

Indonesian babirusas

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Indonesian babirusas Latest News

Recently, the Chester Zoo in the United Kingdom announced the birth of a critically important babirusa, when its population is threatened by the African swine fever.

About Indonesian babirusas

- The babirusa is a **wild pig** commonly known as “**pig-deer**”, belonging to a genus **called Babyrousa**.
- Since 2001, scientists have since recognized three extant species: **Buru babirusa** (*Babyrousa babyrussa*), **North Sulawesi babirusa** (*B. celebensis*), **Togian babirusa** (*B. togeanensis*).
- **Appearance:** They're much less hairy than other pigs. Males are the only pigs whose upper tusks erupt through the snout bone and curve back towards their face.
- **Habitat:** They can be found in **moist, swampy forests** and in the lush thickets of tropical rainforests.
- **Distribution:** They are found in the **Indonesian islands of Sulawesi, Togian, Sula and Buru**.
- **Conservation Status: IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable

Characteristics of Indonesian babirusas

- They are among **the fastest runners in the pig family**, able to reach 30 miles per hour.
- They are **excellent swimmers**, preferring to live near bodies of water.
- They are well **known for their lower canine tusks** which are possessed by both sexes, along with the upper canine tusks that grow only on males.
- **Diet:** Their diet includes fruits, plants and small animals.
- They use **their specialised hooves to dig for** insect larvae and roots in the ground.
- **Reproduction:** They become sexually mature after they reach **one or two years** of age. Gestation in females lasts 155 to 158 days and ends with one or two piglets (which is a small litter for pigs).

Source: DTE

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