

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 77 (2011)
Heft: [1]

Artikel: Wild boar = Wildschwein
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943333>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

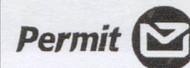
The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 09.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Sender:
The Secretary of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc
Trudi Brühlmann
401 Marine Drive
Mahina Bay
Eastbourne
Lower Hutt 5013

New Zealand
Permit No. 93966



HELVEZIA

Magazine for Members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc

FAUNA IN SWITZERLAND

Wild boar – Wildschwein

The wild boar is the wild ancestor of the domestic pig, an animal with which it freely hybridizes. Wild boar are native across much of Europe, the Mediterranean Region and much of Asia as far south as Indonesia. Populations have also been artificially introduced in some parts of the world, principally for hunting. Elsewhere, populations have become established after escapes of wild boar from captivity.



The term boar is used to denote an adult male of certain species — including, confusingly, domestic pigs. However, for wild boar, it applies to the whole species, including, e.g. "wild boar sow" or "wild boar piglet".

The body of the wild boar is compact; the head is large, the legs relatively short. The fur consists of stiff bristles and usually finer fur. The colour usually varies from dark grey to black or brown. During winter the fur is much denser.

Adult boars average 120–180 cm in length and have a shoulder height of 90 cm. Boars show a great deal of weight variation, from an average 100 kg to a record 300 kg!

The continuously growing tusks (the canine teeth) serve as weapons and tools. The lower tusks of an adult male measure about 20 cm; about 10 cm protrude out of the mouth. The upper tusks are bent upwards in males and are regularly ground against the lower ones to produce sharp edges.

Wild boar piglets are coloured differently from adults, having ochre, chocolate and cream coloured stripes lengthwise over their bodies. The stripes fade by the time the piglet is about 6 months old, when the animal takes on the adult's grizzled grey or brown colour.

Adult males are usually solitary outside of the breeding season, but females and their offspring live in groups called sounders. Sounders typically number around 20 animals, and will consist of 2 to 3 sows, one of which will be the dominant female.

Wild boar usually forage from dusk until dawn. They are omnivorous scavengers, eating almost anything they come across.

If surprised or cornered, a boar (particularly a sow with her piglets) will defend itself and its young with intense vigor. The male lowers his head, charges, and then slashes upward with his tusks. The female, whose tusks are not visible, charges with her head up, mouth wide, and bites. Such attacks may result in severe trauma and dismemberment.

Litter size is typically 4–6 piglets. Piglets weigh 750g – 1000g at birth. Rooting behaviour develops in piglets as early as the first few days of life, and piglets are fully weaned after 3–4 months. They will begin to eat solid food such as worms and grubs after about 2 weeks.

Domestic pigs quite readily become feral, and feral populations often revert to a similar appearance to wild boar; they can then be difficult to distinguish from natural or introduced true wild boar (with which they also readily interbreed). Feral animals tend also to have longer legs than domestic breeds and than wild boar, and a longer and narrower head and snout.

from the internet