_worst_invasive_species) and says:[[24]](#cite_note-24)[thumb|Feral pigs (](/wiki/Image:Wild_Pig_KSC02pd0873.jpg)[razorbacks](/wiki/Razorback)) in [Florida](/wiki/Florida) [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

## Health issues[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

Pigs can harbour a range of [parasites](/wiki/Parasitism) and diseases that can be transmitted to humans. These include [trichinosis](/wiki/Trichinosis), [*Taenia solium*](/wiki/Pork_tapeworm), [cysticercosis](/wiki/Cysticercosis), and [brucellosis](/wiki/Brucellosis). Pigs are also known to host large concentrations of parasitic [ascarid](/wiki/Ascaris) worms in their digestive tract.[[25]](#cite_note-25) According to the USDA fact sheet modern pork can be enjoyed cooked rare at 145 °F with pink in the middle.[[26]](#cite_note-26) Today trichinellosis infections from eating undercooked pork are rare in more technologically developed countries due to refrigeration, health laws, and public awareness.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Some religious groups have dietary laws that make pork an "unclean" meat, and adherents sometimes interpret these health issues as validation of their views.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Pigs have health issues of their own. Pigs have small lungs in relation to their body size and are thus more susceptible than other domesticated animals to fatal [bronchitis](/wiki/Bronchitis) and [pneumonia](/wiki/Pneumonia).[[29]](#cite_note-29) Some strains of influenza are [endemic](/wiki/Endemic_(epidemiology)) in pigs (see [swine influenza](/wiki/Swine_influenza)). Pigs also can acquire [human influenza](/wiki/Human_influenza).

Pigs can be aggressive in defending themselves and their young. Pig-induced injuries are thus not unusual in areas where pigs are raised or where they form part of the wild or feral fauna.[[30]](#cite_note-30) In November 2012 scientists managed to [sequence the genome](/wiki/Sequence_the_genome) of the [domestic pig](/wiki/Domestic_pig). The similarities between the pig and human genomes mean that the new data may have wide applications in the study and treatment of human genetic diseases.[[31]](#cite_note-31)[[32]](#cite_note-32)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal) [Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* [Wild Boar](/wiki/Wild_Boar)
* [Domestic Pig](/wiki/Domestic_Pig) [Peccary](/wiki/Peccary) (domestication)
* [Truffle hog](/wiki/Truffle_hog)
* [Pot-bellied pig](/wiki/Pot-bellied_pig)
* [Babirusa](/wiki/Babirusa)
* [Red River Hog](/wiki/Red_River_Hog)
* [Bushpig](/wiki/Bushpig)
* [Fetal pig](/wiki/Fetal_pig)
* [Hog-baiting](/wiki/Hog-baiting)
* [List of fictional pigs](/wiki/List_of_fictional_pigs)
* [List of pigs](/wiki/List_of_pigs)
* [Pig Olympics](/wiki/Pig_Olympics)
* [Enviropig](/wiki/Enviropig)
* [Pig Beach](/wiki/Pig_Beach)

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Sister links](/wiki/Template:Sister_links)

* [Pig genome resources](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/genome/guide/pig/)
* [Swine breeds, with pictures](http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/swine/)

[Template:Pigs](/wiki/Template:Pigs) [Template:Artiodactyla](/wiki/Template:Artiodactyla)

[Category:Pigs](/wiki/Category:Pigs) [Category:Coprophagous animals](/wiki/Category:Coprophagous_animals)