



COLLARED PECCARY (JAVELINA)

Pecari tajacu



Collared Peccaries are pig-like animals that are gray to black in color. They have short, straight tusks that fit together such that they are sharpened every time the jaw is moved up and down. Collared Peccaries have a dorsal gland on the rump and preorbital glands on the face that secrete substances used in recognition and identification. They have poor eyesight and good hearing, both of which are believed to contribute to the very vocal nature of this species. Collared Peccaries live in social groups that contain 5 to 15 individuals. These herds eat, sleep, and forage together on territories that can overlap with those of other groups, particularly at watering holes and mud wallows.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

Collared Peccaries have a body length of 1.5 to 2.5 feet and a shoulder height of 1 to 1.5 ft.

WEIGHT

Collared Peccaries weigh between 35 and 65 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

Collared Peccaries are primarily herbivorous, but they do supplement their diet with eggs, carrion, snakes, fish, and frogs.

HABITAT

In South and Central America, the Collared Peccary inhabits tropical rainforests. In the southern United States, herds occur in deserts of mesquite and saguaro.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Collared Peccaries range from the southeastern United States south through Central America to northern Argentina.

FUN FACT

The name Javelina comes from the Spanish word for sword or javelin and refers to the razor-sharp tusks of the animal.