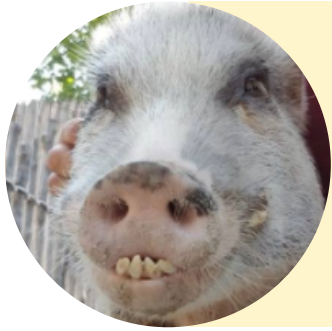




Domestic Pig

Sus scrofa



Orson

I was born March 22, 2013 and arrived in Racine on May 11th, 2013.

I live with my brothers Elmer and Norton in the Barnyard Safari during the warmer months. I am the most social of the three pigs and I am most likely to come up to the fence to see what is going on. I like to let my caregivers know I am hungry by rubbing my snout on their legs. You can easily tell me apart from my brothers because I have a white body with black spots.

Elmer

I was born March 22, 2013 and arrived in Racine on May 11th, 2013.

I live with my brothers Orson and Norton in the Barnyard Safari during the warmer months. I am the leader of the group, and will let my brothers know when I disapprove of their behavior! I am also the slowest eater, so I need to watch out or my brothers will try to eat my food! I have a black body with white feet (like I stepped in Elmer's glue!)



Norton

I was born March 22, 2013, and arrived in Racine on May 11th, 2013.

I live with my brothers Orson and Elmer in the Barnyard Safari during the warmer months. I am the shyest of the three brothers, but I am the quickest to eat my food and the first to investigate new enrichment! I look similar to Elmer, but my front feet are all black.

PIGS AT A GLANCE

3 - 6 ft long
110 - 800+ pounds



Avg. life expectancy in native habitats:

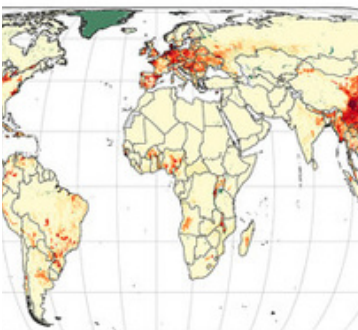
4 - 8 years

Avg. life expectancy in human care:

6 - 10 years

- Pigs have **disc-shaped snouts** with lots of nerve receptors. They use their sense of smell to find food and communicate with others.
- Pigs' **hooves** provide them with balance and help them dig around in soft soils.
- Domestic pigs have **tails** that curl, while wild boars have straight tails. This curliness may have evolved as a result of pig fighting.

WHERE ARE NATIVE PIG HABITATS LOCATED?



Domestic pigs originate from the Eurasian wild boar, *Sus scrofa*. They were first domesticated almost 12,000 years ago! Wild boars are native to Asia, Europe, and parts of northern Africa, but have been introduced to all continents except Antarctica. They prefer shelter with shallow pools and shade to cool off when it's hot.

Domestic Pig Behaviors

ROLLING

Rolling around in the mud helps to keep pigs from overheating when it gets too hot outside. Mud tends to keep pigs cooler longer because the water in mud evaporates more slowly than pure water.

I'm cooling off, applying sunscreen, and putting on bug repellent all in one!



ROOTING

Pigs use their super-sensitive noses to nudge things around and explore for a variety of reasons, including to comfort, to cool off, to communicate, and to search for food.

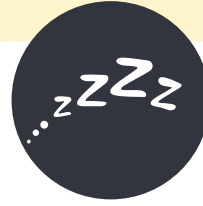
I often use rooting to investigate my habitat or the new enrichment my keepers give me.



SLEEPING

Pigs like to sleep snuggled up together in their nest. At the zoo, our pigs will make their sleeping spots, or nests, out of straw and hay.

I'm feeling safe and comfortable. Animals often get to enjoy the luxury of more sleep when they don't have to worry about predators!



TAIL WAGGING

Pigs use their tails to communicate how they feel. A curly tail can mean happy and excited, while a loosely wagging tail means they are relaxed.

This is just one of the ways I can communicate with my keepers to let them know how I am feeling.



- It is estimated that pigs were domesticated from wild boars around Western Asia, Egypt, and Turkey in the Tigris River Basin and were then introduced to Europe around 8,500 years ago. A separate domestication occurred in China 8,000 years ago.
- Domestic pigs are actually very clean animals. Their reputation of being dirty comes from their method of cooling off by rolling in mud. Pigs have very few sweat glands, so they wallow in cool liquids like mud when they get overheated.
- Pigs are one of four mammals that are immune to snake venom. All four species - the others are honey badgers, mongooses, and hedgehogs - evolved this mutation in the acetylcholine receptors separately.
- Pigs are omnivores and can eat about almost anything including roots, fruit, rodents, and small reptiles. At the zoo they eat vegetables, grain, alfalfa, and hay.

Domestic Pig Conservation

No serious threats faced in the wild. They are a common prey species, but reproduce quickly.

This species of pig is not listed on the CITES list due to it being a domesticated species.

How can we help?

If you are interested in owning and caring for a pig, make sure you get one from an ethical source, such as a farm rescue or responsible breeder. Remember that no pigs are miniature for their whole lives; even so-called "mini" or "teacup" pigs still reach over 100 pounds in adulthood.

Feral hogs are a serious danger to landscapes, forests, prairies, farms, wildlife, even archaeological dig sites and cemeteries! If you care for pigs, be sure they are kept safely in their homes where they can't cause unintended damage.